

Listening to God

Read [Psalm 46:1-10](#)

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.**

Conflict with Worldly, Conventional Wisdom

God’s wisdom is not the same as the world’s conventional wisdom. If a person has grown up in a godly home, attended church all his life, and lived in a community that had a high percentage of God-fearing, Christ-following people, he may have a different understanding of human wisdom from that of a person who grew up in an ungodly atmosphere, never attended church, and lived in a sinful environment.

The godly person who is surrounded with godly people may become a little naive about what the world is like, and he may say, “Well, what I hear God saying to me is what I’ve heard all my life.” That person needs to recognize that he has been blessed or that his situation is relatively rare.

In most cases, God’s message stands in sharp contrast to what the world around us has to say on an issue.

The world says you are foolish to give to God, much less expect His blessing for doing so. God says to give a tithe to His storehouse and He will pour out a blessing on you. (See [Mal. 3:10–11](#).)

The world says you are a fool to allow an enemy to get to you twice. God says to turn the other cheek when your enemy strikes you, giving him the opportunity to strike you again. (See [Matt. 5:39](#).)

The world says that everything is relative and that truth is subject to conditions and interpretation. God says that His Word is absolute and unchanging. (See [Mal. 3:6](#); [Heb. 13:8](#).)

We must recognize that most of the world is moving in the wrong direction. Jesus taught, **“Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it”** ([Matt. 7:13–14](#)).

- *Can you identify from your experiences and your understanding of the Scriptures still other examples of how the Word of God is 180 degrees the opposite of conventional human wisdom?*

When God speaks to you, He calls you to His way of thinking and seeing. In the New Testament, this mind-set or perspective is called the mind of Christ. Would Jesus do this? If not, don’t do it.

What does the Word say

What does the Word say to me

Phil. 2:5

John 14:27

Joshua 24:14-15
