

The 2nd Sunday after Pentecost ~ Sunday, June 3, 2018

“Hearing God ~ How Do I Know It’s God?”

1 John 4:1-6

LISTENING TO, AND HEARING GOD: 4 DIFFERENT VOICES

#1. Our _____ voice. Sometimes we think we’re hearing from God, when it’s really our own thoughts, _____, ideas, and _____ that we’re hearing. These things aren’t necessarily wrong; however, they originate from our _____ and not from God. One of the ways we can quiet our own voice is by seeking to _____ to self everyday.

“I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.” (Galatians 2:19-20)

“If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will save it.” (Luke 9:23-24)

As we daily seek to sacrifice a life of _____ for the sake of Jesus—as we daily seek to die to self—to our own needs, _____, and desires—we’ll be better able to hear God’s voice, instead of just our own.

#2. Other _____.

These are voices deep inside of our _____ that have been placed there by people who are trying to sell us their _____, philosophies, and world views.

Our histories mould us—sometimes _____; and many adults are living their lives based on _____ they were told as children. Lies like these can be like tape recordings constantly playing in the _____ of our minds, effecting everything we think, say, and do.

Anytime we hear a thought or opinion that’s _____ to the Word of God or distorts God’s truth, we need to _____ it.

“We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ...” (2 Corinthians 10:5)

Instead of listening to the voice of other people—we need to listen to the voice of our _____, and believe the _____ He speaks over us

#3. The _____.

“He was a murderer from the beginning and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks according to his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of lies.” (John 8:44b)

He may place _____ into our minds that are contrary to God’s word, or use some well-meaning person to speak words that tear away or water-down our _____ or trust in God. Like he did with Jesus in the wilderness, he often quotes _____ and uses spiritual-sounding language to twist or _____ God’s truth.

His goal is to _____, entrap, and derail; to push a _____ or fake, instead of the real deal; to get us to _____ God’s character and goodness, and to turn us away from Him.

We need to decide who’s _____ we’re going to listen to: the voice of the Father of _____—our Heavenly Father—who loves us and want’s what’s best for us or the voice of the father of _____—who only seeks to kill, steal, and destroy. The only way we can silence the voice of the enemy so that we can tune-into the voice of God is by proclaiming the _____ of God’s Word.

#4. _____.

“..be still and know that I am God.” (Psalm 46:10)

Listening takes time and hearing requires _____. It’s only by _____ that we’re able to discern whether what we’re hearing is God. Another way we can determine if we’re hearing God is to _____.

“Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God; for many false prophets have gone out into the world.” (1 John 4:1)

“Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil.” (1 Thessalonians 5:20-21)

“They are from the world; therefore they speak from the world, and the world listens.” (1 John 4:5)

It is crucial, then, that we learn to _____ God’s voice from all the others.

7 WAYS TO TEST THE SPIRIT

#1. Does it line up with the _____?

The Bible is the _____ which we judge everything else in our life—and any word we receive needs to be held against this measure because God

will never _____ His written word.

“Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.” (Luke 21:33)

God will never tell us to _____ anything in this book. He’ll never tell us to _____ or _____ anything in this book. God is always _____ –He’s never inconsistent.

#2. Does it make me more like _____?

“In your lives you must think and act like Jesus Christ.” (Philippians 2:5)

Several places in the NT God tells us that His _____ for each one of us is nothing less than making us like Jesus. God wants us to have a godly _____ –He wants to nurture the fruit of the Spirit in our lives; and He’d never tell us anything that would _____ or hinder that process in our lives or keep us from reaching that goal.

Some people claim they’ve heard from God, however, their _____ shows they really haven’t because they’re _____, self-righteous, and always putting everybody else down. If you’ve really heard from God it’s going to cause you to be more _____ towards people rather than judgmental; _____, rather than prideful.

#3. Does the _____ confirm it?

“God’s intent is that through the church the manifold wisdom of God who should be made known.” (Ephesians 3:10)

God never meant for us to make major life decisions on our _____ –He wants us to get help and advise from other believers who are grounded in the _____ and _____ of God. If God has genuinely spoken to you, He’s going to _____ it through other believers.

“Where there is no counsel, the people fall; but in the multitude of counsellors there is safety.” (Proverbs 11:14)

As members of the Body of Christ, we are _____ to each other and to the authority that God has placed over us. .

#4. It is consistent with how God has _____ me?

“We are God’s masterpiece, created in Christ Jesus to do good works which God prepared in advance for us to do.” (Ephesians 2:10)

S =

H =

A =

P =

E =

Our SHAPE of our life reveals our _____ –what God wants us to do.

“God has given each of us the ability to do certain things well.” (Romans 12:6)

God’s voice won’t _____ how He shaped us.

#5. Is it my _____?

I only have to worry about God’s _____ for my life. When we listen for God to speak, we need to listen for Him to speak to _____, not to somebody else.

“So why do you condemn another believer? Why do you look down on another believer? Remember, we will all stand before the judgment seat of God...So let’s stop condemning each other. Decide instead to live in such a way that you will not cause another believer to stumble and fall.” (Romans 14:10,13)

Every believer has direct _____ to God and we need to go to Him ourselves first. God does speak to us about other people; however, it’s very unlikely He’s going to tell us _____. Instead, He will often use us to _____ what He’s already said to them.

#6. Is it _____ or _____?

Conviction arouses _____ –it moves us beyond failure and causes us to want to know God more fully and to walk in His ways. Condemnation brings _____, fear, and hopelessness. Conviction is always about a _____ sin. Condemnation is a _____ accusation against our character.

“So now there is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus.” (Romans 8:1)

#7. Do I have _____ about it?

“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.” (John 14:27)

Inner peace comes from an unwavering _____ in Jesus –it’s a by-product of _____.

“Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.” (Colossians 3:1)

“For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace.” (1 Corinthians 14:33)

We should never make a _____ if our heart is troubled or unsettled.