

True North

Deuteronomy 8:3 (NKJV)

³ So He humbled you, allowed you to hunger, and fed you with manna which you did not know nor did your fathers know, that He might make you know that man shall not live by bread alone; but man lives by every *word* that proceeds from the mouth of the LORD.

- Inside every believer there is a compass
- An internal force placed by God
- Waiting to be discovered and used for His glory
- To better navigate the stormy seas and cloudy skies of life

Without this compass we are left to be led by our physical world, our emotions, hunches, and the voices of those who want to influence our journey

Life, it seems, is a never-ending cycle of decisions that can alter the entire direction of our lives

How freeing it would be to have access to an internal compass that would fix the direction of our lives to True North

By the power of the Holy Spirit we can learn how to access the voice of God to set the course of our life and keep it on track to achieve His perfect will for your lives

In Genesis God spoke “Let there be.” He has been speaking ever since

God desires to speak into our lives, if only we would learn to recognize His voice

Right after He spoke these three words, God created the heavens, the earth, the land, and the seas were all spoken into existence by the voice of God

- Then we read...

Genesis 1:26 (NKJV)

²⁶ Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”

Genesis 2:7 (NKJV)

⁷ And the LORD God formed man *of* the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.

- As the image of God, man was different from the rest of creation
- He was a self-determined being
- Man had a voice in how his life would turn out
- He was created in the likeness of God

This was demonstrated immediately as Adam began to name the animals

- Like his Creator, man could also talk and call things by name
- Man was not a god himself, but he could speak like God
- There was a Godlike force in his voice because God *“breathed into his nostrils the breath of life”*

But Adam and Eve were not alone in the Garden

Genesis 3:1 (NKJV)

Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, “Has God indeed said, ‘You shall not eat of every tree of the garden’?”

- Satan knew that to defeat the human race he would have to separate them from the voice of God

Genesis 3:5 (NKJV)

⁵For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and *you will be like God*, knowing good and evil.”

- They were already like God
- This is why we question and struggle with our identity
- The enemy will do whatever he can to get you to listen to his voice instead of God’s
- He wants nothing less to suggest the direction for your life
- He will tell you that you have to be someone else
- Someone other than who God created you to be

Some people struggle their whole life trying to impress others by being something that they are not

- Their lives are filled with frustration and regret
- They don’t understand that God made them to be themselves – made in His image
- You don’t have to be somebody else
- You are already what He wants

So many of us question ourselves and question whether or not we discern the voice of God clearly

- When we question these things, it is hard to be obedient to the voice of God
- Obedience to the voice of God opens up doors you would not even know existed
- This will give us more and more confidence to hear and obey the voice of God
- Learning to be sensitive to the voice of God is critical for every facet of life
- His voice *Holy Spirit* is our internal compass for life

Obedience when we hear from God is the real test

- Can God trust you with what He says to you?
- Will you trust Him with what you cannot see?

After the fall God came walking in the cool of the day

- What did Adam and Eve do?
- They hid from the voice of God

From that point forward we see throughout the OT a love/hate relationship with the voice of God

God later spoke to Moses through a burning bush

- And later dictated the Ten Commandments
- The mountain shook, and the people were afraid

Exodus 20:19 (NKJV)

¹⁹ Then they said to Moses, “You speak with us, and we will hear; but let not God speak with us, lest we die.”

Man went from speaking to God in the garden to being afraid of His voice

Satan had so perverted man's relationship with God that they thought the very sound of His voice would kill them

- His plan is no different today
- He will try to convince you that if you listen to God it will kill your relationships
 - Your career
 - Your fun
- He will tell you the Word of God will take life from you

Things got so bad that finally God stopped speaking to man

- For a gap of four hundred years God was silent

Eventually the silence was broken by John the Baptist

Matthew 3:3 (NKJV)

³For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah, saying: *“The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the LORD; Make His paths straight.’ ”*

- The book of John leaves no doubt that God was ready to speak again

John 1:1 (NKJV)

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

God had broken His silence, and now His voice had skin and bones

- God was again speaking to His creation

Matthew 3:17 (NKJV)

¹⁷ And suddenly a voice *came* from heaven, saying, “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”

- The word of God was back to display its power
- Jesus spoke to a storm and it ceased
- Jesus spoke to Lazarus and he walked out of the grave
- Jesus spoke to a fig tree and it withered

Matthew 21:21 (NKJV)

²¹ So Jesus answered and said to them, “Assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith and do not doubt, you will not only do what was done to the fig tree, but also if you say to this mountain, ‘Be removed and be cast into the sea,’ it will be done.

- Gods voice was active again
- And it was now free to work within the those who called upon Him
- God was not finished working through His people
- In fact, He was just getting started

GOD’S VOICE IN YOUR LIFE

How can you discover that special, internal direction that God gave you?

- What is God’s plan for your life?
- So many are trying to fulfill the demands of career, church, and family
- So many of us feel left out, stressed out, frazzled and under attack

God sees you as extraordinary, and He desires to use you in extraordinary ways

- He is searching for men and women who dare to believe Him and make a difference
- He needs us to open up our spiritual ears to hear and recognize His voice

Ephesians 1:17–19 (NKJV)

¹⁷ that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, ¹⁸ the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, ¹⁹ and what *is* the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power

- God wants to use His spiritual gifts in our lives
- We have a spiritual compass on the inside of us
- It will guide us and discern things about our children, spouse, family, your career, and your finances

This discernment is not from human wisdom

- It is from God
- He wants us to learn how to...
- Activate the voice of the Holy Spirit
- Trust your inner voice of discernment
- Apply that discernment in everyday life
- Make a difference in the lives of others by “*being you*”

He wants you to become the man or woman He created you to be

John 10:4 (NKJV)

⁴ And when he brings out his own sheep, he goes before them; and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice.

- Have you learned to trust your spiritual ears?
- People often mistake other voices for God's voice

The gift of discernment separates the false voices from the real

- Sometimes things just don't feel right
- That doesn't mean God isn't speaking to you

If there's a reservation in your spirit you should wait for God to give you a green light to confirm your feelings before proceeding

- It may not be God's perfect timing

The prodigal son would have gotten his inheritance without experiencing the sorrow if he would have waited on his father's timing

Acts 17:27 (NKJV)

²⁷ so that they should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us;

- God wants us to become so familiar with His voice that we won't fall for the counterfeit
- We have all had experiences when we thought we heard God but got it wrong
- There are so many voices in the world
- The voice of God
- The voice of the devil, yourself or others

1 Corinthians 14:33 (NKJV)

³³ For God is not *the author* of confusion but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints.

Proverbs 20:27 (NKJV)

²⁷ The spirit of a man *is* the lamp of the LORD, searching all the inner depths of his heart.

The way God speaks to us and leads us is through our spirits

- We have to be spirit-conscious to receive His direction

1 Thessalonians 5:23 (NKJV)

²³ Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

- In the OT God dwelt within a temple
 - An outer court
 - An inner court
 - The holy of holies
- In the NT we are His temple
 - Our body is the outer court
 - Our soul (mind, will and emotions) is the inner court
 - Our spirit is the holy of holies
- Body – Soul – Spirit

When God leads us its not by our carnal mind or by our flesh but by our spirit

Ephesians 3:16 (NKJV)

¹⁶ that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man,

Your Spirit Can Be Stirred

Acts 17:16 (NKJV)

¹⁶ Now while Paul waited for them at Athens, his spirit was provoked within him when he saw that the city was given over to idols.

You Can Be Led by Your Spirit

Romans 8:14 (NKJV)

¹⁴ For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.

Your Spirit Can Have Purpose

Acts 19:21 (NKJV)

²¹ When these things were accomplished, Paul purposed in the Spirit, when he had passed through Macedonia and Achaia, to go to Jerusalem, saying, “After I have been there, I must also see Rome.”

You Can Be Bound in Your Spirit

Acts 20:22 (NKJV)

²² And see, now I go bound in the spirit to Jerusalem, not knowing the things that will happen to me there,

Your Spirit Can Give You Peace About the Right Direction

2 Corinthians 2:12–13 (NKJV)

¹² Furthermore, when I came to Troas to *preach* Christ’s gospel, and a door was opened to me by the Lord, ¹³ I had no rest in my spirit, because I did not find Titus my brother; but taking my leave of them, I departed for Macedonia.