

15 Steps to Discerning God's Will

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Christian Reflections to Build your Faith, By Melkisedeck Leon Shine

Sharpening Your Spiritual Discernment: A 15-Step Journey to Hearing God's Voice

1. **The Foundation of Prayer:** Consistent, heartfelt prayer is paramount. Regular communion with God, seeking His guidance and wisdom, prepares a receptive heart. Jesus himself exemplified this, often seeking solitude for prayer (Luke 5:16), demonstrating its importance.
2. **Scripture: The Unwavering Lamp:** The Bible provides unwavering guidance, illuminating our path (Psalm 119:105). Regular study, thoughtful reflection, and meditation on God's Word provide invaluable insight and direction.
3. **Cultivating a Receptive Heart:** Developing a sensitive heart is crucial for recognizing God's voice. This involves intentional quiet time and consciously silencing internal and external distractions. Recall Jesus' words: "My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me" (John 10:27).
4. **The Berean Model: Examining Truth:** Follow the example of the Bereans in Acts 17:11, diligently examining teachings against the unwavering standard of scripture. This critical approach safeguards against misleading influences and ensures alignment with God's truth.
5. **The Guiding Hand of the Holy Spirit:** Embrace the transformative power of the Holy Spirit, who guides believers into all truth (John 14:26, John 16:13). Allow the Spirit to illuminate scripture, prompt reflection, and direct your decisions.
6. **Reflective Prayer:** Engage in thoughtful introspection, reviewing experiences and decisions prayerfully. Seeking God's wisdom retrospectively refines discernment and reveals patterns of His guidance.
7. **The Value of Wise Counsel:** Surround yourself with a supportive community of mature believers. Mentors, pastors, and trusted friends offer biblical perspective, accountability, and valuable insights during uncertainty.
8. **Humility: The Door to Divine Guidance:** Humility opens the heart to receive God's voice. A humble spirit acknowledges God's sovereignty and our limitations. As Jesus taught, "For those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted" (Matthew 23:12).
9. **Protecting Your Spiritual Senses:** Guard your mind and heart from negativity and worldly influences that obscure spiritual perception. Focus on truths that are uplifting, pure, and praiseworthy, as described in Philippians 4:8.
10. **Learning from Jesus' Wisdom:** Jesus' parables contain profound spiritual truths often veiled in simple narratives. Careful study and meditation unveil deeper meanings, enhancing understanding of God's wisdom.

12. Surrendering to God's Will: Submit personal desires and plans to God's perfect will. Embracing His guidance, even when differing from expectations, demonstrates trust and faith, mirroring Jesus' prayer in Gethsemane: "Not my will, but yours be done" (Luke 22:42).

13. The Power of Stillness: Dedicate time to stillness and quiet reflection in God's presence. This fosters direct communion, allowing His voice to be clearly heard. "Be still, and know that I am God" (Psalm 46:10).

14. Embracing Correction: Accept God's loving correction with humility. Discipline, though sometimes painful, reflects His love and refines us toward spiritual maturity (Proverbs 3:11-12).

15. Faith in Action: Demonstrate faith in God's goodness and faithfulness through obedience to His commands. Obedience deepens our relationship with Him (John 14:23).