



THE LORD'S FLOCK GROWTH DIGEST

PASTORAL GROWTH SERIES

“CONCRETE TEST”

(Part 2 of Which Voices Are you Listening To?)

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A wise Christian seeks Godly counsel, though it may not please his fleshly being nor his/her earthly desires. Amidst the varied counselling voices that fill the world today, how do we, as Christians, discern between earthly and Godly counsel? Hence, we need “concrete test” to discern if the voice is coming from God or from the evil one (2 Tim. 3:16).

1. How do we discern the voice that we are hearing?

- 1.1 We should heed the Word of God. We should read and study the Scriptures. God speaks to us through the Scriptures and it will guide us in making the right decision. It may not always be what we want to hear, but there are times the Lord will reproof us. We should allow ourselves to be corrected, to be teachable (Ps.95:8; Prov. 12:1; 2 Pet. 1:29; Jer. 1:12).
- 1.2 We should hide the Word in our heart (Ps. 119:11). We should understand, treasure, and obey God’s Word until it bears fruit and yield a hundredfold (Mt. 13:23).
- 1.3 We should proclaim God’s Word by witnessing to others (Ps. 119:13; Is. 65:24). We should share God’s Word to those who need to be comforted (1 Pet. 5:10-11). Faith comes from hearing the Word of God (Rom. 10:17).
- 1.4 We should honor the Word of God and reflect on what God is telling us (Ps. 119:15). We should use God’s Word as our spiritual weapon against Satan (Heb. 4:12; 2 Cor. 10:4).

2. What is God telling us in the Scriptures?

- 2.1 Everything will turn out good for those who love Him (Rom. 8:28).

- 2.2 Trials will soon be over (1 Pet. 5:10-11).
- 2.3 Consider it all joy when we encounter various trials (Jas. 1:2-3).
- 2.4 Rejoice when we undergo various trials (1 Pet. 1:6-7).
- 2.5 We should have faith in God and listen to His voice (Mk. 11:25).
- 2.6 My people perish because of lack of knowledge (Hos. 4:6).
- 2.7 We must meditate on God’s Word Day and night (Jos. 1:8)
- 2.8 We must not be afraid in the midst of the storm (Mk. 4).
- 2.9 He will never abandon nor forsake us (Mt. 28)
- 2.10 We must pray unceasingly (1 Thess. 5:17-19).

3. How do we know if the person giving advice is trustworthy? Through “Character Test”

- 3.1 Does the person offering advice have a Godly character?
- 3.2 What is the character of her/his life? Does s/he live her/his talk? (Eph. 4:26-29).
- 3.3 Does s/he have the fruits of the Holy Spirit (Gal. 5:22-23)?

Conclusion:

Many times, we see people who say one thing and do another. This makes it difficult for us to trust people. Hence, we need to test the spirit and be guided by the Scriptures.

Reflection:

1. Was there ever a time when you took the advice from the wrong person?
2. What were the consequences?

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