**How To Hear And Obey God**

Hope Chapel Honolulu

Deuteronomy 8:1-20

“Know then in your heart that, as a man disciplines his son, the Lord your God disciplines you.

So you shall keep the commandments of the Lord your God by walking in his ways and by fearing him.”

(Deuteronomy 8:5-6, ESV)

**Introduction**

In the 9th chapter of is book How To Pray, Pete Greig shares some of his personal experiences with five ways that God shows, tells and directs people—through the Scriptures, through dreams and visions, through godly counsel and common sense, through personal reflection and through active obedience. It seems that there are two things we should be careful about with such a list as we begin here: 1) that we should not dismiss Greig’s assertion that all forms of guidance should be tested by the Scriptures, and 2) that we should take care not to limit God’s leading in our lives by having only one or two preferred methods of hearing God.

**1. God’s children recognize and obey God’s voice. (Deuteronomy 8:1-6)**

 a) “…man does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord” (v.3).

 b) “…as a man disciplines his son, the Lord your God disciplines you” (v.5).

**2. Being blessed and learning to bless the Lord in return. (Deuteronomy 8:7-16)**

 a) How are we to bless the Lord our God?

 b) God humbles and tests us that He may do you and I good in the end.

**3. Let’s always remember the Lord our God. (Deuteronomy 8:17-20)**

 a) “…it is God who gives you power to create wealth” (v.18).

 b) God’s promises and blessing are intrinsically linked with our faith and obedience.

**Conclusion**

I call this presentation “how to hear and obey God” because it will be difficult to hear God speak if we habitually choose not to obey. Additionally, listening to a single presentation on spiritual direction isn’t enough to help you recognize and follow God’s leading in your life. Recognizing God’s direction through: a) the Scriptures by such practices as spiritual reading and *lectio divina*, b) dreams and visions by practicing interpretation of dreams along with the discerning of spirits, c) godly counsel and wisdom (*what Greig called “common sense”)* with spiritual friends, mentors and counselors, d) personal reflection on the Holy Spirit’s love, inner witness and peace, and even e) in both activity and rest through signs, words, wonders and events, depends upon not just hearing but upon obeying God.

**For our prayerful study, discussion and application:**

1) Review the five ways of hearing God from Greig’s book and share your recent experiences with someone.

2) Which of these five ways of hearing God are you least comfortable with and how will you improve in that area?

3) What are the Word and Spirit of God saying to you about listening and obedience through this presentation?

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