

11/12/06

Are You Hearing From God – Part 1

Frequently, many Christian *moderns* with lesser credentials than the early NT prophets, invoke with dogmatic assurance that they are “hearing from God.” We hope that those making such claims are not speaking beyond the truth, whether deceived or intentional. Do you know when you are *really* hearing from God, or is every emotional fuzzy feeling attributed as being a manifestation of the Holy Spirit? This is the first part of a three part series on *Hearing From God*.

Scripture informs us that the Holy Spirit is the spirit of a sound mind (2 Ti. 1:7). It does not motivate people to be proud, flaky, or reckless with boasts of their *special* position with God, but rather to both boldly and meekly give assurance for the hope that lives within them (I Pe. 3:15). Christians do hear from God, after all, God is our Father, Brother, Savior, friend, Comforter, Redeemer and Revelator. Yet, not every spirit Christians hear is from God (I Jo 4:1). Satan also tries to communicate with us (I Pe. 5:8-9). If he cannot convince us that we are rejected or overlooked by God, he will switch tactics and try to convince us that we are in a more special position than the ‘average Joe/Joanne Christian’ (I Cor. 13:4).

Do you have the sound mind and discernment to distinguish when you are really hearing the Word of God from when you are adding your own fuzzy feelings and headstrong conclusions on top of his inspiration? I am convinced that there have been many instances where people truly received inspiration from God to move in a certain direction, only to later ‘add something else’ to the revelation that was clearly not imparted to them by God. By impatience and presumption, some have modified or otherwise dramatized revelation, imputing something other than what was genuinely revealed. Such a dangerous satanic behavior is a recipe for losing contact with your revelator and ruining what spiritual discernment you may have once had. You must often wait on God for his clarity. When a quarterback informs the players that they are going for the touchdown, do the players leave the huddle or do they wait for the specific play to be called?

A positive example of non-presumption was demonstrated by Jesus’ mother, Mary, upon receiving the angelic visitation. She did not just receive the first part and then immediately determine that she had better get married quickly so that she could have relations to fulfill the promise. Rather, she asked for clarity, “How shall this event take place since I have had no intimate relations with any man?” She was not asking for evidence to believe; only for greater clarification on just what she was to understand. That was a very intelligent and grounded behavior for someone who had just received the most extraordinary news ever delivered to a human by an angel. Mary was a great example in that she believed, yet did not behave presumptuously.