

Episode 006

Is That You God?

How do I discern what I am hearing?

Some good and wise ways to process God's communication to us. Let's wisely discern and judge what we hear, see or receive.

There is always a timing and season involved with what God is communicating with us. There needs to be a biblical balance to this whole aspect.

Some good practical tips: **4W's**

WORD

a. Is it in line with God's Word and with God' character?

Scripture is given for the purpose of revealing God to us. Scriptures must be taken into context when we receive God's communication.

The Logos (written Word of God) holds for all eternity but the gift of prophecy is temporary.

1 Peter 1:25

Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands. For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power, and of love, and a sound mind.

2 Timothy 1:13

What you heard from me, keep as the pattern of sound teaching, with faith and love in Christ Jesus.



What we receive should also be in alignment with God's Word. God's written Word is eternal and stands throughout all ages. Whatever we receive should not be bringing forth confusion or disunity to the person or body of believers.

Is what is being communicated to us reflective of God's heart for mankind? Good question to ask is, does it represent the Father Heart of God?

Jesus came to redeem and restore, not to condemn. Jesus came with a message and a ministry of love, hope and freedom.

True prophecy will be redemptive and restorative even when it may be at times corrective (yet wisely communicated).

WITNESS

a. Do you personally bear witness with God's communication?

John 16:13

But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come.

Romans 8:16

The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children.

Often God will confirm His Word with a sense of inner peace and joy – a knowing of rightness. It touches you deeply. Your mind may not fully comprehend it but your heart knows that this is of the Lord.

Nevertheless, a word of caution, it can be hard for us to be objective about the things that directly affect our lives. It is easy for us to let our own hopes and fears override our inner witness.

Sometimes God may call us to something far outside our comfort zone. I suggest to check it with God's Word or our leaders.



b. Do others bear witness and confirm God's communication?

God places us in a family for a reason, for comfort and security, for checks and balances.

Proverbs 15:22

Plans fail for lack of counsel, but with many advisers they succeed.

The Bible says that in the multitude of counsellors there is safety. It is crucial for us to submit what we receive from the Lord over our lives to others for processing and counsel.

And these people are normally people who have oversight into our lives; our spiritual leaders, people of sufficient maturity and godly wisdom in Christ. They can help us process the communication.

Hebrews 13:17

Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you.

In God's communication, most times it would have three aspects:

- Revelation (what it is about)
- Interpretation (what it means)
- Application (what should I do with it then).

We need to always discern God's timing and season and not run ahead of Him. At times, there are conditions attached to it before it can be fulfilled.



WISDOM

a. Do the words draw us closer to God and His people?

The fruit of the word must be that the person is brought closer to the Lord and His people.

Because it is through the interaction with the local body of believers are we honed for the purposes of God's call and ministry. We are meant to relate interdependently with others.

1 Corinthians 12:27

Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.

Ephesians 4:15 - 16

15 Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ. 16 From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

It is in the midst of growing in our interaction with one another in God's house and kingdom, our character is being tested. This is one of the many ways that God uses to hone us in being a people after His own heart.

b. Preparation / Testing of our heart

Twofold:

Receiving the word and our attitude

Let's receive that word with respect and expectation knowing that God may want to speak into your life. Maintain an attitude of meekness and humility, realising that God sees you as important and wants to encourage, exhort and comfort you. Be open to what He may say.



Patience and cooperation with the Lord

We must also realize that there are some aspects of most words that are clearly God's responsibility to bring about and some that are specifically your responsibility to work through.

Separate the two aspects in what you have received from the Lord and focus on what you must do, being diligent to accomplish those things that are already before you and when we are faithful, the Lord will add more accordingly and will eventually come to what He has called us to be.

1 Corinthians 4:2

Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful.

With that, pray that God will fulfil His part of the word, keeping His promises to you. Doing so will allow you to give the word its proper attention while not allowing it to distract your focus from God.

Personal prophecy is one word from God for your life. It cannot take the place of the believer's personal responsibility for Bible reading and daily devotion to God.

Just because God did not bring up our sins to us, does not exhume us from taking responsibility to keep short accounts with God. We are meant to be vessels of honour, so honour the Lord with purity and integrity, not just giftedness itself.

Wisdom tells us that God is more interested in our heart condition rather than determining our destiny. A heart that is sold out for God brings more fruit than one that is preoccupied with one's destiny alone and may miss out on the very heart of the Heavenly Father. It is not about us but Jesus! Let's not practise selective hearing.



WORKING OUT

a. Keeping a record / Transcribe

It is important for us to remember what God has said to us. All the more so because there is often a period of time between a prophecy being given and it being fulfilled.

Habakkuk 2:2-3

2 Write the vision; make it plain on tablets, so he may run who reads it.
3 For still the vision awaits its appointed time; it hastens to the end—it will not lie. If it seems slow, wait for it; it will surely come; it will not delay.

When a confirming prophecy comes, it is helpful if we already have a written record of previous prophecies. You can keep track of how things are unfolding before the Lord.

b. Pray it in

God welcomes and expects our cooperation in working out His destiny for our lives.

That doesn't mean we should strive in our own strength to bring about the fulfilment of a word, even if there is a gap of many years. Nevertheless, we do need to contend in prayer for our destiny in God.

If God has a plan – who has a vested interest in derailing it?

The enemy will do whatever it takes, tempt us to any sin, tell any lie, breed any discouragement, or simply foster complacency in us, in order for us to fail to fulfil our destiny.

1 Timothy 1:18-19

This charge I entrust to you, Timothy, my child, in accordance with the prophecies previously made about you, that by them you may wage the good warfare, holding faith and a good conscience. By rejecting this, some have made shipwreck of their faith,



We need to pray in the promises of God. If you have key prophetic words over your life that have yet to be fulfilled, it's time to lift them up in prayer and make declarations of faith over God's promises.

c. Engaging with our Kingdom Destiny

God's desire is for us to come into active agreement with the destiny He has given us. In learning to receive what He says, we learn to engage fully with our kingdom destiny. One of the devil's most effective tactics has been to undermine our sense of our own value.

When we receive God's communication, we reject the lies of the enemy and start to line up our thinking with God's view of our identity in Christ.

1 Peter 2:9 - 10

9 But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. 10 Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.



Discussion Questions

1. As you listened to the podcast, what is an area that God spoke deeply into your life about? Are there prophetic words that He is reminding you to look through again and ask Him for further revelation?
2. Looking at the 4W's, what are two key areas that you felt God wants you to grow more in as you seek to discern God's communication to you. Are there people in your life that you can refer to in assisting you through the journey?
3. How do your hunger for more of God and His Word help you be more discerning with what you are receiving from God?



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