

4. Checking & Testing what we hear

Course: Hearing the Father's Voice

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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?

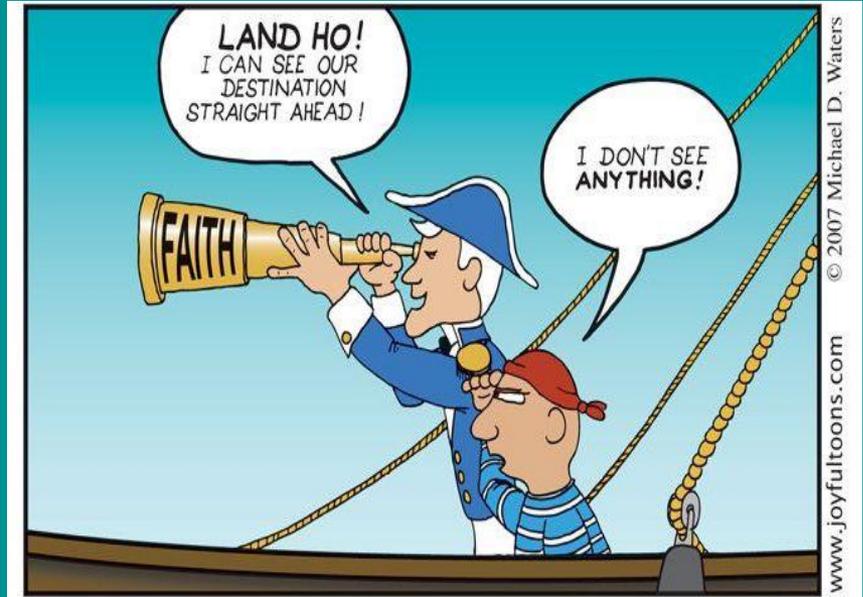
- Our own spirit
 - Angels
 - The Holy Spirit
 - Demonic entities
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- 6 listening principles

Principle 1: Check with Scripture

- God does not contradict His own Word.
- 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!

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HEARING THE FATHER'S VOICE

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