



Wednesdays// 7:00 pm

The Power of a Whisper

**Session Four
How to Know When You're
Hearing from God**

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Acts 13:1-3: Now in the church that was at Antioch there were certain prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul.² As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, "Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them."³ Then, having fasted and prayed, and laid hands on them, they sent *them* away.

Psalms 46:10: Be still, and know that I *am* God.

Filter #1: Is the Prompting Truly from God? Whenever you receive a prompting—whether from God directly, or through the lips of another—be sure to test it. "God, is this message from you? Does this square with who I know you to be? Is it consistent with your character? Is it aligned with your attributes? Is this *you* trying to convey something to me, or are there other voices getting into my head? Before taking a single step be sure you get the "all-clear" that the voice you have heard is from God.

Filter #2: Is it Scriptural? Can you imagine Jesus taking whatever action you are considering taking? When we are motivated by God, we walk in freedom. When we are motivated by our flesh, we are inclined to follow messages that we, in fact, have created in order to satisfy something or someone other than God.

Filter #3: Is it Wise? But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy. (James 3:17) Be sure you're not sidestepping what is wise in favor of acting quickly on whispers.

Filter #4: Is It in Tune with Your Own Character? Be cautious of running headlong into something that is totally foreign to your own wiring patterns, education, expertise, and experience in life thus far. God doesn't typically do that without confirming it in a variety of different ways.

Filter #5: What Do the People You Most Trust Think about It? Where *there* is no counsel, the people fall; but in the multitude of counselors *there* is safety. (Prov. 11:14) Whenever you sense that God is speaking to you, find two or three veterans in the faith—preferably people who know you well and who are further down the spiritual path than you are—and take some time to describe the situation to them in detail. Humbly ask: "Do you think God really did speak to me?" Then listen openly and intently to the answers you receive because they might just save you a lot of trouble.

Small Group Interaction:

1. What wisdom may we derive from Acts 13:1-3 on how to be led by the Spirit of God?
2. Which of the above five filters has been your "saving grace" in times past?
3. Has any of this information been helpful with any current decision you might be making? If so, explain.
4. How might these filters change or alter your decision-making processes in the future? Explain.