

Here are two different things I have heard Christians say with regard to the leading of the Holy Spirit:

- I trust my gut, it's almost always right.
- If it's an open door it must mean that God wants me to go through it.

7) What are the problems with these two statements?

To hear the Spirit of God, Pastor Craig says to ask ourselves these questions:

- Which decision will allow me to live into the voice of God's written Word, not contradict it?
- What would be consistent with the character of God revealed in the written Word?
- Am I getting confirmation?
- What is my motive?
- Will this decision lead to the Spirit of God bearing fruit in me?
- What am I now sensing the Spirit leading me to do?

8) Of the above questions, which would be the easiest or hardest and why?

9) How does our teachability affect this list?

10) What is your part in hearing from God?

CHAIR TIME TOOLS

Read John Chapter 14 and think and pray about the following questions.

- 1) What does this chapter teach me about the role of the Holy Spirit in my life?
- 2) Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal Himself to you in this passage.
- 3) Do you have a role in hearing from God?

When God Speaks

The Holy Spirit, Part 2

Pastor Craig Sweeney | October 22, 2023

THREAD: The Holy Spirit is powerfully present to accomplish God's written Word for my life.

"For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him." Philippians 2:13 NLT

1. The work and presence of the Holy Spirit as the Voice of God

John 14:26 – 27 NLT

2. The Voice of God is powerful to accomplish His Word in our lives.

"For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires. Nothing in all creation is hidden from God. Everything is naked and exposed before his eyes, and he is the one to whom we are accountable."

Hebrews 4:12 – 13 NLT

- This is possible because the Holy Spirit brings life to the written Word of God.

Romans 7:18 – 8: 5 NIV

- The Spirit desires our FREEDOM from sin's entanglements.
- The Spirit desires relationship with us.

"So Christ has truly set us free. Now make sure that you stay free... What is important is faith expressing itself in love. You were running the race so well. Who has held you back from following the truth? It certainly isn't God, for he is the one who called you to freedom... For you have been called to live in freedom, my brothers and sisters. But don't use your freedom to satisfy your sinful nature. Instead, use your freedom to serve one another in love. For the whole law can be summed up in this one command: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' But if you are always biting and devouring one another, watch out! Beware of destroying one another. So I say, let the Holy Spirit guide your lives. Then you won't be doing what your sinful nature craves. The sinful nature wants to do evil, which is just the opposite of what the Spirit wants. And the Spirit gives us desires that are the opposite of what the sinful nature desires. These two forces are constantly fighting each other, so you are not free to carry out

your good intentions. But when you are directed by the Spirit, you are not under obligation to the law of Moses. When you follow the desires of your sinful nature, the results are very clear: sexual immorality, impurity, lustful pleasures, idolatry, sorcery, hostility, quarreling, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, dissension, division, envy, drunkenness, wild parties, and other sins like these. Let me tell you again, as I have before, that anyone living that sort of life will not inherit the Kingdom of God. But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things! Those who belong to Christ Jesus have nailed the passions and desires of their sinful nature to his cross and crucified them there. Since we are living by the Spirit, let us follow the Spirit's leading in every part of our lives. Let us not become conceited, or provoke one another, or be jealous of one another.” Galatians 5:1 – 26 NLT

Good questions to ask in order to hear the Spirit of God:

- Which decision will allow me to live into the voice of God's written Word, not contradict it?
- What would be consistent with the character of God revealed in the written Word?
- Am I getting confirmation?
- What is my motive?
- Will this decision lead to the Spirit of God bearing fruit in me?
- What am I now sensing the Spirit leading me to do?

Challenge:

As God comes near to you with the written Word and His Spirit, the real questions are:

- What is He saying?
His voice speaks; am I listening?
- What questions am I asking?
His voice speaks; am I listening?

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Life Group Homework

When God Speaks

Fall 2023 | Week 6

Message Date 10/22/2023

MY STORY

- 1) You can have an unlimited supply of one ordinary thing for the rest of your life, what is it?
- 2) If you could have someone follow you around all the time, like a personal assistant, what would you have them do?

QUICK REVIEW

- 3) What caught your attention from Sunday's message?

DIGGING DEEPER / TAKING IT HOME

John 14:26-27(NLT)

But when the Father sends the Advocate as my representative—that is, the Holy Spirit—he will teach you everything and will remind you of everything I have told you. 27 “I am leaving you with a gift—peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give is a gift the world cannot give. So don't be troubled or afraid...”

- 4) How does the Holy Spirit teach us? What is the key to learning from Him?
- 5) What does it mean to be teachable? What are some obstacles to being teachable?
- 6) Pastor Craig put together a list of things that the Holy Spirit does for us in our lives. From the list below, what have you experienced as the most helpful and why?
 - The Holy Spirit is our helper.
 - The Holy Spirit is always speaking on behalf of Jesus.
 - The Holy Spirit gives insight into the written Word.
 - The Holy Spirit reminds me of Jesus' heart for me from the written Word.
 - The Holy Spirit will never go against the written Word.
 - The Holy Spirit is a true gift of “peace of mind and heart” given to dispel a “troubled” mind and dispel “fear.”