**Bible Study: THE DOCTRINES OF THE BIBLE Prayer Series: Survey of the Doctrines of Prayer Pastor Eddie Ildefonso** 

05-22-15 (22)

## Listening to God

Read <u>Psalm 46:1-10</u>

## **LESSON 6 THE HALLMARKS OF GOD'S MESSAGES TO US**

Jesus said of those who follow Him,

"My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father's hand" (John 10:27– 29).

What a great statement of hope and comfort that is to us! We can know the voice of the Lord. As we follow His voice and do what He says to do, we will never perish, and neither will we ever be snatched out of His hand.

"But," you may say, "how can I be sure that the voice I'm hearing is truly the voice of God?"

There are five identifying hallmarks of God's messages to us. They are a means of determining whether the voice that we are hearing is truly the voice of God. If you have questions about whether a message is from God, line it up against these criteria:

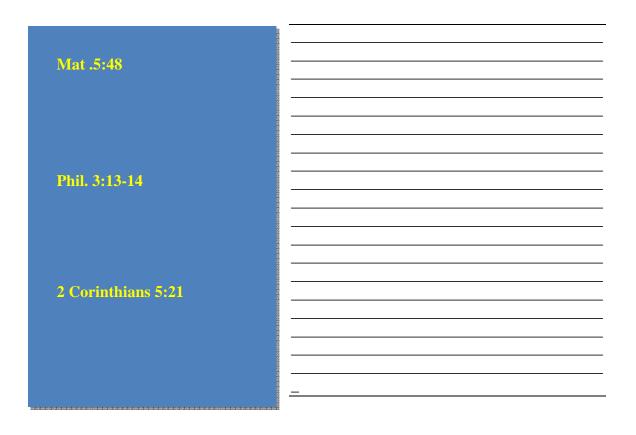
- 1. The message must be consistent with the Word of God, the Bible.
- 2. The message will usually be in conflict with the mainstream of conventional human wisdom.
- 3. The message will clash with fleshly gratification and basic human lusts.
- 4. The message will challenge one's faith to rise to a new level.
- 5. The message will call for personal courage to do what God has said to do, or to change in one's life what God has said to change.

As we begin our study of these identifying traits of God's messages, let me point out that the first of them, consistency with the written Word, is always our first recourse in determining the validity of a message we believe to be from God. God never contradicts Himself. What He has set forth as truth in the past is truth now.

A passage for you to keep in mind as we take a look at these identifying traits is this: "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways," says the LORD. "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts" (Isa. 55:8–9).

God operates at a supremely higher plane than we do. His motives toward us are always pure and loving; His ideals are the most noble of all; His holiness is absolute. What God says to us is never going to be what we perceive to be customary or the norm of our humanity. God doesn't stoop to our level. He calls us to rise to His level. His messages challenge us to live up to the high calling of a life in Christ Jesus, to pursue wholeness, and to seek the fullness of our potential in Him.

Keep in mind, also, that God doesn't call us to become something that He doesn't enable us to become. He doesn't ask us to do things that He won't equip us to do. He doesn't hold out a goal for us that is impossible for us to reach. God's messages to us will challenge us to be the best that we can be in Him and to open our lives to receive the best that He has for us.



What does the Word say

What does the Word say to me