

# **Finding God's Will**

## **(Even when it seems to hide)**

### **Part 5**

#### **The Authority of the VOICE**

It's no coincidence that the root word of "authority" is "author." Authority over something can only be exercised by the author of it, or by anyone to whom the author delegates responsibility. Any authority conferred upon man by man is not legitimate authority. Legitimate authority always has God as its source. That's why we are only to obey man, even the human authorities of governments, so long as their commands do not conflict with the commands of God in His word.

In John 10, Jesus gives us a beautiful view of how we hear His voice through fellowship with Him that recognizes His voice as the voice of authority. "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep.... I am the good shepherd; and I know My sheep, and am known by My own. As the Father knows Me, even so I know the Father. And I lay down My life for the sheep.... My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me." (John 10:11, 14-15, 27)

First of all, I see the concept of Jesus and I KNOWING each other. That's deeper than just the "knowing the Lord" that brings salvation, because Jesus is only talking about the saved when he refers to "My sheep." When the Bible talks about knowing someone, it is referring to the most intimate knowing of them. For example, it talks of a man "knowing" his wife, and the two begetting a child as a result. This knowing each other Jesus speaks of is just as intimate as the marital act is designed to be. To obtain that depth of intimacy in a relationship requires trust, commitment, devotion, sacrifice, and unconditional love. Jesus has unconditional love and devotion for you. He proved His love in His abundant sacrifice for you. But do you have the same love and devotion for Him that is required for intimacy with God. Or is your love and devotion for God conditional? Do you still praise Him and love Him when things go bad for you? Are you still devoted to Him when you get busy? Does your commitment to Him waver when there is a sacrifice to be made and a cost to be paid for your public devotion to Him?

If you really do want to hear God's voice, and you're not just kidding yourself about desiring that, then you must be willing to develop intimacy with God. For that to happen, everything that is currently preventing it is going to have to go. Your schedule is going to have to change. Your priorities are going to have to change. Do not expect to hear God when you are unwilling to love Him enough to sit and talk with Him for as long as it takes you to learn the unmistakable sound of His voice. Don't play games with God. You will get serious about intimacy with Christ if you truly want to hear Him.

Take some time to pray and meditate now before reading on. Ask the Lord to show you how to love Him and trust Him more, so that you will have that kind of special "knowing" between you and your Savior. Then read on.

Once that level of intimate knowing in our relationship with Christ has been developed, Jesus tells us two things that are to happen in verse 27. 1) We will hear His

voice. There's no "might" or "could" or "maybe" or "hopefully" about that statement. He just says we hear His voice. 2) We will follow Him. We will not just know, but will DO the will of Christ. Again, there are no "maybes" here. Just a declaration. When Jesus and you know each other intimately, you WILL hear His voice, and you WILL follow it -- period.

### **Another Key**

Another key to building our trust in God to find His wisdom is to remember our track record with Him. When you realize that God has earned your trust with His faithfulness in the past, your trust in Him grows.

God saved us, and if we look back over our lives, we'll see that it was just one of the many miraculous things He has done for us. He has earned our trust. We should trust Him totally. With everything. His will is perfect, and He loves us too much to ever deny us what is truly best for us.

God loves us beyond our ability to comprehend. He desires to fulfill all our needs, and He's the only one who can. And we're the only ones who can stop Him.

### **Closing Thoughts on Obtaining Divine Guidance**

Because He is the perfect Guide, you can afford to "trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight." (Prov 3:5-6)

Be God-centered in your thinking. That means committing yourself to never let a hunch take precedence over the expressed will of God. It means never allowing your emotional perception to be your truth--Jesus is the truth. It means never taking action without consultation with God, and it means never failing to act when God has spoken. It means never running ahead of God, and never lagging behind. It means never letting your intellectual understanding be the source of your wisdom, but "taking every thought captive in obedience to Jesus Christ." It means being willing to trust and obey even when God's commands don't make sense in your heart and mind. The peace that following God was the right decision might not come to you sometimes until AFTER you have committed to obeying Him, because God is not obliged to explain Himself to us, only to guide us. Our responsibility to follow Him when we don't understand why He is directing us in a certain way is just as great as when we do understand.

Study the word of God, coming to Him in faith, trusting Him to provide wisdom and lay out His perfect, loving plan for your life, as you pray. But be willing to obey what He tells you in response to your prayers, even if it isn't what you wanted to do. It does cost us something to follow God's will, but it costs us much more not to. Disobeying His will always hurts. Always. Obedience to God is always right and best. Always.

If you trust and obey, God's will for your life cannot and will not elude you. Then you will rejoice in reaping the benefits of a great privilege:

*The Creator of the universe has a wonderful plan for every aspect of your life. Follow it, and prosper.*