

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.**

Clash with Fleshly Lusts

If what we hear urges us to gratify the flesh, without any thought to the consequences that are borne in the spirit or that affect our relationships with others, we should recognize immediately that what we have heard is not of God. God gives us messages that please the Spirit of God within us, not our lusts and sinful desires.

The Scriptures teach that every person must battle to some degree these kinds of self-gratifying lusts.

- The **“lust of the flesh”**—human appetites and sexual desires that are not in keeping with God’s plan for marriage.
- The **“lust of the eyes”**—covetousness and greed for material goods.
- The **“pride of life”**—the desire for power and status that exalt one over others.
(See **1 John 2:16.**)

We err when we dismiss these lusts as irrelevant to us as Christians. We overcome lusts and temptations by the power of the Holy Spirit, but we never become immune to human appetites, a desire for goods and wealth, or a longing for fame, power, or prestige.

We are self-centered creatures and whether we want it to be so or not, we are usually out for number one (ourselves). We must keep in mind that God’s voice does not feed our self-centered natures, but He calls us to righteousness, purity, and an unselfish giving of ourselves to others.

What does the Word say

What does the Word say to me

1 John 2:15-16

Mat. 6:33

Phil. 4:8
