

Lesson 6: The Five Checkpoints

Opening Thought

God is a talker, and He wants His people to hear, understand, and walk with Him through His Word.

The goal is not just learning “how” to hear God, but understanding “why” it matters.

Hearing God is part of the normal Christian life and the activity of the Kingdom of God.

Key Idea

The checkpoints do not manufacture certainty, but they help keep us out of the gutters.

They act like guardrails. They may not guarantee that every word is definitely from God, but they help us recognize what is clearly not from God.

Handling God’s Word Correctly

2 Timothy 2:15

We are called to rightly handle the word of truth.

This includes:

God’s written Word

Potential words from God

Prophecies

Dreams

Visions

Impressions

Words spoken through others

1 Thessalonians 5:19-21

Do not quench the Spirit.

Do not despise prophecies.

Test everything.

Hold fast to what is good.

Four Commands

1. Do not quench the Spirit

Do not cause the fervent activity of the Holy Spirit to cease.

2. Do not despise prophecies

Do not treat prophecies as worthless or having no value.

3. Test everything

Examine and thoroughly test every potential word for genuineness.

4. Hold fast to what is good

Believe and put into practice what is truly from God.

Three Non-Negotiable Fences

Every potential word from God must fit within these three boundaries.

1. Scripture is the framework

2 Timothy 3:16-17

Any word from God will fit within the framework of Scripture.

God will not speak in a way that contradicts His written Word.

2. The Spirit is the facilitator

John 16:13

The Holy Spirit guides believers into truth.

Every true word from God is facilitated by the Holy Spirit.

3. The Son is the foundation

1 Corinthians 3:11

Every word from God will land on the foundation of Jesus Christ.

God will never give a word that diminishes Jesus or His authority.

Main Principle

Stay on God's path and walk at God's pace.

God has a path for you.

God also has a pace for you.

The goal is not to run ahead or fall behind, but to walk with Him.

Proverbs 16:9

We make plans, but the Lord determines our steps.

Isaiah 30:21

God's people can hear His voice saying, "This is the way; walk in it."

The Five Biblical Checkpoints

Checkpoint 1: Compete

Question: Does it claim equal footing with Scripture?

A true word from God will never compete with Scripture.

Any word claiming to be equal to or above Scripture should be rejected.

Galatians 1:8

Even if an angel preaches another gospel, it is to be rejected.

Checkpoint 2: Contradict

Question: Does it clash with a known word?

A true word from God will not contradict what God has already clearly said.

Satan can quote Scripture in a twisted way.

Luke 4:9-12

Satan quoted Scripture to tempt Jesus, but Jesus answered with the true meaning of God's Word.

Checkpoint 3: Contrary

Question: Does it call you to act against the Word?

A true word from God will never call you to disobey Scripture.

Genesis 3 shows how the serpent led Eve toward acting against God's clear command.

If a word encourages sin, disobedience, or compromise, it is not from God.

Checkpoint 4: Compliment

Question: Does it fit?

Two parts:

Does it fit the written Word of God?

Does it fit the word God has previously given you?

A true word from God will complement Scripture and align with what God has already settled in your spirit.

At this point, the process may slow down.

You may need to take the next right faith step.

Ecclesiastes 11:4

If farmers wait for perfect weather, they never plant.

Faith steps show:

You trust God's guidance.

You desire to fulfill God's purposes.

You reject disobedience.

Checkpoint 5: Confirm

Question: Has God backed it up with two or three witnesses?

God often confirms His direction through multiple witnesses.

Deuteronomy 19:15

A matter is established by two or three witnesses.

Matthew 18:16, 2 Corinthians 13:1, and 1 Timothy 5:19 also show this principle.

Confirmation should not be forced.

Avoid confirmation bias.

Do not simply look for people or verses that agree with what you already want.

Ask God for independent confirmation.

Final Thoughts

The checkpoints help us recognize what is definitely not from God.

Getting through the checkpoints does not always mean you have complete certainty, but it helps you continue walking with God safely.

God knows the destination.

Our role is to follow Him, stay on His path, and walk at His pace.

Closing Prayer Focus

Ask God to help you hear His voice.

Ask Him to guide your decisions.

Ask Him to help you test every potential word.

Ask Him to keep the fire of the Holy Spirit burning in your life.