



Is It Really God? Five Ways to Be Sure You're Hearing from Him

1. Test the Origin – 1 John 4:1

Thoughts from our own minds are progressive, with one thought leading to the next. In contrast, thoughts from the spirit world are spontaneous. Words from our pride or ego—self-willed or fleshly rather than Spirit-led tend to “boil up”. True words from God bubble up from our innermost being—we don't need to “cook them up” ourselves.

2. Compare It to Biblical Principles

God will never say something to you personally that contradicts His universal revelation as expressed in the Bible. If the Bible clearly states that something is sin, no amount of journaling and personal hearing from God can make it right. Much of what you journal may not be specifically addressed in the Bible, so an understanding of biblical principles is also needed.

3. Compare It to the Names and Character of God as Revealed in the Bible

Anything God says to you will be in alignment with His essential nature. Journaling and personal hearing will help you get to know God personally, but knowing what the Bible says about Him will help you discern what words are from Him. Make sure the tone of your journaling lines up with the character of God as described in the names of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

4. Test the Fruit – Matthew 7:15–20

What effect does what you're hearing have on your soul and spirit? Words from the Lord will quicken your faith and increase your love, peace, and joy. They will stimulate a sense of humility within you as you become more aware of who God is and who you are. On the other hand, any words you receive which cause you to fear or doubt, that bring you into confusion or anxiety, or which stoke your ego (especially if you hear something that is “just for you alone, no one else is worthy”) must be immediately rebuked and rejected as lies of the enemy.

5. Share It with a Spiritual Counselor – Proverbs 11:14

We are members of a body, and a cord of three strands is not easily broken. God's intention has always been for us to grow in community. That's why being part of a church and Bible study is important. Nothing will increase your faith in your ability to hear from God like having it confirmed by two or three other people. Share it with your pastor, elder, group leader, spouse, parents, or friends. They don't need to be perfect or super spiritual. They just need to love you, be committed to being available to you, have a solid Biblical foundation, and be humble and open to feedback. Find two or three trustworthy Christians who are spiritually grounded people who can confirm whether you are hearing from God.

With sincere gratitude to Hilltop Ministries and Ken Cornell. This teaching was learned from and adapted through your ministry. We love you and honor you!

Need Prayer or Someone to Walk Alongside You? We'd love to connect with you. Call or text Pastor Wendy Close at (408) 209-6929. Email: wendyclose12@gmail.com. **Join us for church!** Sundays at 5 PM at Santa Cruz Convergence, 3775 Capitola Road, Capitola, CA.

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