

HOW TO KNOW IF IT'S GOD'S VOICE (HIS WILL) OR NOT

There are several SCRIPTURAL means that God uses to communicate to people.

A person may "hear" by a scripture being "quicken" to them – that is, the words seem to come "alive" inside you. The result is that you KNOW that the Lord spoke that scripture to you to the extent that you have no doubt and would be willing at any cost to commit to follow that "quicken word". This is by far the most common and usual means that God uses – He "speaks" through His own Word.

One may receive a dream, a vision, a prophetic utterance or even hear God's voice – but the most oft used method, the usual method is His "leading" us to go and/or do His bidding by the Holy Spirit. Hence a word of caution should be added here – beware of your own SOUL POWER! Do *you* have to break the door down, or did the door just open – especially at the last possible moment.

Still, this does not mean that we are to always interpret "circumstances" as being a clear direction from God, especially if that is all that we have to go on – and even more so if it is contrary to the clear teaching of Scripture (in context!).

Other consequential considerations should also be brought to bear on the matter, such as:

1. Does it conform to the WORD OF GOD – in CONTEXT!

ISA 8:20 To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them. For example, whether to marry a non-believer or not.

2CO 6:14 Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?

2. Would the outcome be to God's Glory or to Man's – especially to a particular person ie: yourself?

1CO 10:31 Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.

1CO 1:27 But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty;

1CO 1:28 And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are:

1CO 1:29 That no flesh should glory in his presence.

3. Do you feel "driven" or led?

ROM 8:14 For as many as are *led* by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

PSA 23:2 He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he *leadeth* me beside the still waters.

PSA 23:3 He restoreth my soul: he *leadeth* me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

As we can see from these verses, God's way is to "lead".

4. USUALLY, it will not be against the common sense that God gave you. This is a guide though and not a rule for there are many Biblical exceptions.
5. Providential care begins to fit together – you don't make it happen or do it yourself yet the things fit perfectly or are just there. For example:

ACTS 9:10 And there was a certain disciple at Damascus, named Ananias; and to him said the Lord in a vision, Ananias. And he said, Behold, I am here, Lord.

ACTS 9:11 And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the street which is called Straight, and enquire in the house of Judas for one called Saul, of Tarsus: for, behold, he prayeth,

ACTS 9:12 And hath seen in a vision a man named Ananias coming in, and putting his hand on him, that he might receive his sight.

ACTS 9:13 Then Ananias answered, Lord, I have heard by many of this man, how much evil he hath done to thy saints at Jerusalem:

ACTS 9:14 And here he hath authority from the chief priests to bind all that call on thy name.

Though the request seemed strange to Ananias, things began to fall into place perfectly – there was a street named "straight", a man named Judas did live there and there was a man there named Saul from Tarsus there and this man was blind.

6. Though some trepidation may persist, for the most part – a deep PEACE, God's peace – will be given to the "inner man".

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