

Now What? Seasons and Transitions

How Can I Be Sure I Have Heard from God? Part 1

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Introduction

Perhaps one of the most difficult things to accomplish in our Christian walk is to transition from one season into another. Many questions need answers during these trying and most difficult times. Although we desire a cookie cutter approach to discovering this elusive entrance way, one does not exist. However, there are examples within the Word of God that shed some light upon the subject. For example, the sons of Issachar had insight into these matters:

1Chronicles 12:32

...of the sons of Issachar who had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do, their chiefs were two hundred; and all their brethren were at their command; ...

The Big Idea

How can we have confidence that we have heard from God? With so many people experiencing rapid change, it is critical that we navigate transition well. When making life-altering decisions it is imperative that we hear from God regarding the direction that we take. This message will provide you with sound principles in order to make concrete decisions and have confidence in the will of God for your life.

Main Passage



John 10:4-5

⁴ And when he brings out his own sheep, he goes before them; and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. ⁵ Yet they will by no means follow a stranger, but will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers."

John 10:27

My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.

Exodus 3:1-4

¹ Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian. And he led the flock to the back of the desert, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. ² And the Angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire from the midst of a bush. So he looked, and behold, the bush was burning with fire, but the bush was not consumed. ³ Then Moses said, "I will now turn aside and see this great sight, why the bush does not burn." ⁴ So when the Lord saw that he turned aside to look, God called to him from the midst of the bush and said, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." NKJV

Exodus 3:7-10

⁷ And the LORD said: "I have surely seen the oppression of My people who *are* in Egypt, and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters, for I know their ^[a]sorrows. ⁸ So I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up from that land to a good and large land, to a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanites and the Hittites and the Amorites and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the Jebusites. ⁹ ***Now therefore, behold, the cry of the children of Israel has come to Me, and I have also seen the oppression with which the Egyptians oppress them.*** ¹⁰ ***Come now, therefore, and I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring My people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt.***" (NKJV)

- Moses had three major transitions in his life
- In this scenario he was coming out of a wilderness experience.

Scriptures – Principles of Safety

2Corinthians 13:1

This is the third time I am coming to visit you (and as the Scriptures say, “The facts of every case must be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses”).

Proverbs 11:14

Without wise leadership, a nation falls; there is safety in having many advisers.

Main Points

Internal Conviction - *What You Believe in at The Core of Your Being*

- Does it line up with your spirit and is there a witness in your spirit?
- What do you believe in your internal being, what do you believe to be the truth, and what do you believe needs to be done?
- This is not just a mental assent - it is something that is known at the core of a person, in the spirit of a man - you know that you know that you know
- This has more to do with faith and conviction than it does with inner peace
 - For example, Jonah had incredible inner peace as he was rebelling and running away from God
 - At times we confuse “relief” and “peace” as being the same thing, however, they are not the same thing!
- Other examples:
 - Jesus said, “I must be about my Father’s business”
 - Paul said, “I go to Jerusalem and Rome”
 - Moses said, “Let my people go”.

The Logos - The Revealed Will of God

Psalm 119:105

Your word is a lamp to guide my feet and a light for my path.

The Bible

- The decisions you make must always agree and line up with the written Word of God—God will never violate His own word
- This means God speaking to you through His written word, through what is called general revelation
- This is available to everyone
- This is the most reliable and trustworthy way to hear God
- This does not mean that you use the Bible like a crystal ball however
- It is to be done with prayerful time spent in the presence of the Lord listening to Holy Spirit and allowing the Word of God to become alive to you
- When God speaks to you through His Word you will know it, it will be life, it will be bread, it will be truth, it will be direction and there will be a confirmation
- Holy Spirit is faithful to confirm His Word.

Prayer Before You Read the Bible

Dear Lord, please grant me the following as I read your Word:

- Wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of God
- Increase my understanding and grant me comprehension
- Teach me your ways and not just your acts
- Reveal the present truth of your word and how to apply it properly.

External Confirmation - What No One Else Knows

Acts 21:10-14

¹⁰ And as we stayed many days, a certain prophet named Agabus came down from Judea. ¹¹ When he had come to us, he took Paul's belt, bound his own hands and feet, and said, "Thus says the Holy Spirit, 'So shall the Jews at Jerusalem bind the man who owns this belt, and deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles.' " ¹² Now when we heard these things, both we and those from that place pleaded with him not to go up to Jerusalem. ¹³ Then Paul answered, "What do you mean by weeping and breaking my heart? For I am ready not only to be bound, but also to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus." ¹⁴ So when he would not be persuaded, we ceased, saying, "The will of the Lord be done."

This means that your action and/or direction are confirmed by someone or something that is not known to that individual. For example, it could be:

- A prophetic word
- A word of knowledge or a word of revelation
- Someone praying for you
- A prayer or a vision.

It is not, however, setting people up with this or that situation - it is completely independent of the scenario

- For example, the prophets warned Paul of what would happen to him when he was going to Rome.

God's Favour - The Dynamic Flow of Blessing and Grace

Luke 2:52

And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and *in favor with God and men.*

Favour is God's supernatural kindness and preferential treatment upon your life

- Favour is like a river; you need to determine which way it is flowing
 - Where is the grace and blessing of God flowing and pointing to?
 - This is God's stamp of approval – resources, provision, and open doors
- It is very difficult to fight against the grace of God, it is an uphill battle
- The favour and grace of God does not necessarily mean that you are going to like the choice - it just means that that is where God's plan is
 - For example, God's anointing grace, in plan, was upon Moses; however, he refused the assignment and the transition
- Resources
- Relationships
- *"Big doors swing on small hinges"* – Bishop Tony Miller

Principals

- Let everything be established with the mouth of two or three witnesses
- Your life, to date, is the sum of the decisions you have made
- He will have two to three major transitions in your life
- Do not make decisions based on emotion
- Do not make decisions in haste.

What Happens in Transitions?

Certain manifestations/emotions may accompany this shift including:

- Excitement
- Anticipation /high expectations
- Unsettled/unrest – even frustration – the grace may lift
- Uncertainty or a loss of confidence
- Insecurity
- Battles increase/intensity – troubles may start
- The Word of the Lord intensifies – God is faithful.

Conclusion

Moses provides us with an incredible example of inviting God into our midst and invoking the presence of the Lord. Faced with the real possibility that God would no longer accompany him, but would rather exchange His presence for angels, Moses refuses to accept such a substitute. Despite all the confirmations and the greatest assurances, the number one thing that will create confidence in our lives is the presence of God—knowing that He is with us, that He is for us, and that He is on the journey with us.

The Presence of the Lord

Exodus 33:14-16

¹⁴ And He said, "My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest." ¹⁵ Then he said to Him, "If Your Presence does not go with us, do not bring us up from here. ¹⁶ "For how then will it be known that Your people and I have found grace in Your sight, except You go with us? So we shall be separate, Your people and I, from all the people who are upon the face of the earth."

Moses' Intercession

Exodus 33:12-14

¹² Then Moses said to the LORD, "See, You say to me, 'Bring up this people.' But You have not let me know whom You will send with me. Yet You have said, 'I know you by name, and you have also found grace in My sight.' ¹³ Now therefore, I pray, if I have found grace in Your sight, show me now Your way, that I may know You and that I may find grace in Your sight. And consider that this nation is Your people." ¹⁴ And He said, "My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest."

Group Questions & Discussion

- 1) Give an example of how God confirmed His direction in your life through the Bible.
- 2) Provide a biblical example of who heard from God. How did He speak to them?
- 3) How could Moses resist the assignment as the burning bush? What were some of his excuses?
- 4) Discuss what this phrase may mean: "We don't see because we don't hear from God".
- 5) Provide other possible external confirmations.
- 6) Why do many people make life altering decisions with little or no confirmations? What could be some possible motivations?
- 7) How was Lot deceived to go to Sodom? Why did Abraham go another way? What was his life leading principle?