

Hearing the Spirit: Five Questions to Ask the Lord.

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*"Look! I have been standing at the door, and I am constantly knocking.
If anyone hears me calling him and opens the door,
I will come in and fellowship with him and he with me."*

Revelation 3:20 TLB

"He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."

Revelation 3:22 NASB

"Listening Prayer:" Five questions to ask the Lord. The Spirit of Truth will guide you into all the truth.

1. **WHAT? Lord, what is on Your heart?** What do You want me to know? Talk to me. For example:
 - a. I want to know You better, more intimately, as my Friend, Bridegroom and King. Share Your heart.
 - b. Lead me to become more conformed to Your image, Lord Jesus. Show me Yourself – Your glory.
 - c. Tell me about this critical moment in world history as Your kingdom draws near, so I can intercede.
 - d. How do I pray in this situation or challenge facing the Church, and my local church in particular?
 - e. I seek Your wisdom in facing a hard decision or issue in my personal life, or with family or friends.
 - f. Show me what You would say or do for this hurting, broken person in front of me right now in this ministry moment. Jesus, like You, I want to do what the Father is doing. **John 5:19; 8:38**
2. **REALLY? Lord, I need to know that this is really You speaking?** So . . .
 - a. Please confirm this impression through Your written Word, the Bible.
 - b. Would You clarify and confirm what I perceive You are saying as I quietly wait on Your Spirit?
 - c. I anticipate that you may use other gifted believers or circumstances to confirm it. Open my eyes.
 - d. And here's why I need clarification: **"IF YOU SPEAK CLEARLY, I WILL OBEY COURAGEOUSLY!"**
3. **WHY? Lord, why did you tell me this.** Was it to prompt me to action, or just because I asked?
 - a. Is this a secret – Friend to friend – that is an intimate disclosure for me alone to enjoy right now?
 - b. Is this a clue – something I am to search out and explore in Scripture, to be clarified over time?
 - c. Is this heart-perception a prophetic insight – a timely, specific prompting for intercession or action?
 - d. Is it a directive – Do You want me to take action, such as offering this prompting to another?
 - e. Is it not for me to ask "why" right now? I know the explanation will come in Your timing. I'll wait.
4. **WHEN? Lord, if You are directing me to offer this prompting to others, tell me when.**
 - a. Is now the time, and is this the place? An anointed ministry is as much related to timing as to truth.
 - b. If not now, when? I will be prepared and watch for Your open door. I stand patiently ready to obey.
 - c. How much? All or part? Which part of this "word from the Lord" do You want me to share now?
5. **HOW? Lord, how would you guide me to present this truth to others?** I need both tack and courage.
 - a. **Privately** or **publicly**? Do I share specifically to an individual, or generally to the whole group?
 - b. **Gently**? If so, I will **"offer and release"** rather than **"impose and control."** That means, I will:
 - Ask permission to share.
 - Offer my insight simply, without going too far in trying to interpret it or apply it.
 - Release them to the Holy Spirit's confirmation. 1 Thessalonians 5:20-21
 - c. **Directly**? If so, I will speak the truth in love boldly, trusting the Spirit to back up my obedience?

NOTES:

1. I will take care not to violate the priesthood of believers by **"corrective, directive"** words (OT).
2. I will measure my response by 1 Corinthians 14:3 NIV. **"But everyone who prophesies speaks to men for their strengthening, encouragement and comfort."**
3. When I say, **"Lord, if You speak clearly, I will obey courageously,"** I must not rush the first part.

"Call to Me and I will answer you, and I will tell you great and mighty things, which you do not know." Jer. 33:3