

## PARTICIPANT'S GUIDE COURSE TWELVE

# 5 THINGS THAT CAN AFFECT HOW YOU HEAR GOD

### How to Use This Guide

This self-study guide is a companion document to the video course “5 Things that will affect how you hear God” This guide will help you to learn the hindrances to hearing the voice of God clearly and how to discern the source of what you are hearing.

Each Glory to Glory Study guide is organized around five areas of learning:

1. **Synopsis of Key Learning** - The synopsis will provide summaries of key points from the video that are important for you to understand and serve as foundational knowledge for the next course in the learning series.
2. **Important Vocabulary and Concepts** - This study guide will provide explanation of important words or ideas that are critical to understanding biblical truth.
3. **Deeper Learning** - The more you know and understand about who God is and how He works, the deeper in love you fall. God wants to have a deep and abiding relationship with you. He desires for you to know Him. This section of guide will give you additional insights into the teaching from the video for you to study on your own. If you have questions, there will be mentoring moments in the online school for you to get your questions answered.
4. **Life Application** - God calls for us to not just be a hearer of His word, but a doer also. (James 1:22). This means that God expects for us to apply what we learn about Him in our everyday lives. This section of the study is to help you think about the ways to apply what you learn from the course to your everyday life.
5. **Memory Scriptures** - Scriptures that support key concepts in the course will be highlighted. We encourage you to memorize these scriptures by meditating on them until they are hidden in your heart. When you hide God's word in your heart, it makes it hard for the enemy to deceive you. In this way, you are less likely to sin against God. (Psalm 119:11)

### Introduction to Course Twelve

There are 5 things that can affect how you hear God outlined in this class as well as how to discern the source of them. There are 3 sources for all the messages and information that we will receive. These are your own voice, the voice of the enemy and the voice of God. By clearing out the two that we should never use to make life changing decisions we clear the way to hear from God.

**The 5 Things**

**Synopsis**

1. Lack of renewal or regeneration of the mind, soul, heart and strength/body. When we don't renew these parts of us through meditating on the Word of God and obedience to it, we can sometimes use learnt behaviors or things that we have learnt from the world to justify our actions while believing we have heard from God. The source then of our unregenerate mind, soul, heart and body is ourselves and sometimes the enemy.
2. Settling your issues with the Word. When we are new Christians or when we have not lived a life of obedience to the word of God, we will find that there are things in the Word that may not match our feelings, lifestyle, choices or what society says. When we leave these issues unresolved, they lead to further problems later on where we start to disbelieve all the Word of God or we begin to pick and choose the portions that suit us. At this point, we would have elevated what we have said and the world above God's word. The source then of any information we receive related to these issues are ourselves and enemy.
3. Syncretism is a fusion of two different systems or thoughts or beliefs into one. We see this when we fuse Christianity with reading horoscopes, visiting psychics, palm readers, witchdoctors, following customs and practices from our ancestors that are not biblical. Any messages received from these sources are from the enemy. When not properly surrendered to God the syncretism can turn into idolatry where we idolize things that are biblical like wearing a prayer shawl or using anointing oils. While these two things are scriptural and used by Christians, when we place our faith in them instead of Jesus Christ we turn them into an idol. Thereby believing that Jesus can't heal without that special anointing oil or your prayers can't be answered unless you are wearing a particular prayer shawl.
4. The belief that hearing from God is an event that takes place in a special location like at church or a Christian conference. If we only look to hear from God when there is an event we miss all the ways He will speak to us in our daily lives. He is trying to communicate with us in many ways

	<p>throughout our day and so we should open ourselves to the possibility that He will speak at any moment and through anyone. When He tries to say something to us and we don't pay attention He will bring it back again in many other ways. One way is through recurring dreams. The reason we have the same dream over and over again is we have yet to decipher the meaning of the dream and deal with the issue that God is pointing out to us.</p> <p>5. Our desires play a huge role in how we hear from God. When our desires are soulish or come from unregenerated parts, they can produce confirmations that we believe are from the Lord, but in reality, it is our flesh. We want to see what we want to see and so everything we read says the God agrees with our desire when in fact He does not. This can happen to even seasoned Christians who don't seek God on all occasions and for every matter before growing attached emotionally to the object of the desire. Your desires don't necessarily have to be bad, they can even be biblical but God may be still be saying NO! How do you know that what you heard was from your own desire and not God? It doesn't happen. God never lies so if He said it, then it will happen. If it doesn't happen then it was just your desire. How then can you be upset at God for not giving you what you want when the source was you?</p>
<p><b>Key Vocabulary/ Concepts</b></p>	<p><b>Syncretism</b>          Definition of <i>syncretism</i>          1 : the combination of different forms of belief or practice          2 : the fusion of two or more originally different inflectional forms</p> <p><b>Astronomy</b> is a science that studies everything outside of the earth's atmosphere, such as planets, stars, asteroids, galaxies; and the properties and relationships of those celestial bodies. ...</p> <p><b>Astrology</b>, on the other hand, is the belief that the positioning of the stars and planets affect the way events occur on earth.</p>

<p><b>Deeper Learning</b></p>	<p>In Revelation 19, the apostle John was caught up in the heavens where an angel came to deliver a message, John fell at the feet of the angel to worship him and this is what the angel said...</p> <p><sup>10</sup> And I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, “See <i>that you do not do that!</i> I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren who have the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.”</p> <p>So, the angel is saying to him don’t worship me, worship God. The sure way to decipher if a message you receive is from God is to ask yourself the question “is this bringing me into a closer relationship with the Lord? Is this transforming me to be more into the image of Christ? Does this point to Jesus? When you can answer YES! Then it is God.</p> <p>Messages that are generated by the flesh or by you tend to be self-serving, selfish and all for your benefit. This doesn’t mean that God doesn’t want to bless you but you should know that He comes first in everything. And anything that He tells you must line up with His Word.(Galatians 5:17-26 read this one in several versions)</p> <p>Messages that are from the enemy will lead you away from God and cause you to put our trust in a man, human strength, idols, images, unbiblical, gimmicks and tricks and lead you down a path of sin and further away from God. They lead you into a trap of hopelessness and despair. Idolatry is always in the background of any message from the enemy because he seeks to steal the worship from God.</p>
<p><b>Life Application</b></p>	<p><b>Discerning the Source of what you are hearing</b></p> <p>The 3 sources of every message you will hear:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-God</li> <li>-You</li> <li>-The enemy</li> </ul> <p>Think of something you heard or thought in the past, or even present, are you now able to discern the source?</p> <p>When you discern the source of every message the minute you hear it, you will quickly be able to decide whether it is something you should be listening to or if you need to walk away from it.</p>
<p><b>Memory Scriptures</b></p>	<p>“For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” (Matthew 6:21)</p>

“Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.”  
(Proverbs 3:5-6)

### Prayer

Abba Father,

Thank You for speaking to us Your children. I repent for any way in which I have turned to man, idols, images or any other source that was not You. I pray You forgive me and bring to mind any areas in my life where I am still walking in this sin. I pray you would clearly help me to discern the source for every message that I hear. Allow me to recognize your voice quickly so that I will not go down the wrong path. Thank you for purifying what I hear with Your Word, in Jesus name. Amen.

This is the prayer to purify your desires. First you need to picture yourself laying it at the foot of the cross. Once you do this you have to be committed to giving it up and receiving God's will for you in this matter. You can't pick it up once you lay it down or this doesn't work. What does it mean to lay it down, you can no longer pray about it, enquire on it, get others involved in it, or try to manipulate or control the outcome. You are backing off and allowing God to reveal whether this is what He wants for you or not. What happens after you pray this prayer is the Lord will clearly show it to you by either swiftly shutting the door or giving clear instructions on how to move forward, or it will happen within a week. He doesn't need a lot of time to work. But remember, however the answer manifests it is what God is saying about it. This prayer is based on Psalm 24 and it is basically inviting God into a situation and asking Him to resolve it anyway He desires.

King of Glory,

I ask first that You forgive me for putting my own desires before Your own and I come to You now to surrendering at the foot of the cross \_\_\_\_\_(name what it is) I am asking that if this is Your will and desire for my life You give a clear sign that this is from You. If not, I am asking that You remove it and I will never ask of it again. I pray that You will invade my environment and bring a swift resolution to this confusion in my mind. I am committed to leaving this in Your care knowing that You don't need my help to bring it to pass.

I invite you now King of Glory (repeat the following scripture 7 times)

<sup>7</sup> *Lift up your heads, O ye gates; and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in.*

<sup>8</sup> *Who is this King of glory? The LORD strong and mighty, the LORD mighty in battle.*

<sup>9</sup> *Lift up your heads, O ye gates; even lift them up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in.*

<sup>10</sup> *Who is this King of glory? The LORD of hosts, he is the King of glory.*