

Grace Group Discipleship Guide

“God’s Voice: How to Hear for a New Year”

For the week of December 31 - January 6, 2018

Main Thought:

God is especially speaking, if we are especially listening. This happens best as we get into a quiet place, position ourselves for worship, listen with a quieted heart, and listen to the whisper of His thoughts. Consider the following:

- God knows our thoughts and often speaks through our thoughts if we pass them through His Word and they don’t contradict scripture.
- Therefore, the message of the psalmist is that we should pay very close attention to our thoughts.
- With consistent practice and scriptural intake, we will learn to discern His thoughts apart from others.

When He speaks, resolve to respond in obedience. His voice will then become clearer and our discernment will grow stronger.

Main Passages:

Example of the main thought above: At a time when Elijah, one of God’s most renown prophets had come to the end of himself bereft with exhaustion after intense spiritual warfare, God spoke to recalibrate him with practical instruction:

“There he went into a cave and spent the night. And the word of the LORD came to him: ‘What are you doing here, Elijah?’¹⁰He replied, ‘I have been very zealous for the LORD God Almighty. The Israelites have rejected your covenant, torn down your altars, and put your prophets to death with the sword. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me too.’¹¹The LORD said, ‘Go out and stand on the mountain in the presence of the LORD, for the LORD is about to pass by.’ Then a great and powerful wind tore the mountains apart and shattered the rocks before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake.¹²After the earthquake came a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire. And after the fire came a gentle whisper.¹³When Elijah heard it, he pulled his cloak over his face and went out and stood at the mouth of the cave. Then a voice said to him, ‘What are you doing here, Elijah?’” (1 Kings 19:9-13)

(Turn over for continuation...)

Elijah would subsequently hear God telling him the next steps that would save his life, secure a successor, and sustain his legacy. A younger prophet named Elisha would be found, who would exceed his predecessor by a double portion. It was a turning point. Consider also this passage:

"You have searched me, LORD, and you know me. ²You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar. ³You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways. ⁴Before a word is on my tongue you, LORD, know it completely... ¹⁷How precious to me are your thoughts, God! How vast is the sum of them! ¹⁸Were I to count them, they would outnumber the grains of sand—when I awake, I am still with you." (Psalm 139:1-4,17-18)

Reflection:

- Have you ever sensed God speak to you at a pivotal turning point in your life? How did you discern it was His voice and what happened?
- Is there anything else from the main thought and passages above that especially stand out to you?

Application:

- Where do you need to hear His voice in your life right now? As a group, take time to pray specifically for God to speak clearly for each member who shares.

For Prayer:

- Pray for someone by name who God can use you to be a light to. Connect with them personally and invite them to group.
- Pray for those who responded during our Christmas services to return, stick, and grow as devoted disciples.

Communications (Prayer & Fasting)

Starting January 10, we will commit each Wednesday to a complete fast and end it with prayer at our Main Campus (Worship Center) from 6:30pm - 7:30pm. We're encouraging everyone to choose one day a week to fast, and each Grace Group to attend one of the four prayer pockets for the month (Jan. 10, 17, 24, & 31). We also have a 24-day devotional to help you personally connect with God. Pick one up at our Connection Center or download it online at pearlside.org/devotional.

For more information, please visit www.pearlside.org or download our Pearlside app.



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