



Tracing GOD

*Discerning the Voice of God
Through My Life Experiences*

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TRACING GOD

*"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."*

John 10:28

*"So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not
return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall
prosper in the thing for which I sent it."*

Isa 55:11



Sometimes the Lord speaks...

Sometimes the Lord speaks to us **through His Word** and sometimes directly **through His Spirit**;
Sometimes **through other people** and sometimes **through circumstances of life**;
Sometimes **through a person with a gift ministry** of apostle, prophet, evangelist, pastor, or teacher;
Sometimes **through the condition of our soul** and sometimes **through the condition of our spirit**;
Sometimes **through the availability of people** or resources and sometimes **through their absence**.

Jesus said that His sheep hear His voice. He wants His children to be trained in hearing and responding to Him. However, it is important that we allow God to choose the communication method that works best. We cannot insist that He indicate His will with a Bible verse if He decides to send a new relationship instead.

This exercise will trace the methods by which the Lord has spoken to you in times past, and it may reveal areas requiring you to sharpen your powers of spiritual detection.



An Encounter With God

Father, as I prepare to document the ways You have spoken to me, please lead me into remembrance of those precious moments. Help me recall the people, the verses, the events, and the supernatural supply you have brought to me in times past. I acknowledge my need to hear Your heavenly voice by whatever means You choose. Forgive me for those times when you spoke and I could not hear or would not listen. Today I renew and deepen my commitment to be led by Your Spirit.

*"Then the LORD answered me and said: "Write the vision and make it
plain on tablets, that he may run who reads it."*

Hab 2:2

All Bible references are NKJV unless otherwise noted.



I. THE COUNSEL OF GOD

The counsel of God includes both His written word (*Logos*) and His spoken word (*Rhemas*). Jesus said, "The words that I speak to you, they are spirit and they are life." Certain passages in the Bible may have provided continual inspiration to you for many years. If so, list them here. In this section, please identify the Bible verses and the direct communications that the Lord has used to speak to you.

LOGOS (*The written word*)

For some people, one particular Bible verse or passage is so inspirational that it defines their character or their life calling. Do you have such a "life verse"?

1. My life verse is:

2. Other Bible verses that continually inspire me include:

a) _____

b) _____

c) _____

d) _____

e) _____

We all experience trials, joys, and crises in life. During these times, certain Bible passages may have spoken to your heart.

3. Verses that were significant at a particular point in my life include:

a) _____

b) _____

c) _____

RHEMAS (*personal spiritual revelation*)

Sometimes God provides direct revelation to the believer's spirit. At other times, He delivers a word through others. Have you ever sensed the Lord speaking directly to you?

4. Counsel I've received from God, spoken directly to my spirit, includes:

a) _____

b) _____

c) _____

5. Counsel from God which I have received through others includes:

a) _____

b) _____

c) _____

II. THE COUNSEL OF OTHERS

Clearly each believer needs to have a personal relationship with the Lord. However, the Bible also speaks repeatedly of Christ and His body (of believers). God is highly relational; He wants us to understand that He connects us with others for a reason. Isolation from other believers is inappropriate. Through our vertical relationship with God and our horizontal relationships with others, we make our connection to the head (Jesus Christ) and His body.

1 Cor 12:18-27 asserts that we are strategically placed in the Body of Christ and that we need to honor the other functions in the Body. Ephesians 4:15-16 claims that we are all fit together like parts of a body. 1 Peter 2:5 calls us living stones in the new Temple. Each of these passages points to the connection we have with others.

I believe God has “set” me in the body with these people:

When God decided to reveal Himself as a Father, He sent His Son, Jesus, who, in turn, “fathered” the disciples. Paul referred to Titus and Timothy as his “sons in the faith.” These men were not just disciples, but spiritual sons. Many people recognize a particular person as their spiritual father -- one appointed by the Lord to provide spiritual guidance, discipline, and admonition when necessary.

I have (heard/not heard) of the term “spiritual father.” There (is/is not) someone I allow to fully disciple me. My thoughts on this topic are:

We are consistently encouraged (and warned) to acknowledge those who are placed in positions of authority. Jesus Himself said *“Render unto Caesar what is Caesar’s.”* Do you acknowledge God-ordained authority in the following realms? Is your heart properly submitted in each area or do you struggle with any of them?

AREAS OF AUTHORITY	
I ACKNOWLEDGE/STRUGGLE WITHIN THESE AREAS	THOUGHTS ON MY RESPONSE
Spiritual <input type="checkbox"/> Acknowledge Authority <input type="checkbox"/> Struggle with Authority	
Family <input type="checkbox"/> Acknowledge Authority <input type="checkbox"/> Struggle with Authority	
Government <input type="checkbox"/> Acknowledge Authority <input type="checkbox"/> Struggle with Authority	
Business <input type="checkbox"/> Acknowledge Authority <input type="checkbox"/> Struggle with Authority	

II. THE COUNSEL OF OTHERS *(Continued)*

Perhaps you already realize that we are given gifts by the Lord. Of course, they sometimes come in packages that we didn't expect. Some Godly gifts arrive as people! Ephesians 4 and Corinthians 12 mention the various services these people provide to us. It's important that we acknowledge these "gift ministers."

In Ephesians 4 we read that God supplies gift ministries to his body to equip and supply us. The following people serve that role for me:

a) Apostle — *lays down a foundation of truth*

b) Prophet — *prosecutes sinful activities; provides direction*

c) Evangelist — *calls us (back) to God*

d) Pastor — *ministers to my heart*

e) Teacher — *breaks open the Word to strengthen my trust and faith in God*

III. THE COUNSEL FROM WITHIN

"And {God} gave them their request, but sent leanness into their soul."

Psa 106:15

The soul of man is where the mind, the will, and the emotions reside. The Bible says our soul is the subject of a tug-of-war between our spirit (where the Holy Spirit resides) and our flesh. Jesus taught us to pray to the Father, *"Your will be done in earth as it is in heaven."* John wrote, *"I wish above all things that you may prosper and be in health, even as your soul prospers."* If our soul is not submitted to the Lord, we run the risk of frustration, exhaustion, and boredom. Continuing on that path can lead to harmful behaviors in a vain attempt to offset the pain and loneliness.

THE SOUL

The human soul is a combination of the mind, the will and the emotions.

1. THE MIND

One indicator of a distressed soul is boredom: little in life seems intellectually stimulating. On the other hand, curiosity and sound judgment signal a soul that is flourishing. Recent examples which honestly indicate *my mental condition* include:

- a) _____
- b) _____
- c) _____

2. THE WILL

Confusion and absent-mindedness indicate where the human will is in distress. Also, an autonomous attitude is deeply offensive to the Lord whereas a submitted, yielded will is a sign that "it is well" with our soul. Recent examples which honestly indicate the condition of *my will* include:

- a) _____
- b) _____
- c) _____

3. THE EMOTIONS

A spirit of anger or discouragement indicates an emotionally troubled soul. Emotions that seem flat and unresponsive speak to a need for healing, whereas optimism and a buoyant emotional state can indicate authentic joy. Recent examples which honestly indicate the condition of *my emotions* include:

- a) _____
- b) _____
- c) _____

III. THE COUNSEL FROM WITHIN *(Continued)*

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.

Gal 5:22-23

THE SPIRIT

As we mature in our faith, we demonstrate evidence in nine "fruit of the Spirit" and dozens of character traits.

The passage above from Galatians describes nine ways spiritual fruit manifests in the life of a believer in Jesus. The ones which are well developed in me include:

- a) _____
- b) _____
- c) _____
- d) _____
- e) _____
- f) _____

I believe I have a need for additional maturity in these fruit of the spirit:

- a) _____
- b) _____
- c) _____

"For whom he foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of his son"

Rom 8:29

Our Father deeply desires for us to grow into the likeness of Jesus – not just mimicking His ministry, but in conforming to His character.

I believe God is encouraging the development of the following character traits in me:

- a) _____
- b) _____
- c) _____
- d) _____
- e) _____
- f) _____

IV. THE COUNSEL OF CIRCUMSTANCES

"...Most assuredly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner."

John 5:19

Using John 5:19 as the premise, I believe these opportunities exist for me to extend God's Kingdom into the Earth:

- a) _____
- b) _____
- c) _____
- d) _____

The Lord has placed the following resources into my trust and oversight that He wants to use to advance His kingdom:

a) Assets – *tangible resources, land, buildings*

b) Finances – *cash, stocks*

c) Personal – *skills/ talents/ abilities*

d) Knowledge – *inventions, strategic insights, systems*

