

4 Keys to Hearing God's Voice Handout #2 - Biblical Safeguards for Hearing God's Voice

Memory Verse – Proverbs 11:14

The guardrails God has placed on your path to hearing His voice are:

1. You are a born-again Christian, having accepted Jesus Christ into your heart as your Lord and Savior, and having had your sins washed away by His cleansing blood.
2. You accept the Bible as the inerrant Word of God.
3. You demonstrate your love and respect for God by your commitment to knowing His Word.
4. You have an attitude of submission to what God has shown you from the Bible.
5. You have two or three spiritual advisors to whom you go for input on a regular basis – Heb. 13:17; 2 Cor. 13:1.

Avoid authoritarian counselors. While we maintain an attitude of submission to what the Bible and our advisors tell us, we are ultimately responsible for our response to what we feel that God is telling us.

Submission is: *“an openness to the Spirit-led counsel and correction of several others, while keeping a sense of personal responsibility for our own discernment of God's voice within us.”*

Qualities you should look for in a spiritual advisor:

1. A close friend, one who knows the sheep, and whose sheep recognize his voice.
2. One who has a solid biblical orientation.
3. One who can sense the voice of the Spirit of God in his own heart.
4. One who is willing to commit himself to the sheep, who will invest his time and energy, and is willing to lay down his life for the sheep for whom he is responsible.
5. He himself receives counsel.
6. He is ahead of you in the area in which you seek his counsel (family, finance, health, spirituality, etc.).

Note: The most common cause of failure to hear God's voice is not choosing 2 or 3 spiritual advisors before starting this journey. As you start two-way journaling:

1. You will want to submit major decisions in your life to your spiritual counselors before acting on them. A major decision is one which calls for a major change in the direction of your life, ministry, or job, or a major financial commitment to which you will be bound for several years to come.
2. In addition, you will want to take your early journaling and prophecy to your counselors for confirmation, in order to help you gain confidence in discerning the voice of God within your heart.
3. Submit any journal entry you are unsure about.
4. Some already established counselors are: born again parents, spouses, employers as well as home cell group leaders, pastors, elders, Sunday School teachers, spiritual directors, etc.
5. **WARNING!!** It is not wise to build close spiritual relationships with members of the opposite sex. There is too much danger of these evolving into physical relationships and causing destructive explosions.

Praying with an idol in your heart – Ezekiel 14:4

An idol is anything that I hold in my heart that is larger than, and obscures my view of, Jesus. When I pray with an idol in my heart, the answer I get comes through the idol, rather than from God.

Examples of praying with an idol in your heart and getting undesirable things from God: Balaam (Num. 22:15-35), Israel's lust for meat in the wilderness (Ps. 106:14-15) and Israel's choice of a king to rule over them (1 Sam. 8)

When we pray with an idol in our hearts, we may get an affirmative answer from the Lord, but it will bring us to destruction. Therefore, when we pray, we must be sure that our vision is purified, and that we see Jesus as One who is **MUCH LARGER** than the object or issue for which we are praying. Only then will our answer be pure and life-giving.

When testing your journaling, always ask yourself, "When I wrote this, were my eyes fixed on Jesus?" If they were not, then that section is suspect and may not be from the Lord.

Exercise:

1. Take a minute of silent prayer and ask the Lord, "Who have You placed around me that You would have me use as my spiritual advisors?" Write down this question, then quiet yourself down, fix the eyes of your heart on Jesus, tune to spontaneity and write down any names or people's faces which drop into your heart spontaneously.
2. For extra caution, you may want to submit these names to your pastor/teacher and ask if they could confirm that they fit the criteria for a spiritual advisor. Then approach the persons approved. After speaking with your chosen advisors and getting their consent to act, begin sharing your journaling with them on a regular basis.
3. Additional question: Lord, what do You want to speak to me concerning praying with an idol in my heart?