

DISCERNING THE VOICES

Jesus said: “My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow Me...Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice”; John 10:27; 18:37

THERE ARE SPIRITS BEHIND THE VOICES

The Voice Of The Holy Spirit

1. The voice of the Spirit awakens and prepares the Bride of Christ; Song of Sol. 2:7, 10, 12-13
2. His voice always agrees with the cannon of scripture, the Word of God; John 1:1, 14; Heb. 4:7
3. His voice strives with sinners, convicts of sin, and of the need for salvation through faith in Jesus Christ; He warns us of the coming judgment; Gen. 6:3; John 14:6; 16:8-11; 2 Tim. 4:1
4. His voice corrects the righteous when they stumble and fall; He will reprove them, but not condemn them; Rom. 8:1; Rev. 3:19 (dropping the cross is not the same as throwing it away)
5. The voice of the Spirit is the Spirit of Christ; Rom. 8:9, Who teaches us how walk in agape love and abiding in His love will cast out fear; John 15:9-10; 1 John 4:18; Matt. 22:40
6. His voice will encourage us to study and meditate in God’s Word. The scriptures reveal God’s will for us and He insists upon our obedience to them; Josh. 1:8; John 14:15; 2 Tim. 2:15
7. The voice of the Spirit leads us to practice holy, moral living. His grace at work within us trains us, produces humility and teaches us the fear of the Lord; Rom. 1:4; Heb. 12:9-10, 14
8. His voice will “bear witness” to the fact that those who are led by Him are the sons of God; He is the Spirit of adoption, Who confirms to us that we are joint heirs with Christ; Romans 8:15-17
9. His voice illuminates the mind, gives discernment, clarity, understanding; John 16:13; Col. 1:9
10. His voice prompts us to share God’s plan of salvation with the lost; Romans 10:14, 17
11. His voice warns us, and points out, any danger, traps, snares and devices of the enemy which have been set to cause us to fall (He will show us the “bait” intended to “lure” us in); 1 Pet. 5:8
12. His voice will strengthen and encourage the faint and the weary as they persevere through opposition, suffering and persecution; Hebrews 12:3; Luke 12:12; Galatians 6:9
13. His voice reminds us of the hope of eternal life, to look for that blessed hope; Titus 1:2; 2:13
14. God’s Spirit searches our hearts; His voice within us reveals hidden iniquity, wrong motives. He desires our cooperation to remove any spot, blemish or wrinkle; Ps. 139:23-24; Eph. 5:27
15. His voice will direct us to assist the needy and help support our brethren; James 1:22; 2:16
16. His voice is known to the elect as He initiates the new birth, leads them into the sanctification process and brings them to that place of perfection in Christ; John 3:7-8; 1 Pet. 1:2; Eph. 4:13
17. The voice of the Lord sounds like thunder, but the Spirit speaks in a “still, small voice” to His servant; Job 37:4-5; 1 Samuel 2:10; 1 Kings 19:12
18. His voice will remind us to quickly forgive others who have persecuted us, violated us, who have betrayed us or caused us any harm; Matt. 5:25; 18:22; Mark 11:25-26
19. His voice will guide us into all truth because He is the Spirit of Truth. His voice will show us mysteries, things to come, and it will exalt and glorify the Lord Jesus Christ; John 16:12-14
20. His voice will instruct us how to guard our tongue from speaking evil, to be a peacemaker in the midst of anger, contention and strife; Matt. 5:9; Prov. 15:1-2, 4; 2 Cor. 10:5; James 3:2-10
21. His voice gives comfort and peace because He is the Comforter; John 14:16, 26; Acts 9:31
22. His voice directs our prayer life: who and what to pray for; Luke 11:1-4; 1 Thess. 5:17
23. As we abide in Him we will bear good fruit; obeying His voice leads us into untroubled rest and union with the Father and Son; John 14:16-27; 15:4-5; Matthew 28:19; 2 Cor. 13:14
24. Hearing His voice brings confidence, faith and assurance; Isaiah 30:15; Heb. 4:16
25. The Spirit’s voice leads and guides, is not oppressive or domineering; John 16:13; Acts 8:29

The Voice Of Apostasy

1. This voice causes people to depart from, and fall away from, biblical truth and faith in Christ; it tolerates heresy and presents truth with error; 1 Timothy 4:1; 2 Thess. 2:3
2. The voice of apostasy reflects the condition of Laodicea: wretched, miserable, poor, blind and naked. It is distracted, lukewarm, and out of fellowship with Jesus Christ; Rev. 3:15-21
3. It discourages believers from learning about end times prophecy, events and eschatology, which is against the command of Jesus, Who tells us to be vigilant and to watch; Matt. 24:42
4. It is the voice of a “careless” crowd, of a multitude being “at ease”; Ezekiel 23:42; Amos 6:1
5. This voice suggests pursuing a “self life”, the broad road that leads to destruction; Matt. 7:13
6. It tolerates idolatry, immorality, excess and looseness in itself and others; Galatians 5:19-21
7. It is the voice of those who are curious but uncommitted, like the spectators in Jesus’ day, they crave signs, watch Him from a distance but are not true disciples; Matt. 13:10-11, 34; 27:20
8. This voice is deceitful because it gives a false sense of security; it tells people all they have to do to be saved is ask Jesus into their heart, repeat a “sinner’s prayer” and regardless of their behavior, they will go to heaven when they die; Matthew 10:22; John 6:44; Acts 2:38
9. It is a “smooth voice”, lulling men to sleep; it will not address the wrath of God, the coming Judgment or Hell; it calls such things “negativity”. There is no “piercing word” confronting sin, no call to repentance, holiness or denying of self; Matt. 10:34-39; Luke 13:3 John 9:39-41
10. It will not tell people that Jesus Christ is the author of eternal salvation only for those who obey Him, not deny Him, whose “saving faith” endures to the end; Heb. 5:9; Matt. 7:21-23
11. The voice of apostasy will not speak of the necessity of being a bond-servant: a voluntary love slave who confesses allegiance to his Master for life; Ex. 21:5-6; Matt. 7:21-23; Luke 17:33
12. It is the voice of Babylon, a man-made structure, which persuades people to pledge allegiance to its system: a mixture of religion, politics, economics and social values. It supports a “clergy class” and appoints “elites” to rule over the people; 2 Tim. 3:5; Rev. 2:15; 18:4
13. The voice of apostasy does not tell people we must be purified in refining fire; it does not prepare them for tribulation which includes persecution, hardship, martyrdom; Matt. 10:16-23
14. This voice initiates counterfeit revivals by utilizing emotional manipulation, sensationalism, strange fire, lying signs/wonders, with an emphasis upon “spiritual experiences”. Its leaders propagate false doctrine and encourage non-biblical practices; 2 Cor. 11:13-15; 1 Tim. 4:1
15. This voice scoffs at those who speak of the Rapture, of attaining to the “out resurrection” from among the dead, that we must qualify and be ready for the Lord’s appearing; Phil. 3:11-14
16. This voice accommodates a mixture of different faiths, under the mantra of “love, peace and brotherhood”; it rejects the concept of a “straight and narrow way”; Matt. 7:13-14; John 14:6
17. This voice, like king Jeroboam, desires the allegiance of the people, who led Israel to sin by perverting true worship. He devised the first seeker-sensitive church of ease and convenience by building shrines (calves of gold), a false altar and false worship; 1 Kings 12:28-31; 13:33-34
18. It encourages men to pursue worldly activities, which distracts God’s people from preparing for Jesus’ return, placing them in peril, as the day will overtake them like a thief; 1 Thess. 5:4
19. The voice of apostasy will not explain what it means to count the cost of following Jesus, which includes losing our own life and forsaking all to be His disciple; Luke 14:28-33
20. It causes one to come under the influence of “another wine”: worldly intoxication, not the new wine of the Spirit. While Jesus makes an appeal for “sobriety”, the voice of apostasy does not awaken others or lead to their transformation. The dregs (sediment, mixture) in the wine have not been filtered out; its taste and scent has not changed; Jer. 48:11; 1 Thess. 5:6, 8; 1 Peter 4:7

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