

Excellence in Ministry
Session #5

I. Review: “Core Values that will Shape Your Character and Increase Your Kingdom Influence”

- A. Choosing _____ over Activity**
- B. Choosing _____ over Financial Gain**
- C. Choosing _____ over Success**
- D. Choose to _____ Others over Comfort and Convenience**

II. Today we begin the section on “Leadership Essentials”

- A. In this section of this course we will cover the essential _____ that define a leader who represents the Kingdom of God.**
- B. Understanding and assimilating these principles into your life will maximize both your _____ potential and your _____ with others.**
 - 1) There is a reason why some individuals have more influence with people than others.
 - 2) There is also a reason why some individuals have achieved _____ of their ministry potential than others.
 - 3) Much of this can be attributed to developing the essential _____ skills and traits that we will cover in this course.

II. Leadership Essential #1 – _____ and Recognizing God’s _____

- A. Ps. 85:8 – “I will hear what God the Lord will speak.”**
 - 1) One of the greatest needs in life is to _____ God accurately.
 - 2) Hearing God is key to our continual growth and renewal in our walk with Him – v. 6, 7
 - 3) There are life decisions that are in the process of being made that we need to hear His voice and wisdom on.
 - 4) Whether we hear and follow or not will affect the course and _____ of our lives and others and make an impact on _____

B. Jn. 10:4, 27 – Jesus said that His sheep both hear and recognize His voice.

- 1) Each born again child of God has the _____ to hear and follow Him.
- 2) One of the problems is that there are many voices competing and shouting for our attention while God’s voice is primarily a “*still, small voice.*” – I Cor. 14:10
- 3) Following Jesus is essential to _____ and _____ in life and ministry.
- 4) If we’re not hearing His voice and following Him we will fail at the course of life.
- 5) How many want to _____ a pastor or leader who does not know how to hear God’s voice and refuses to _____ Jesus and His ways?

C. God spoke to Adam, Noah, Abraham, Moses, Joshua, Gideon, Samuel, Elijah, David, Isaiah, Ezekiel, etc. and they were not born again.

- 1) How much more you and I.
- 2) God hasn’t changed His principle of accomplishing His purpose in the earth.
- 3) He speaks to men until He finds one who will _____ and _____.
- 4) Example: Mary – “Be it unto me according to your word.”

III. Conditions Necessary for _____ Hearing

A. Spend _____ with God

- 1) Make _____ and time in His presence a _____.
- 2) The more you spend time with someone, the more recognizable their voice becomes to you.
- 3) Example: When my wife calls me on the phone, she does not have to tell me who it is because I recognize her voice after 35 years of spending time with her.
- 4) The more time you spend with the Lord and the better you know Him, the more _____ His voice will become to you.

B. Circumcise your heart from _____ motives and _____ ideas

- 1) Our flesh, greed, or pride are voices that will hinder our hearing God's voice.
- 2) God promised to give us the desires of our heart, not the desires of our selfish, prideful flesh.
- 3) When seeking God for direction and attempting to hear from Him, it is necessary to lay all personal _____ aside.
- 4) This is what Gethsemane was all about for Jesus – *“Not My will, but Yours be done, Father.”*
- 5) This step establishes the will of God as a higher _____ than our fleshly whims, desires, or comfort.

C. Having a heart that is _____ to obey

- 1) Keeping a “_____” in your spirit to God at all times.
- 2) This kind of heart is instant to obey Him once it is certain of God's voice.
- 3) Heb. 3:7, 15; 4:7 – “Today, if you will hear His voice, do not _____ your hearts...” – “____, Lord” is an oxymoron!
- 4) Get rid of “never” from your vocabulary with God.
- 5) What was the _____ thing you know that God spoke to you about? Have you been obedient to do that?

D. Know the _____ of God – Eight certain _____ that will help you distinguish God's voice from every other voice:

- 1) He is _____ to His Word
 - a. II Cor. 4:13 – Everything He speaks to you will always be according to His _____ or in line with His _____.
 - b. I Jn. 5:7 – The Spirit and the Word agree.
 - c. The Holy Spirit will never lead you to violate God's Word.
- 2) His voice produces _____, not confusion.
 - a. Prov. 3:17 – All the paths of wisdom are _____.
 - b. Col. 3:15 – “Let the peace of God umpire in your hearts...”
 - c. Jas. 4:17 – The wisdom from above is peaceable; Ps. 85:6
- 3) His voice and leading will bring _____, not bondage
 - a. II Cor. 3:17 – “Where the Spirit of the Lord is there is _____.”

- b. Jn. 8:32 – The Son has come to set us free.
- 4) He is _____, not impulsive or hasty.
 - a. I Cor. 13:4 – Love is _____
 - b. Isa. 28:16 – “...whoever believes will not act hastily.”
- 5) His voice will always leave us with _____, not discouragement or depression – even when He corrects us.
 - a. Love always expects and never gives up – I Cor. 13:7, 13
 - b. Rom. 5:5; 15:3
- 6) His voice instills _____, not fear and intimidation
 - a. Prov. 14:26 – “In the fear of the Lord is strong _____”
 - b. I Jn. 3:21 – “Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence toward God.”
- 7) _____, rather than pride
 - a. Jas. 4:6 – “God gives grace to the _____.”
 - b. Mat. 11:29 – Jesus is meek and lowly of heart.
- 8) _____, not selfishness
 - a. I Jn. 4:16; Rom. 5:5; II Cor. 5:14 – Following _____ is following God.
 - b. Ask this question when considering a direction: “How will this decision affect my relationships?”

E. Learn to trust and follow the _____ of your heart

- 1) Ps. 37:4 – “Delight yourself also in the Lord, and He shall give you the desires of your heart.”
- 2) The key to distinguishing the desires of your heart from the desires of the flesh is by first delighting yourself in the Lord.
- 3) Once you have yielded to the Lord and circumcised your heart from selfish desires, keeping a “yes” in your spirit to God, He _____ you to follow your heart.
- 4) He didn’t say here that He gives us whatever we want, rather He gives us the “_____.”
- 5) Once you have submitted yourself to this process of hearing God and you have prayed, but have not heard anything specific, then follow what you feel is _____ in your _____.
- 6) Decide with finality as if God had spoken to you directly and don’t second guess your decision as a leader.
- 7) God trusts a yielded son or daughter of His to _____ or be _____ by the desires of their heart.