

Session 4 Checking & Testing what we Hear

Course: Hearing the Father's Voice

Introduction

- ◆ Our aim is to allow the Holy Spirit to fire our imagination, but to check and test who & what we're listening to.

Discussion activity: How do we open our minds to God? Who else might be speaking to us?

The Four Voices

- ◆ Our own spirit
- ◆ Angels
- ◆ The Holy Spirit
- ◆ Demonic entities

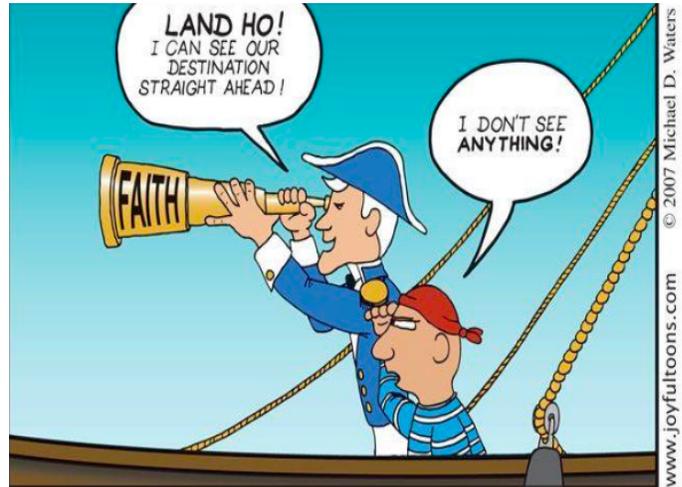
6 listening principles

Principle 1: Check with Scripture

- ◆ God does not contradict His own Word. 1 John 3 & 4; 1 Jn 4:1
 - 1 John 3 & 4 set the atmosphere
 - 'Test the spirits' 1 Jn 4:1
 - Listening to leadership v6
 - The 'fellowship test' 1 John 3:23-24
 - He is greater than our hearts 1 Jn 3:20

Principle 2: Worldly or Godly Viewpoint?

- ◆ 1 Jn 4:5
- ◆ God speaks through the Bible.
 - To hear and act with confidence, we must read Scripture.



Principle 3: God's Promises are Good

- ◆ Dt 28:1–14 explains the principle: 'Obedience opens a door to God's blessing.'
- ◆ In the New Covenant after Jesus, God rarely speaks in a negative way.

Principle 4

- ◆ **Behave so that God sees that you take Him seriously.**
- ◆ Matt 7:6 God does not usually cast pearls to fools
- ◆ The Bible is filled with stories of those who listen, reflect, persevere, hear and obey.
 - Rom 4:3, Gen 15:6
 - Lk 2:52 '*Jesus grew in favour*'

Principle 5

- ◆ **Look for the peace of the Holy Spirit.** Jn 14:27
- ◆ Peace is a strong sign of His presence
- ◆ Peace rests on those with favour. Luke 2:14
 - Favour = 'Trust', 'Approval' or 'Delight'
 - How do we earn His favour?

Principle 6

- ◆ 'Test and approve what God's will is for our lives' Rom 12:2
- ◆ **An encouragement to slow down.**
- ◆ Too busy to pray = too busy
- ◆ No time to pray? Too busy or too lazy!