

Mark 4:23 (AMPC) - *If any man has ears to hear, let him BE LISTENING and let him perceive and comprehend.*

- It is imperative in the times we live that we learn to recognize God's voice speaking to us.
- Unusual to hear His **Audible Voice**. Most times, we're talking about His **Inward Voice** in our hearts.
- **QUOTE:** *God is not mysterious. In fact, He's obligated to communicate His will to us, because we cannot be held accountable for fulfilling His will if He's unwilling to share His will.*

Week #4 – The Inward Witness

NOTE: There are four ways in which we can discern God's will. One, read what is explicitly written to us in the Bible. God's will never differs from what He wrote to us in the book. Two, He can speak to us in an audible voice (rare...but still possible). Three, God can speak to us via His inward voice in our hearts. We must continually fine tune our hearing to recognize when He's speaking. Four, we learn to follow the inward witness in our heart, minimize all the outside influences, and allow peace to settle on the right choice for us. For most decisions in our lives, it is the INWARD WITNESS that we must trust to guide our way.

Why is this important?

I John 5:14, 15 (NIV) – *This is the CONFIDENCE we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything ACCORDING TO HIS WILL, he hears us. ¹⁵ And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we know that WE HAVE what we asked of him.*

Proverbs 20:27 (NKJV) – *The spirit of a man is the lamp of the Lord, Searching all the inner depths of his heart.*

- **Psalm 18:28 (NKJV)** – *For You will light my lamp; The Lord my God will enlighten my darkness.*
- God promises to enlighten us when we sit in darkness. But He does it by "lighting our lamp – spirit."
- **QUOTE:** *When God is attempting to get a message to us, He doesn't do it through our body or our soul. He communicates Spirit to spirit.*
- **NOTE:** Many Christians erroneously look to **outward circumstances** instead of the **inward witness**.

5 Wrong Ways to Look for Direction

1. Fleece

- We can't live by fleeces today, because Satan is the god of this world and can accommodate us if we rely on external circumstances.

2. Our Soul

- We cannot rely on our Soul – Mind, Will, and Emotions.
- **Psalm 1:1 (NKJV)** – *"Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly..."*

3. Open or Closed Doors

- **QUOTE:** *Open or closed doors are NEVER proof of something being God's will or not.*
- Paul constantly faced closed doors, though he was right in the middle of God's will.
- **II Corinthians 11:23 – 28 (GNT)** *Are they Christ's servants? I sound like a madman—but I am a better servant than they are! I have worked much harder, I have been in prison more times, I have been whipped much more, and I have been near death more often. ²⁴ Five times I was given the thirty-nine lashes by the Jews; ²⁵ three times I was whipped by the Romans; and once I was stoned. I have been in three shipwrecks, and once I spent twenty-four hours in the water. ²⁶ In my many travels I have been in danger from floods and from robbers, in danger from my own people and from Gentiles; there*

have been dangers in the cities, dangers in the wilds, dangers on the high seas, and dangers from false friends. ²⁷ There has been work and toil; often I have gone without sleep; I have been hungry and thirsty; I have often been without enough food, shelter, or clothing.

4. The Crowd

- **QUOTE:** *Just because it's popular, doesn't mean it's right!!*
- **Matthew 7:13, 14 (NCV)** – *Enter through the narrow gate. The gate is wide and the road is wide that leads to hell, and many people enter through that gate. ¹⁴ But the gate is small and the road is narrow that leads to true life. Only a few people find that road.*

5. Mediums

- We don't consult psychics, tarot card readers, palm readers, astrology or any other "supernatural source."

How Should We be Lead?

INTERNAL PEACE

- **Colossians 3:15 (AMPC)** – *And let the peace (soul harmony which comes) from Christ rule (act as umpire continually) in your hearts [deciding and settling with finality all questions that arise in your minds...]*
- God's peace in our hearts is supposed to be the UMPIRE – settling the matter.