

Am I Hearing God, the Enemy, or Just Me?

A ONE-PAGE REFERENCE GUIDE FOR DISCERNING THE VOICE YOU'RE HEARING · QUESTION 5 OF 7

Scripture Reference:

1 John 4:1 (NKJV) "Do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God..."

The Foundational Answer:

Every thought or impression must be tested: Sincerity does not guarantee accuracy. Scripture commands believers to examine spiritual claims rather than automatically accepting them as God's voice.

Scripture is the controlling standard: The Holy Spirit inspired the written Word and will never lead someone to contradict, dismiss, or disobey it. A message that opposes Scripture is not from God.

Discernment develops through maturity: Knowing God's character, renewing the mind, practicing obedience, praying for wisdom, and receiving mature counsel help believers recognize what is true.

Five Questions to Test The Voice

1. Does it agree with Scripture? God will not contradict what He has already revealed (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

2. Does it honor Jesus Christ? The Spirit glorifies Christ rather than feeding pride, self-importance, or fascination with secret knowledge (John 16:13-14).

3. What fruit does it produce? God's leading forms holiness, love, truth, humility, and self-control. Results alone do not prove the source, but ungodly fruit exposes a problem (Galatians 5:22-23).

4. Is it wise and open to examination? God's wisdom is pure, peaceable, gentle, and willing to yield. A direction that resists biblical counsel or demands reckless haste should be questioned (James 3:17).

5. Can I obey it with a clear conscience? Bring the thought captive to Christ, pray, wait when possible, and do not act against Scripture or conscience (2 Corinthians 10:5; Romans 14:23).

<u>1. GOD'S LEADING</u> Truth · Christ · holiness John 16:13-14	<u>2. THE ENEMY</u> Deception · temptation · accusation John 8:44; Revelation 12:10	<u>3. MY THOUGHTS</u> Desires · fears · assumptions Proverbs 14:12
---	---	--

Conviction or Condemnation?

The Holy Spirit's conviction: Identifies sin truthfully, agrees with Scripture, and leads toward confession, repentance, restoration, and hope in Christ (John 16:8; 1 John 1:9).

The enemy's condemnation: Accuses, distorts, shames, and pushes toward hiding, hopelessness, or the belief that grace is unavailable. There is no condemnation for those in Christ (Romans 8:1).

A necessary caution: God's guidance may disturb our comfort, while temptation may initially feel appealing or peaceful. Emotional ease or distress by itself cannot identify the source.

Reference	Connection
John 10:27; 16:13-14	Jesus' sheep know Him; the Spirit guides into truth and glorifies Christ.
Romans 12:2	A renewed mind learns to discern God's good, acceptable, and perfect will.
Philippians 4:8	Thoughts should be evaluated by what is true, noble, just, pure, and praiseworthy.
James 1:5; 3:13-17	Ask God for wisdom and examine whether its character is from above.
Proverbs 11:14; 15:22	Wise, godly counsel protects against isolated judgment.
Hebrews 4:12	God's Word discerns the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

THE ENDURING LESSON: Do not ask only, "What do I feel?" Ask, "What has God said?" Test every voice by seeking the Scriptures, Christ's character, spiritual fruit, wisdom, prayer, and godly counsel. When you lack certainty, obey what is already clear and wait without forcing an answer.