

Stewarding Revelation and Being Led By His Voice

1. **Make space daily to hear God's voice**
2. **Grow in balancing God's right now voice with His written Word.**
3. **Start and maintain a history book of what God is saying/has said**

"Faithfulness knows no difference between small and great duties." - unknown

"When faithfulness is most difficult, it is most necessary." - unknown

Luke 2:8-20

"And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. **9** An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. **10** But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. **11 Today** in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. **12** This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." **13** Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, **14** "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests." **15** When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "**Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.**" **16 So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph**, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. **17** When they had seen him, they **spread** the word concerning what had been told them about this child, **18 and all who heard it were amazed** at what the shepherds said to them. **19 But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart.** **20** The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told."

"But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart..."

What can we learn from this story?

1. Neither party was wrong in how they responded to what had happened.

The Shepards responded with action.

"Let's Go to Bethlehem and See", "So they hurried off"

Mary responded with introspection.

"Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart"

*Treasured - KJV - Keep - to preserve (a thing from perishing or being lost)
to keep within one's self, keep in mind (a thing, lest it be forgotten)*

2. Both parties (Shepards and Mary) were left with clear direction...

The Shepards went glorifying and praising God for all that they saw and heard. He proved himself faithful.

Mary was placed on a path of revelation and confirmation. What the angel told her was true.

There is a correct way to steward what God has shown you and what God has spoken to you.

One key element to understanding, stewarding revelation and walking in what God has shown you...is understanding what revelation or a prophetic word is...

1. **Biblical Revelation** - Reading the scripture - Logos

How to read your Bible and what to do with the revelation that comes from it...this is the foundation from which we must hear God.

1. **Pray before you read...**

Invite the Holy Spirit to read with you. He will teach you, show you things that must be seen and let's not forget...revelation comes from.
(1 Corinthians 2:10)

2. **Read to understand...**

Don't simply read to get a "headline" or a "postable" scripture. Read to study. Know who the context...know who the text is being written to and the culture it is being written to.
(2 Timothy 2:15)

3. **Meditate on what you have read...**

The word is like seed. Once you have read, think about the things you have read. Balance those things against your life, your words and your heart. Allow the Holy Spirit to minister to you in those moments.
(Psalm 119:15)

4. **Put what you have read to action...**

Pray, read and meditate...but put the word into action.
(1 Timothy 4:15)

2. **Hearing God's Voice** - Spoken to us - Rhema

There are a lot of voices that want to speak to us. The voice of God, the voice of our adversary and our own thoughts. The Rhema word of God (Ephesians 5:25-27) is God speaking to us in a specific circumstance or scenario. **Rhema means...that which is or has been uttered by the living voice, thing spoken, word. Any sound produced by the voice with definite meaning.** How do we rightly balance these things?

1. **Always balance what you have heard against the Bible.**

The Bible is our foundation...bottom line...end game. If what you are hearing is not in line with the Bible, it has originated from somewhere else. God will never speak against himself.
(Psalm 119:105, 2 Timothy 3:16)

2. **Lean into our relationship with the Holy Spirit.**

Live our lives in such a way that we know the Shepards voice. If we know the Shepards voice, we can respond and react quickly when He speaks and also we He is not the one speaking.
(John 10:27)

3. Respond in obedience.

Why does God speak to us? It's not always to stand and proclaim, although it may be for that reason, it can also be meant to simply draw us closer to His heart and be in a state of continual transformation. (James 1:23-25)

3. Discernment and Word of Knowledge

Both given to us by God...we must walk in obedience when using discernment and words of knowledge.

Stewarding Revelation -

Stewarding revelation can be summed up in these three thoughts...

1. Faithfulness
2. Patience
3. Being Active

1. Faithfulness

Hebrews 10:23

"Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;)"

Let us hold fast - to detain or retain from going away. To check a ship's heading.

The profession of our faith - whom we profess to be ours; expectation of good, hope in the joyful expectation of eternal salvation.

Without wavering - Not inclining, firm, unmovable

He is faithful that promised - Worthy of trust.

Viewing revelation as a tree in seed form. We must keep it in the right environment. We must water it, we must keep away the insects and those who would wish to trample the seed or cut the tree down.

Hebrews 11:1

"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."

*"Just as our physical eyesight is the sense that gives us evidence of the material world, **faith** is the "sense" that gives us evidence of the invisible, spiritual world."*

- David Guzik

2. Patience

Romans 8:22-27

"We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. **23** Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies. **24 For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have? 25 But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently. 26** In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. **27** And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God."

This passage is speaking about all creation eagerly anticipating the return of our King. It also speaks to our eager anticipation with groaning and patience. "Patiently" or "perseverance", found in verse 25, is like the attitude of the soldier who in the thick of battle is not dismayed but fights on stoutly whatever the difficulties. (Morris)

Our reward is not found in fulfilled prophecies...but in the closeness of relationship with Jesus. He is our reward and everything else that comes between now and His returning are signs simply pointing to that fact.

3. Being Active

Luke 19:12-13

"He said therefore, A certain nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom, and to return. **13** And he called his ten servants, and delivered them ten pounds, and said unto them, Occupy till I come."

"Occupy till I come" - While the master was away, the servants were expected to do business with the resources that they had been given, until he returned.

This is called **actively waiting**. Continuing to be steadfast in what we have been called to do is crucial to keeping us heading in the right direction. Becoming lazy and lackadaisical in our walk with the Lord is both dangerous and sinful. Actively waiting causes us to continue advancing God's Kingdom while we patiently wait on his promises to be fulfilled. Make no mistake about it...they will be fulfilled.

Conclusion...

Stewarding revelation and God's word over your life is critical to your pursuit. Obedience is synonymous with faithfulness. When God speaks to you, make sure that you are actively listening and ready to move in the direction that He is calling you. Our inability to steward revelation and His voice will cause us to fall into a circle of frustration and isolation. Hearing God's voice is one of the most precious gifts that God has given us. Rather it be through His written word or His voice through another person, take these things seriously and don't wait to walk in the direction that you are called. He is faithful to do what He has said...let's be faithful in what He has called us to do.