

Phone A Friend

How Do I Hear From God?

September 7 & 10, 2017

(John 10:3-5) "The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognize a stranger's voice."

(Proverbs 3:6 MSG) Listen for GOD's voice in everything you do, everywhere you go; he's the one who will keep you on track.

Heart of the Matter

(Ephesians 4:17-19) So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking. They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts. Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, and they are full of greed.

(Proverbs 4:23) Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it.

✓ The polluted heart.

(James 1:21 NLT) Get rid of all the filth and evil in your lives, and humbly accept the message God has planted in your hearts, for it is strong enough to save your soul.

✓ The disconnected heart.

(Luke 10:39-40 AMP) And she had a sister named Mary, who seated herself at the Lord's feet and was listening to His teaching. But Martha [overly occupied and too busy] was distracted with much serving.

✓ The immature heart.

(1 Samuel 3:4-11) Then the LORD called Samuel. Samuel answered, "Here I am." And he ran to Eli and said, "Here I am; you called me." But Eli said, "I did not call; go back and lie down." So he went and lay down. Again... Then Eli realized that the LORD was calling the boy. So Eli told Samuel, "Go and lie down, and if he calls you, say, 'Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place. The LORD came and stood there, calling as at the other times, "Samuel! Samuel!" Then Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening." And the LORD said to

Samuel: "See, I am about to do something in Israel that will make the ears of everyone who hears about it tingle."

Pure Heart – Open Ears

(Matthew 5:8) "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God."

1. The polluted heart is cleansed through repentance.

(Psalm 139:23-24 NLT) Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. Point out anything in me that offends you, and lead me along the path of everlasting life.

(2 Corinthians 7:1 MSG) Let's make a clean break with everything that defiles or distracts us, both within and without. Let's make our entire lives fit and holy temples for the worship of God.

2. The disconnected heart is connected through worship.

(James 4:8 NLT) Come close to God and God will come close to you.

(Psalm 22:3 KJV) But thou art holy, O thou that inhabits the praises of Israel.

3. The immature heart is matured through experience.

• God speaks through His Word.

(Psalm 119:105) Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.

• God speaks through His people.

(Matthew 18:20 MSG) "And when two or three of you are together because of me, you can be sure that I'll be there."

• God speaks through His Church.

(Ephesians 4:15-16) Instead, we will speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ, who is the head of his body, the church. He makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love.