

Discerning the Spirits in Babylon

By William Schnoebelen ©2014

¹⁹ And when they shall say unto you, Seek unto them that have familiar spirits, and unto wizards that peep, and that mutter: should not a people seek unto their God? for the living to the dead? ²⁰ To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, *it is* because *there is* no light in them. – Isaiah 8:19-20

Our Shepherd, Yahushua, tells us that we – as His sheep – will know His Voice (**John 10:4**). However, the ability to KNOW His Voice is must be developed. Like a baby learning to speak or walk, we need to make an effort and follow the guidance of Scripture whenever we are able to do so. There is a babble of “voices” in the world and in the religious marketplace.

This is because we live in a modern version of Babylon in every sense of the word, even in most churches! So it is vital that **we learn how to discern** the Voice of the Most High from other sources, including our own human spirit.

Of course some Believers think they can *never* hear from the Holy Spirit. This is caused by indoctrination and false teachings. They believe the Bible alone should be their guide. That is certainly playing it safe, but in the light of John 10 and other passages, it is clear such people mistakenly shut themselves off from an important Source of needed Divine guidance.

We believe and teach that the Bible is the sole source of Truth and our final authority. But it does not address *all* possible questions. The Bible cannot tell you whether to marry an person, except insofar as that they should be a Believer. It cannot tell you which job offer to accept – as long as the job would not require you to do something like being a nurse in an abortion clinic.

There are many times in our lives - as Believers - when we need to hear from the Holy Spirit. Certainly, we can seek counsel from pastors, parents, spouses or friends. But they are not privy to the *knowledge* of the Holy Spirit for our lives, the Spirit Who knows all things – past, present and future, and Who also knows heaven’s plans for your life. This does not negate a second witness through the Divine intervention of the Holy Spirit – meaning when you have been told by the Spirit, through prayer and supplication, an answer to your need...and as a second witness, another Believer is given through the Spirit the same exact word from heaven.

Thus, we believe it is scriptural to pray and even fast to seek answers to major spiritual questions in your life – especially when the Bible does not offer clear guidance as in the examples shared above. Having said that, how do we proceed?

First, realize that in discussing “hearing from the Holy Spirit” we are not talking about (usually) an audible voice – although that does happen. For instance, once when praying several years ago the Father spoke audibly to me, shaking the entire apartment and rattling things off the walls when He told me His ‘My Name is YAHUWAH!’ But here, we are speaking about other ways the Spirit communicates with us, such as:

- When a particular passage of Scripture “leaps out at you” during Bible studies relevant to your question.
- When a sermon just “happens” to speak to your question – without the preacher even knowing the dilemma you were pondering.
- Similarly, when a **trusted and mature** friend or relative happens to say something that gives you insight into your problem.
- When you have a dream giving you keys to unlock your problem (we DO recommend that people pray and ask Abba Father to guard and protect their dreams every night before retiring!).
- When you hear a still, small voice in your mind during prayer or a quiet moment that shows you the answer.
- And much more rare (it does happen), when His Voice is *heard* or you even have a *vision* of Yahushua speaking to you.

It is during the last three events, **especially**, that we need to apply the discernment skills that we are going to discuss now. Obviously, they are subjective in nature and thus more open to the carnal desires of our minds. ***This is the danger.*** There are three possible sources for the dreams, an interior voice, and an external physical voice or vision event:

1. Your own mind
2. Demonic influences
3. The true Holy Spirit (Ruach ha Qodesh in Hebrew)

The truth needs to be determined to know exactly *what* is going on. The first and most important step we recommend is when you have an insight, impression or a “still, small voice,” **immediately pray and bind all lying and deceitful spirits** – something like this:

“Abba Father, in the mighty name of Yahushua the Messiah, I now come against any lying and deceitful spirits, vain imaginations, counterfeit gifts or lying signs or wonders or ANYTHING which does not come from the Holy Spirit of Yahuwah. In Yahushua’s name, I take authority over any and all such works of the enemy and command them to be silent and leave at once – to go where Yahushua the Messiah tells them to go by the Voice of His Holy Spirit.”

Having prayed that prayer in faith, be still and attentive. Is the impression or thought still there? If it is, it is probably NOT demonic in origin. That means it is either from your mind or from the true Holy Spirit.

The next “filter” you need to run the thought or idea through is – of course – the Holy Bible. As per the Scripture from Isaiah mentioned above, all concepts or ideas must match up with the whole counsel of Yahuwah (“the law and the testimony”). Usually, this is not difficult, but of course there are – as mentioned above – many personal decisions that the Bible does not address. Here is where discipleship is so important.

What I mean is that the individual Believer needs to seriously *embed* themselves in the Word and Person of Yahushua. We need to spend TIME with *Him*! That is how you get to know someone, is by spending time with Him. Pray – worship – praise – meditate on His Word! Most Believers do not do *nearly* enough of that. Remember, He is your Spouse! You need to develop a loving, living, **quality** relationship with Yahushua – just as you do with a husband or wife. Think about it. If you are married and you only spent an hour a week with your spouse and a few minutes at meals, over time your marriage would wither. Seek His face!

How that impacts this conversation is that Yahushua begins impressing an ever deeper and more INTENSE relationship with you in your heart as He renews your mind. He starts to radiate out from your human spirit through His Holy Spirit and begins warming and infusing your soul (mind, will and emotions). His character will percolate through your character.

Think of it like dying a garment. Each time you dip a fabric into dye, it takes on a little bit more of the new color. Eventually, the fabric will no longer be its old color, but a brand new hue. In the same fashion, each time we “dip” ourselves – baptize ourselves if you will – deeper and deeper into our Savior and His love, we become more and more transformed.

This is the process of sanctification – being set apart for holiness and service. This intense development of relationship with our King makes it less and less likely that our own mind (#1 above) is going to come up with false ideas that are totally wrong in the sight of the Holy Spirit.

I am not saying that we become “infallible” or anything close to it! NO, we are always subject to human error. *But the more effort you put into your relationship with Him – the more you “dye to Him” – the more likely you will be to avoid deception, both from the demonic realm and from your own flesh.*

In thirty years of walking with our Shepherd, I have learned how to listen carefully to His Voice and I can assure you that if you follow these suggestions, you will be less likely to be deceived. The problem in today’s commercial Christianity is that there are a lot of supposed “prophets” and “apostles” out there teaching strange doctrines – to say nothing of *cult* leaders like the Mormon prophet or the pope. These are the false ‘leaders’ who are peeping and muttering and leading Believers away from the “law and the testimony!”

I would also say that most of these people do *NOT* submit themselves to the authority of Scripture. In fact, many years ago, I saw a “mighty man of God” – a supposed Christian pastor – throw the Bible on the floor and say that we did not need the Scriptures any more because we had the Holy Spirit. We need to flee such people and cling closer and closer to our Master, Yahushua – for He is “...the way, the truth and the life” (**John 14:6**)!