



Discern God's Voice

A Savvy Follower Tool

"Your own ears will hear him. Right behind you, a voice will say, 'This is the way you should go,' whether to the right or to the left." - Isaiah 30:21 NLT

The ability to discern God's voice in a chaotic world constantly vying for your attention is a lifelong journey filled with countless decisions and choices to be made. It's less about step-by-step guidelines and more about putting yourself in the repeated practice of recognizing, listening, and responding. The good news is that the more you practice it, the more you will recognize His voice and understand how to move forward. When you sense God is trying to get your attention, use this tool to help you tune in to His voice. Think, "What do I do when I come to a crossroads sign?"

CROSSROADS CHECKLIST

SLOW DOWN: When will I meet with God?

We slow down at a crossroads sign to increase our ability to see and hear things we'd miss at normal speed. God's pace rarely matches that of this world. When you sense God trying to get your attention, SLOW DOWN and set aside time to be still: try a couple of minutes of focused meditation or breathing prayers.

LOOK & LISTEN: What am I seeing? What is God saying?

After you slow down, the next step is to take in your surroundings and begin to look and listen. The crossroads sign signals "be aware of your surroundings" and "make sure you look to your left and right for other traffic." Below are just some basic questions to get you started. Take note that each of these questions asks God what HE WANTS you to see, hear, and feel, not the other way around. Don't rush through these. Take your time and remember: God rarely is in a hurry.

- What do you want me to see?
- What do you want me to hear? External source (other's words, His Word) and internal source (Spirit's voice)
- What do you want me to feel?

SEEK: Where do I find confirmation?

It would be great if God's direction were as clear as GPS, but we know that isn't the case. He is less concerned about directions and more about a trusting relationship. When you find yourself unsure or faltering, you can seek wise counsel. Take what you observe and compare it to what is found in the Bible. The Spirit's voice will never contradict what is found in God's Word, nor will it violate God's character. Once you check there, talk to some people who are further along in their faith and have a track record of discernment. You are looking for confirmation, NOT consensus.

RESPOND: What will I do next?

Once you get confirmation, it's time to act. Write it down and share it with someone to hold you accountable for acting on it. Your response might entail you having to do something hard, like asking for forgiveness or responding to harsh criticism. It could also be something exhilarating, like saying yes to leading an initiative or a group of people. This is scary, but remember, the reward is a deeper relationship and understanding of who God is and who He has called you to be.

Action: _____