



# THE LORD'S FLOCK GROWTH DIGEST

## PASTORAL GROWTH SERIES

### FLATTERING VOICE

#### (Part 1 of Which Voices Are You Listening To?)

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We all need the word of God to touch our hardened hearts, to be ready to receive and welcome His words. We must be sure that the voices we are listening to or the people who are preaching and teaching are leaders following the word of God. What a tragedy when people want to hear words of flattery instead of what God says (Jas.3). To be a faithful follower of Christ, we must refer to Godly counsel and discern the real voice of God, to direct and guide us towards righteousness.

#### What does the Bible proclaims about the voices we are listening to?

1. Being a man of God means preaching about God's Word. However, not all can be teachers, because mishandling the word of God could bring tremendous problems. God holds the teacher more responsible than the students (Jas.3).
2. We communicate with God through our prayers and He truly answers. We must test the voice we hear and try the spirits whether they are of God. Is it Scriptural? Many false prophets have gone out into the world, with the voice of false doctrine - evil spirits (1 Jn.4:1).
3. St. Paul's letter to Timothy was aimed at persistently and patiently proclaiming the Word of God through teaching and convincing. Unfortunately, time will come when people will reject the truth and prefer to hear lies (2 Tim. 4:1-4).
4. King Jehoshaphat by marriage allied himself with Ahab to link kingdoms, an unwise policy for Jehoshaphat (2 Chron. 18:6-7). His compromise with the ungodly King Ahab of Israel and his wicked wife, Queen Jezebel led him astray. Evil company corrupts moral values (1 Cor.15:33).

5. All Scripture is God-breathed; it is the Word of God; thus, it is infallible. Everything that we believe, teach, and do must be based on the Bible for reproof, correction, for instruction in righteousness, so that one who belongs to God may be competent, equipped for every good work (2 Tim.3:16-17).
6. After ten days, the word of the Lord came to Jeremiah, who waited in prayer and meditation. True obedience is to accept God's time, His ways, and His will. Lack of trust in God, could lead to ignoring or disobeying the voice of God. (Jer.42:7-10,13-14).
7. Listening to teachings during Grow Series every Wednesday; participating in Praise and Worship every Saturday; watching recordings on YouTube; and logging on to other Lord's Flock-related websites will surely develop faith and trust in the Lord. Let us, then, be wise and seek good counsel. It is better to listen to the rebuke of a wise man and pursue wisdom, than to listen to the song of fools and pursue stupidity (Eccl. 7:5).

#### Conclusion:

The Lord wants us to discern the voices we hear. Let us talk to the Lord in regular prayer. Enjoy the presence of God and listen to Him in our hearts. We should not be afraid, for He will never forsake us.

#### Reflection:

1. Which voices are you listening to?
2. How did you discern the voices?

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#discernment