



Seeds: Living The Story

Week 3: Listening for the Leading of the Holy Spirit.

Central to using the 'seed' God has given you is the leading of the Holy Spirit. Time spent in prayer is a critical discipline if you are to pursue your Kingdom work.

Human nature doesn't gravitate towards stillness and listening to God which leaves us open to pursuing a good idea, rather than God's idea.

Listening to God speak to us through His Holy Spirit is essential. Paul wrote, "*You... are controlled...by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ.*"(Rom.8:9). He told believers to "*live by the Spirit*", to be "*led by the Spirit*", to "*keep in step with the Spirit*" (Gal.5).

Jesus Himself reinforced how vital this is: "*The Friend, the Holy Spirit whom the Father will send at my request, will make everything plain to you. He will remind you of all the things I have told you.* (John 14:26 TM)

HOW CAN I DISCERN GOD'S LEADING?

God will speak to you through His word

(2 Tim 3:16-17 NIV) All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

God will speak to you through His Holy Spirit....

John 14:26 "The Holy Spirit ...will be your teacher and will bring to your mind all that I have said to you."

God will also use trusted others to speak into your life. Conversations with those you trust is an important part of the discernment journey.

SOME STEPS TO TAKE:

Be still before God

Psalm 46:10 "Be still, and know that I am God."

Times of stillness and solitude were important to Jesus. Develop a pattern/approach which fits your lifestyle; that will still your racing body and mind, soften your heart and enable you to hear God's voice.

Invite God to speak

Ask Him : How do you want me to use the 'seed' you have given me? Who are you wanting me to reach? What is the next step I need to take?

Be obedient to the Spirit 's leadings

When God tells us to do something, as long as it's within the limits set by Scripture, we don't have to understand it. All we need to do is obey and trust God to use our obedience to accomplish His will.

What To Do With Leadings?

(1 John 4:1 NIV) Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world.

God wants us to test the Spirits but then he wants us to step out in faith, take a risk and follow him.

When you begin to listen for God's leadings, you often won't know why He is asking you to do something. He will lead you down unknown paths, sometimes for no other reason than to teach you to trust Him.

Remember, your walk is based on faith, not sight (2 Cor 5:7 NIV 'We live by faith, not by sight') and 'without faith it is impossible to please God.' (Hebrews 11:6)

Ask Yourself: Is it consistent with Scripture? Is it consistent with the person God has made me to be? Is it leading me to servanthood? Is it affirmed by mature Christians with whom you share it?