

Oct 19, 2026

2026_10_18 Discerning the Voice of God





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Solomon made an alliance with Pharaoh king of Egypt by marrying Pharaoh's daughter. Solomon brought her to the city of David until he finished building his palace, the LORD's temple, and the wall surrounding Jerusalem.

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However, the people were sacrificing on the high places, because until that time a temple for the LORD's name had not been built. Solomon loved the LORD by walking in the statutes of his father David, but he also sacrificed and burned incense on the high places.

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The king went to Gibeon to sacrifice there because it was the most famous high place. He offered a thousand burnt offerings on that altar. At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream at night. God said, "Ask. What should I give you?"

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And Solomon replied, “You have shown great and faithful love to your servant, my father David, because he walked before you in faithfulness, righteousness, and integrity. You have continued this great and faithful love for him by giving him a son to sit on his throne, as it is today.

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“LORD my God, you have now made your servant king in my father David’s place. Yet I am just a youth with no experience in leadership. Your servant is among your people you have chosen, a people too many to be numbered or counted. So give your servant a receptive heart to judge your people and to discern between good and evil. For who is able to judge this great people of yours?”

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Now it pleased the Lord that Solomon had requested this. So God said to him, “Because you have requested this and did not ask for long life or riches for yourself, or the death of your enemies, but you asked discernment for yourself to administer justice, I will therefore do what you have asked.

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I will give you a wise and understanding heart, so that there has never been anyone like you before and never will be again. In addition, I will give you what you did not ask for: both riches and honor, so that no king will be your equal during your entire life. If you walk in my ways and keep my statutes and commands just as your father David did, I will give you a long life.”

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Then Solomon woke up and realized it had been a dream. He went to Jerusalem, stood before the ark of the Lord's covenant, and offered burnt offerings and fellowship offerings. Then he held a feast for all his servants.

1 Kings 3v1-15 (CSB)

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Allegiance to Jesus is the prerequisite for discerning God's voice appropriately.

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***Discernment* is to critically examine something to determine its genuineness.**

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For us to know what is true and real about God's will, our minds and hearts must be transformed and attuned to the realities of faith.

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“Therefore, brothers and sisters, in view of the mercies of God, I urge you to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God; this is your true worship. Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may *discern* what is the good, pleasing, and perfect will of God.”

Romans 12v1-2 (CSB)

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Christian discernment begins with the confidence that through Jesus, by the Holy Spirit, we can share in the very knowing and loving that is bound up in the Triune God.

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“Real knowledge seems to be less a human possession and more like something God knows; the believer comes to share in it by loving God and being known by God.”

Mark McIntosh

16

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“Christian discernment is the spiritual discipline by which we listen to God by attending with heart and mind to the presence of the Spirit in our lives.”

Gordon Smith

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“Do not quench the Spirit. Do not treat prophecies with contempt but *test* them all; hold on to what is good, reject every kind of evil.”

1 Thessalonians 5v19-22 (CSB)

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Learn to *test* the voice you hear.

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Ask for a discerning heart.

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**“So give your servant a *receptive heart* to judge your people and to discern between good and evil. For who is able to judge this great people of yours?”
1 Kings 3v9 (CSB)**

21

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Confess any known sin.

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“If we say ‘we have no sin,’ we are deceiving ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

1 John 1v8-9 (CSB)

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Assess the posture of your heart.

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**“You open my ears to listen...”
Psalm 40v6 (CSB)**

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Harmony with Scripture.

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My sheep hear my voice, I know them, and they follow me.

John 10v27 (CSB)

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Confirmation in community.

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**“The Holy Spirit’s decision - and ours...”
Acts 15v1-29 (CSB)**

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Pause of reflection.

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**I wait for the LORD; I wait and put my hope in his word.
Psalm 130v5 (CSB)**

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**We recognize God's voice by testing everything we hear,
as we become people shaped by a life with Jesus.**