

Spirit-Directed Living & Laboring

Dwight Robertson

Notes

A life of high-impact—involves ...

listening for and doing what the Holy Spirit prompts:

A few examples from “ACTS”:

Ananias: (Acts 9:1–19)

- one BIG domino (jackpot ripples ongoing)

Barnabas:

- gifting a financial resource (Acts 4:36–37)
- befriending a young Kingdom rookie (Acts 9:26–30)
- investing time in a side-tracked life (Acts 15:36–39)

God is the same—yesterday, today, forever

Listening to the Holy Spirit can _____ your life impact!

Our limited future vision requires us to _____ carefully for the convictional promptings of the Holy Spirit.

1. God is _____ speaking to YOU.

God has given each one of us—including you—the ability to hear His voice. He doesn't limit Himself to a select group of spiritually sensitive people equipped with some kind of “direct line” to heaven.

Throughout His Word, God promises that He speaks to us.

“The LORD _____ in those who fear him.” (Psalm 25:14)

*“Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears
will hear _____ behind you, saying,
This is the way; walk in it.” (Isaiah 30:21)*

*“I am the LORD your God, who teaches you what is _____ for you, who
_____ you in the way you should go.” (Isaiah 48:17)*

“The LORD will _____ you always.” (Isaiah 58:11)

“He who belongs to God _____ what God says.” (John 8:47)

Notes

It's clear. God not only wants to speak to His people—He already is! Unfortunately, we don't listen very well. Like children who _____ their parents' voices, we can easily tune out God's voice.

Sometimes we don't hear His voice because we don't want to hear it—because then we'd be accountable to obey.

Our personal agendas can drown out His voice. We rush through life so busy staying “on task” that, without realizing it, we miss important Kingdom-advancing moments along the way.

We become experts at _____ the horizontal and tuning out the vertical.

2. OBEDIENCE is love in _____.

God wants to speak and interact with us throughout the day—regardless of where we are or what we're doing. Jesus, the Good Shepherd, said that His followers follow His lead because they know His _____. (John 10:4)

It's His job to lead; it's our job to listen and _____.

Our obedience to His “in the moment” promptings matter for eternity. We may not understand at the time why He asks us to do something, but He knows. And His ways and thoughts are higher than ours. (Isaiah 55:8–9)

*“Don't be ornery like a horse or mule that needs a bit and
bridle to stay on track.” (Psalm 32:9—MSG)*

God “leads” His people.

Jesus called people to be His “followers.”

Psalm 23 tells us, “The Lord is my _____ ...”

Stay on track/follow His cues ... when He PROMPTS YOU

- like an offstage director giving _____ to an onstage actor
- to _____ a sin
- to love, enjoy, or worship Him in a certain way
- to _____ someone
- to slow down, stop, listen, or say something
- to _____ urgently for a person or need
- to _____ a lunch or coffee with someone (ahead of time or in the spur of the moment)
- to make a phone call, text someone, or write a note
- on _____ to say during your call or in your _____ to them

Notes

- to _____ on a shoulder, lend a _____, or simply _____ (silently present) someone

It “feels” like ...

- a gentle _____ inside
- something going off in your _____ like a soft, beeping alarm
- your heart might beat a little stronger
- your breathing might get faster
- may feel overwhelming _____ for a person or situation and feel that you must _____ something
- sometimes you’ll hear that “gentle whisper”
- may not always be sure if it’s Him, but learn to risk _____
- you’ll be unsure where it will lead, but trust the One who’s leading

God is already prompting you—whether or not you’re listening. Even the most discerning person misses plenty of “God moments.” But _____ day, He whispers, guides, prompts and leads us.

Learning to listen requires taking the horizontal and the _____ into account. Be aware of the people and circumstances around you (even the small stuff) while listening for promptings from the Holy Spirit.

Consider posting the following message for yourself in places where you’ll keep being _____ to: **“LISTEN”**

Ask Him often, “Do you have anything for me to do?”

- (If you hear nothing, just make the wisest choices you can.)

Ask Him when you’re with others,

- “How do you want to engage this person through me? Are you wanting to speak or do anything through me?”

What if I’m Wrong?

“What if I think I’m hearing from God, and it’s not really Him?

What if I do something God wasn’t really prompting me to do?”

A more important concern should be whether you will _____ critical (maybe even urgent) in-the-moment ministry _____ if you do nothing.

In most cases, the worst that can happen if you get it wrong is possibly looking foolish to others. Not to _____.

Notes

More often than not, fear of getting it wrong or looking foolish causes _____ missed opportunities and lost chances to be God's emissary of love to others. (Faith-risk)

If time permits, you may want to seek the counsel of others. But in the end, _____ are responsible for what God speaks to you.

*"God can steer a moving car far better than He
can steer a car that's stuck in park."
-Jimmie Johnson, Evangelist*

Develop an immediate action response to God's in-the-moment, along-the-way promptings, rather than allowing endless internal debates to paralyze and prevent you from joining God in critical Kingdom opportunities.

People overtly consumed with personal safety, self-protection, self-image and self-promotion usually won't expand _____ Kingdom much!

If fear that you will look _____ (pride) prevents you from stepping out, remember Jesus in the garden of Gethsemane the night before He was nailed to a cross. He had everything to lose, but surrendered His will to the Father praying, "Not as I will, but as you will." (Matthew 26:39)

Ask God to help you get unlocked from "park," listen for His voice, act on His promptings, and be amazed at how He drives your life into Spirit-directed moments that will leave an eternal impact. Going down this road, you'll never want to look back! You may get it wrong from time to time.

No _____!

Practice is the only way to get better at hearing His voice.

3. _____ ARE the ministry

Spirit-directed living and laboring was the example set by _____, when he said,

"My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me." (John 4:34)

Jesus' _____ purpose was to fulfill the Father's agenda—not get upset by "interruptions," but embrace them as opportunities.

Stopping "along the way" to meet an immediate need was the _____ of His ministry lifestyle, not the exception. (Is it yours?)

- On His way to heal a dying young girl, Jesus noticed a woman had touched His garment and received healing. He slowed down, embraced the moment, and engaged in an impromptu conversation that changed her life. (Mark 5:21–34)

Notes

- Walking to Galilee, Jesus stopped at a well to get a drink. He met a woman, by no coincidence. She faced spiritually thirst. Insightful questions and authentic conversational exchange with Jesus resulted in a forever changed life—and many other lives as well who heard about Jesus through this one woman. (John 4:4–42)
- Another time, Jesus was passing through Jericho—on His Way to Jerusalem—when he happen to notice a man way up in a tree, trying to catch a glimpse of Him. Zacchaeus needed more than a glimpse; he needed a spontaneous up-close encounter. Jesus asked if he'd come down so they could hang out at his house Together. (Luke 19:1–10)

These weren't pre-scheduled "planned" ministry meetings. They weren't coincidences either. Not from God's perspective. They were Spirit-directed ministry moments that brought God's Kingdom to people in need—all along the way.

You can be a "type A" personality when it comes to your schedule, or you can pursue putting into practice God's Plan A for reaching the world.

We're known for our goals, plans, schedules, and sticking to them. God challenges and calls us to serendipitous ministry.

"Interruptions (people) are the ministry!"

We can become so reliant on our schedules and routines that we view His promptings as interruptions rather than opportunities.

And if we're not careful to listen and _____ we can dramatically scale down our high-impact Kingdom living potential.

It's easy to lose our way and think "ministry" is about "tasks" and "pre-planned events" when ministry is ultimately about _____.

Consider placing this statement in a prominent location.

RECOMMENDED BOOKS:

Practicing God's Presence—Robert Elmer

Let God Guide You Daily—Wesley Duewel

Plan A ... (Chapter 14, "Along The Way")—Dwight Robertson