Four Keys to Hearing God's Voice

(Mark Virkler is the man I learned these keys from)
Tim Miller, Gateway Fellowship, Nov 23, 2014

- People in the Bible hear God. Ever notice that?
- Jesus said he only said what he heard from the Father, and only did what he saw the Father doing (John 5:19, 20, 30). Wouldn't you like to live that way?
- Jesus said, “My sheep hear my voice.” (John 10:27) Jesus tells us that it’s possible (maybe even normal) for us to live that way.

1.) STOP - Be Still
2.) LOOK - Look for Vision
3.) LISTEN - Tune to the Holy Spirit (spontaneous, flowing thoughts)
4.) WRITE

-evaluate later

1. STOP - Be still
- Ps 46:10 "Be still and know that I am God"
- Ps 37:7 "Be still before the Lord and wait patiently before him"
- Ps 131:2 "I have calmed and quieted my soul like a weaned child with its mother..."
- 1 Kings 19:12 Great wind, earthquake, fire, then "sheer silence." God's voice was in the silence.
- 2 Kings 3 - Music helps create inner quiet

2. LOOK - Look for Vision
- Heb 12:2 "Fix your eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith"
- Eph 1:17 "Pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened..."
- Acts 2:25 David said, "I saw the Lord always before me, for he is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken..."
- How Scripture is meant to work with the theatre of our minds...
- Galatians 3:1, "Christ Jesus was publicly exhibited as crucified!" How? A movie? No. A message plus the theatre of their minds. The eyes of their hearts. This is how the Bible is MEANT to work. We're meant to have a vivid imagination working with the Holy Spirit to make truth our intimate and vivid property.
3. LISTEN - Tune to the Holy Spirit (flowing, spontaneous thoughts, impressions)

- Spirit level communication vs analytical thought...
- **1 Corinthians 14:14-15** I will sing and pray with the spirit, but also with the mind.
- in the shower, driving, mowing - because there I'm not trying. I'm on autopilot. My mind is engaged in something menial and let's the analytical workhorse out of the way.
- striving is not cool - again, that's why it's easy in the shower, I'm not trying hard
- "We have the mind of Christ" (**1 Cor 2:16**) we don't need to get it, we need to learn to recognize it. Tune to it.
- creative workflow - a prophetic flow is similar. biblical metaphors for the Spirit. Flowing water. Rushing wind. Breathe. All of them flow.
- "As the Scripture has said, from his innermost being will flow rivers of living water." - **Jn 7:38**

4.) WRITE - your prayers and God's answers

- This isn't essential. But I find it very helpful
- "Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful." **Col 4:2**
- Recording what you prayed and what God said or did is a helpful way to be watchful so that you can be thankful.
- Most of what God said to me would be forgotten if I didn't write it down. And much of the details would be lost even if I did remember the main idea.
- There are numerous passages in the Bible where someone is instructed to write down what they see or hear in prayer. (**Habakkuk 2:2** for example)
- It becomes difficult to test what you think God said if you don't write it down.
- You don't HAVE to write it down. That's fine. But it is really cool.
- I have been journalling what I thought God was saying to me conversationally since the first few months of becoming a disciple of Jesus.

Tests - Was that really you, God?

1.) What does it say about Jesus? (1 John 4:1) "Test the spirits."
2.) Does it line up with the Bible?
3.) Does it line up with God's character/names or satan's?
4.) What is the fruit? (Mt 7:15-20) "A tree is known by its fruit."
5.) What do my spiritual advisors say? (Prov 11:14) "Where there is no guidance, a nation falls, but in abundance of counselors there is safety."

You don't need to submit every prayer journal to a spiritual advisor. Just the ones that are not obviously God. Your spiritual advisors are not your "boss." They're your friends. Hopefully they're further along in the life of faith that you want to live and grow into.

- We’re not “adding to” the Bible. We’re living out the Bible.
- We don’t view our prayer conversations as authoritative for all believers.

1.) STOP - Be Still
2.) LOOK - Look for Vision
3.) LISTEN - Tune to the Holy Spirit (spontaneous, flowing thoughts)
4.) WRITE

Now it’s time to do it. Get your pens/pencils ready, and your paper. Set aside distractions and relax yourself. Breathe.

Practice Time....