

Learning to recognize the voice of God | Lesson V: God Speaks Through Circumstances

Memory Verse for 6/7/23

²⁸ And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to *His* purpose.

God is at work in your _____

Circumstances are events in your life that God uses to speak clearly about _____, His _____, and His _____.

Jesus learned how to discern what He should do from what The _____ did. (John 5:19-20)

The relationship between the _____ of God, and God The _____ was instrument by which Jesus adjusted his life and picked His activity. Here is the principle: Watch where God the Father is working and adjust your life to become involved in that work.

What circumstances are occurring around you that God may be using to speak to you?
As you come to walk intimately with God, pay attention to the patterns.

God uses your circumstances as _____

God will give you key moments in life to _____ His word so that you can learn His ways.

- 2 Samuel 7:12, "Then Samuel took a stone and set it between Mizpah and Shen, and named it ^lEbenezer, saying, "Thus far the Lord has helped us.""
- Joshua 4:5-7, "and Joshua said to them, "Cross again to the ark of the Lord your God into the middle of the Jordan, and each of you take up a stone on his shoulder, according to the number of the tribes of the sons of Israel. ⁶ Let this be a sign among you, so that when your children ask later, saying, 'What do these stones mean to you?' ⁷ then you shall say to them, 'Because the waters of the Jordan were cut off before the ark of the covenant of the Lord; when it crossed the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan were cut off.' So these stones shall become a memorial to the sons of Israel forever."
- Genesis 28:18-19, "So Jacob rose early in the morning, and took the stone that he had put under his head and set it up as a pillar and poured oil on its top. ¹⁹ He called the name of that place Bethel; however, previously the name of the city had been Luz.

Mark your encounters with God.

Look at some of the Apostle Peter's markers: Matthew 4:18-20 | Matthew 16:16-18 | Matthew 14:28-31 | Matthew 17:1-4 | John 13:1-17.

Seeing these, how do you think Peter could sense what God was doing in Acts 2?

Learn to _____ your spiritual markers. When you face a crossroad, and need to decide between two options, review the spiritual markers and discern the direction.

Circumstances are _____ apart from God.

When you don't have clear direction or you have not received what you understand to be a clear word from God, here are some guidelines to help you:

- Don't let the _____ change your mind about God. He has not changed His love for you.
- Rather than trying to understand what God is like based on your circumstances, ask God to help you see His perspective on your situation.
- Isaiah 40:31 | Psalm 27:13-14 | Psalm 30:5 - Wait on the Lord. Your _____ is the indicator of your trust.
- If there is no clear instruction, do the last thing you know that God told you to do.
- When God speaks, _____ Him.

Discernment lesson from Joseph (Genesis 37-50)

- Monitor the internal, _____ discernment.
- Watch for an external, _____ witness.

Circumstances are best _____ by God.

Always let _____ be your guide. John 14:6

When you seek to understand your circumstances from God's perspective, you can appreciate His activity in your life.

Why did Jesus respond differently than His disciples at the storm on the Sea of Galilee (Mark 4)?

How is it that Jesus knew not to fear, contra every other person, when he encountered the Gerasene demoniac (Mark 5)?

The Presence of God is an invitation not to worry in any circumstance.

Be careful with _____ doors.

Christians should not live on the, "open door policy." This is when we suspect that every open door is God's will.

Circumstances alone cannot indicate God's will for your life.

God develops our trust in Him by not letting us make decisions entirely on open doors.