

The New Testament Church
The Holy Spirit #8 – Hearing the Voice of God
August 10, 2025 - Pastor Paul Jehle

I Review of John 14-17 – Jesus teaching on the Holy Spirit’s “job description”

- A. The Holy Spirit is God - the one (transcendant) and many (imminent) - Elohim
 - 1. Jn. 20:21-22 – Jesus appeared – *peace I give you, receive the Holy Spirit – regenerated*
 - 2. Acts 2:1-4 – The day of Pentecost – *be baptized in the Holy Spirit - empowerment*
- B. John 14-17 - Great Transition – Holy Spirit *comforts* and *convicts* – defending our position
 - 1. Comfort us – help us live in the Holy Spirit
 - 2. Convicts us – as an attorney, defends us before the enemy, reveals pride and sin
- C. Christ can baptize you in the Holy Spirit (prayer in tongues) – Spirit having more of you
- D. The gifts and fruit of the Spirit – the gifts draw you in to surrender to forming His Image!

II Hearing the Voice of God

- A. Hearing the voice of God in the Old Testament – Exodus 28:30 – a progression
 - 1. Urim and Thummim – Exodus 28:30 – on the breastplate (over the heart) of the Priest
 - a. Urim – transliteration in Hebrew for “lights” – voice of God
 - b. Thummim – transliteration in Hebrew for “perfections” or truth – what God said
 - c. May have functioned as a “yes” or “no” – but only if one was in covenant with God
 - 2. The Prophets – cloud/fire; visions/dreams; casting lots – in surrender to God
 - a. Cloud by day (the light), fire by night (truth)
 - b. Visions (seeing images) and dreams (stories) – Numbers 12:6
 - c. Casting lots – sticks/stones, thrown – Pr. 16:33 (decisions); Joshua 18:10 (land)
 - 3. So God “spoke” in two major ways in the Old Testament
 - a. God “speaking” through His Law (truth) – after it was written – Logos (complete)
 - b. God “spoke” with specific applications (equity, grace) – Rhema (specific)
- B. Hearing God’s voice in the New Testament – John 10:3-5; Isaiah 30:21
 - 1. The witness of the Spirit – *My sheep hear my voice* (believers can hear God)
 - a. Jesus calls his sheep, and they *know His voice*
 - b. He *goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice*
 - 2. Rejecting the voice of strangers – *they do not know the voice of strangers*
 - a. They *will not follow a stranger* – caution: we can be led astray (self, or the enemy)
 - b. For *they know not the voice of strangers* – know means intimate with; thus reject
 - 3. By the Word (logos) of God – we know the characteristics of His voice
 - a. When we are born again, the Holy Spirit is in our spirit – *we can hear Him!*
 - b. Our thoughts, due to our sin nature, *must be examined and discerned*
 - c. The written Word (logos) is our *final authority for discerning the voice of God*
 - 1. Hearing comes *by the Word of God* – Romans 10:17
 - 2. We grow in discernment as we use your minds to “hear” Him – Hebrews 5:14
 - d. The art of discernment - tests *which thoughts are of God, self or the enemy*
 - 1. Three “harbor lights” of guidance -
 - a. Witness of the Spirit – Ro. 8:16; Col. 2:15 (peace of God)
 - b. Word of God – Hebrews 4:12; Ro. 10:17 – divides thoughts and intents
 - c. Confirmation of others we can trust - Mt. 18:20; 1st John 5:9
 - 2. Discerning God’s thoughts from our own or the enemy’s (opposite side)

The Art of Discerning God's voice - compiled by Pastor Paul Jehle

1. **When we are born again, the Holy Spirit is in our spirit – we can hear Him!**
 John 5:19,30 – *only do what the Father does... as I hear, I judge*
 John 10:24 – *my sheep hear my voice*

2. **Our thoughts, due to our sin nature, must be examined and discerned**
 1st Corinthians 2:14 – *natural man can't understand... spiritually discerned*
 John 16:13 – *the Spirit of truth... guide you to truth (Christ)*

3. **The written Word of God is our final authority for discerning the voice of God**
 Hebrews 4:12 – *the word of God is sharp... dividing asunder soul and spirit*
 Romans 10:17 – *faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God*
 Hebrews 5:14 – *by reason of use have their minds exercised to discern...*

4. **The art of discernment tests which thoughts are of God, self or the enemy**
 1st Corinthians 12:10 – *to another discerning of spirits...*
 1st John 4:1-2 – *test the spirits... (are they of Christ)*
 Mt. 18:20 – *two or three gathered... there I am in the midst of them*
 1st John 5:7-8 – *three that bear witness... the Spirit, water, and the blood*
 Colossians 2:15 – *let the peace of God rule in your hearts*

The Holy Spirit	Human or at times demonic spirits
1. ...is <u>holy</u> , pure, separate from sin	1. ...bring attention to <u>self</u> and <u>evil</u>
2. ...lovingly <u>convicts</u>	2. ... <u>condemns</u> with shame
3. ...encourage to confess with <u>hope</u>	3. ...discourage with <u>despair</u>
4. ...move forward in <u>forgiveness</u>	4. ...dwell on and <u>enhance</u> the past
5. ...leads and guides us to His <u>Word</u>	5. ...push us to <u>rush</u> outside His Word
6. ...calms us with <u>trust</u> and confidence	6. ...obsess us with <u>worry</u> and agitation
7. ...bring comfort and <u>peace</u>	7. ...bring <u>chaos</u> and compromise
8. ...bring clarity and <u>confirmation</u> from God, the Word, and believers	8. ...bring <u>confusion</u> and restlessness by hearing on your own
9. ...turns our attention to <u>Christ</u>	9. ...turns us toward <u>ourselves</u>
10. ...builds a <u>relationship</u> with God	10. ...builds up <u>self-reliance alone</u>