

TESTING THE SPIRITS

It is always good to test everything that we sense in our minds and hearts - whether it is from God or not. But this test is not meant to push you further from God - He wants to draw you closer. Whether she is right or not, Satan is using this leader's words to hurt your precious time with God. Decide today that this will stop! Tell Satan to "SHUT UP!"

Let me give you 3 tests to know if this is God or not speaking to you. Use these each time you sense Him talking. God told us to "test the spirits" - so He wants us to test these things. But, again, the test is not to make you afraid or worried about God - it is to bring you confidence and assurance so you can go forward with His wisdom and power.

TEST 1 - 1 John 4:1-3 - Ask "Is this from Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who came in the flesh to die for me?" I add: "Anything that is not from the only true Jesus I reject. Reveal only the truth to me, Jesus. Send forth your light and your truth, let them guide me." (Psalm 43:3)

TEST 2 - If you sense it is from God, compare what you are hearing to what you read about God in the Bible. Is He telling you to pray for someone? That sounds like God, doesn't it? Is He saying to encourage another? Again, God. Is the voice saying to yell at your daughter? Probably not God. God won't contradict Himself so what He says to you privately is already something He has said or taught in His Word.

TEST 3 - Ask God (once you know it's from Him): "What should I do about this?" He shared something with you for a reason - why? Here are some possibilities:

- He shared it just to say "I love you!" Sometimes God simply speaks words of love and encouragement and comfort because we are His children and we need to hear Daddy's voice.
- He spoke to give you something to pray about. Maybe it is not to tell anyone - at least not right now. He could be giving you direction for your prayers.
- He wants you to talk to someone about what He gave you. Perhaps you are to share it with another person, a leader, the church, your husband, etc. If you sense this is what to do, ask Him for the wisdom and grace to share it the way He wants you to share it.
- Maybe He simply wants you to know this piece of information so you can help someone else, but you are NOT to share it. This has happened to me many times. God shows me something about a person but, instead of telling them, I am to ask questions instead and give the person the freedom to tell me herself. For example, I receive a word from God about their husband and then start asking the person questions about how her family is doing or how long has she been married, etc. It gives her the chance to tell me - and then her will and faith can start working. If I were to tell her, maybe she would deny it and

become afraid of what I can see.

- Maybe He just wants you to know so you are prepared for it to be revealed later. For example, I once received info that a woman had been sexually abused by her brother. But she was only beginning prayer with us and did not trust us very much. I held onto this information and, a whole year later, she finally told us about this. But we knew for a long time and had been praying for her.

OK, these are some possibilities. There are more. You don't have to memorize all these. The important thing is just to ask God: "What do I do now with what you have told me?"

TEST 4 – Long-term fruit. Is what you received helping, encouraging, strengthening people over the long haul? Are people blessed and their relationship with God deepened? What are the results over the next months and even years?

DO NOT let the enemy rob you of your time with Jesus. I know He loves you so much. So start talking to Him again TONIGHT! And tell Him you are going to test what is being said. Again, He already told you this is ok, it is right. So He won't be angry with you. You are obeying Him.