

Discernment or Deception Hearing God's Voice in the Midst of Confusion

Sermon Title: **Discernment or Deception**
Hearing God's Voice in the Midst of Confusion

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Speaker: **Nathaniel Bronner**

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Nathaniel: You need to have some regular time every single day that you spend with God.

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(Music Playing: 00:00:24 - 00:00:52)

And now, for 5819, Discernment or Deception, part 6, Hearing God's Voice in the Midst of Confusion.

Nathaniel: Welcome to Brothers of the Word, because brother, you need the word. Today, we will be continuing on in a series called "Discernment or Deception" and today's title, "Hearing God's Voice in the Midst of Confusion." Hearing God's voice in the midst of confusion.

A woman was said to have gone to her pastor and she said, "Pastor, one of the brothers in the congregation said that God spoke to him and said, "The Lord is sending me to Africa." And the pastor replied, "Well, if you do go, you better take that brother with you so you know when to come back."

Sometimes there is a question. There is a difficulty. How do we know the voice of God? We'll hear people say, "God told me this" and "God told me that," and we wonder whether we hear it from other people or whether we think we hear it ourselves. How do we know that this is God and in particular, how do you know it's God in the midst of confusion? I want to use today one of the stories in the Bible and for those who've been in church all of your life. You're familiar with it. It's a story of Gideon. For some of you who have never really been that involved in Christian things, I'm kind of going over the story from the beginning, but it's in Judges, Chapter 6.

So, in the 6th Chapter of Judges, the Israelites, they were in bondage from the Midianites. The Midianites basically were coming in and stealing all of their stuff and it had put the children of the Israel in a real impoverished state because the Midianites were coming. They would just take all of their food, take all of their livestock, just leave them starving, hungry and poor. And

God had sent a prophet to the Israelites. He said, "The reason I have allowed these Midianites to come and take all of your stuff." God says, "Look, I brought you out of Egypt. You saw all of these miracles, you saw the deliver and I told you what to do and you still would not obey my word. And because you've been disobedient, I'd let this Midianites come and take all this stuff from you." Poverty all day long is a curse. Don't let anybody tell you poverty is a blessing, it is not. Poverty is a curse. Lack is a curse.

Now, sometimes God will do that and He does it because as He had to do with the Israelites, they wouldn't do right. And sometimes when folk won't do right, you've got to do just like a parent. You have to kind of discipline and correct and pull some things away from them so they eventually will do right.

So, here was Gideon. And an angel appeared unto Gideon and told him that the Lord was with him. And Gideon asked a very big question. He said, "If the Lord is with us then why has all this happened to us?" Do you all ever wonder that question? You know, look, if God is with me then why am I going through trouble? If God is looking over me, why am I going to tribulation? If God is my Lord and Savior and I'm serving Jesus, why am I in pain? So, when the angel came to Gideon and said, "The Lord is with you," Gideon said, "If the Lord is with us, why are all of these Midianites coming all these years, it's been seven years. Why are the Midianites coming and taking all of our stuff if God is with us? Why has all these happened?"

And the Lord told Gideon that He would deliver the people. Gideon went and made a sacrifice and the angel was there as Gideon brought the lamb and the angel told Gideon to put the meat there on the rock. And when he put the meat on the rock, the angel touched his staff to the rock and the rock burst into flames, cook the meat and the angel disappeared. And Gideon said, "Surely, I have witnessed an angel of the Lord."

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Now, most of us have never seen anything quite that miraculous. Very few people have gone through an experience they truly unexplainable overt supernatural event. Most of us have never seen a burning bush. It was never consumed. We have never seen fire come down from heaven and we've never seen an angel

just appear out of the midst and speak to us. Most of us have never seen what I would call a truly overt, without question, miracle. Now, I've seen a whole lot of miraculous stuff, but I've never seen a rock burst into flame right after I put my meat on it.

You see, often it's the timing that makes the difference. I've seen lava but I've never seen a rock burst into flame right after I put my meat on it. So, it's the timing and the miraculous occurrence that occurs. So here, Gideon had seen this. There was no question that an angel had come and spoken to Gideon. Gideon knew it was the Lord.

But here in Judges Chapter 6, beginning of the 36th verse, the NIV version, Gideon said to God, "If you will save Israel by my hand as you have promised-- look, I will place a wool fleece on the threshing floor. If there is dew only on the fleece and all around the ground is dry, then I will know that you will save Israel by my hand, as you see it." And that is what happened. Gideon rose early the next day. He squeezed the fleece and rang out the dew a whole bowlful of water. Then Gideon said to God, "Don't be angry with me. Let me make just one more request."

Understand this now. We were talking about how did you know the voice of God in the midst of confusion. Here, Gideon was basically in the midst of raids on his countrymen. They're coming and stealing all their stuff. Gideon, when the angel spoke to him, he was actually hiding in the threshing area. He was hiding the grain because he didn't want the Midianites to know he had anything to eat. So, he was hiding when the angel came to him.

So, here, he was in the midst of all of this folk just coming and robbing and taking all of their stuff. In the midst of all this stuff, in the midst of all this confusion, and here the angel comes. The angel burns up and cooks his meat that he has placed there for the offering so he knows it's God. Then he says, "Look God, if this is truly You, if I'm going to save the people, if this is really You, let me put a fleece out. In the morning, let the fleece be wet and the ground be dry."

So, this is the second thing that has happened. Gideon goes out, squeezes the fleece, it's full of water and the ground dry. But wait, there's more. Gideon still said, "Lord, don't get mad with me, but can you Give me one more sign." And I thought about this

sometimes, so many of us. We have, without question, seen the miraculous deliverance of God.

There may not have been an angel coming out and standing right in front, but some of us have had some stuff happen and we know, without question, this is God. We know without God we would've been messed up. Some of us, even to this day, "I don't even know how I got out of that mess." You know without question God has delivered you, but even after God has proven himself over and over and over again. Here, Gideon had seen two overtly miraculous occurrences and the reason God said -- that's why He was sending all of the Midianites. He said, "Look, I showed you all My glory. I showed you My deliverance. You saw the (00:08:34) clothes up on the floor. You saw all of this stuff and still you would not be obedient."

So here, Gideon walked and said, "Lord, don't be mad with me, but let me make just one more request. Allow me one more test with the fleece. This time, make the fleece dry and the ground covered with dew." And thus, God did it.

Sometimes we see God and we've experienced it and I know this is the way it is even with the meat. I've heard God's voice so many times, but even when I still hear it, I sometimes wonder, "Lord is that you?" Do you know when you're expecting somebody come into the door and you hear the doorbell ring or in the old days when you hear them knock. And you know somebody's supposed to be there at three o'clock and it's three o'clock only knows and you hear, but yet you will still holler out, "Who is it?" You know that dude at three o'clock. At three o'clock they knock, "Who is it?" It is often that way with the voice of God. We still wonder, "Lord, is this You?" Especially in the midst of confusion. So especially here with Gideon in the midst of all this turmoil going on, especially in the midst of confusion -- and the word 'confusion' means two or more things mingled together. How many of you all got more than one thing going on?

00:10:02

I mean, you got more than one thing going. So, now you got -- confusion is the mingling of two or more things. You got more than one thing going on and you can't figure out. Lord, is that you? Is that you? Who is it? And you have seen over and over and over the deliverance of God. 1 Corinthians 14:38, this is a

verse that we heard so many times, “For God is not the author of confusion.” And oftentimes, we’ll bring that verse, “For God is not the author of confusion” and yet, so often we will see so many times among us Christians and within the church, we see confusion, the NIV says, “For God is not a God of disorder. God is not the author of confusion.” But I want to reach to those whole set of verses from 1 Corinthians beginning at 14:26 and this is again the NIV version. What then shall we say brothers? When you come together, everyone has a hymn or a word of instruction, a revelation, a tongue or an interpretation. All of these must be done for the strengthening of the church. If anyone speaks in our tongue, two or at the most three should speak one at a time and someone must interpret.

If there is no interpreter, the speaker should keep quite in the church and speak to himself and God. Two or three prophets should speak and the other should weigh carefully what he said. And if a revelation comes to someone who is sitting down, the first speaker should stop for you can all prophesy in turn so that everyone may be instructed and encouraged. The spirits of prophets are subject to the control of the prophets. For God is not a God of disorder but a peace, as in all the congregation of the saints. Women should remain silent in the churches. They are not allowed to speak but must be in submission as the law says, if they want to inquire about something, they should ask their own husbands at home for it is disgraceful for a woman to speak in the church. Now, how many of you all have a little confusion about the scripture that I just read?

Then this is actually more accurate in the NIV than in the King James Version. So, this is straight out of scripture, right in the middle of where it says, “For God is not a God of confusion but a God of peace.” And yet, there are some things I just read and say, “What? I don’t know about that pastor. That’s old fashioned, that has passed away.” And see, first of all, that’s why they had interpreters of the law, because you had had some interpreters to interpret some of this stuff because as time changes, some of these stuff gets a little bit twist. It was even twisted back then. Because I am sure, some of the women even back then, they said, “You want me to do what? You want me to wait to get home to ask my hug?” I’ve seen a whole lot of cases right now. The woman is actually smarter than her husband and the husband have to sometime asked a woman, “What do you mean? So, you got situations where it’s just not as simple as it may seem.

How do you know the voice of God? And you got a whole lot of things mingled together, you got more than one thing going on and you're not quite sure what is what. I want to just give you some keys of how you can know that will help you discern the voice of God. The first thing is always, is to weigh it against God's word, weigh it against God's word. But in order for you to weigh it against God's word, you have to know God's word. You have to know God's word not what's popular. You've got to really know what did God say.

Let me give you some popular sayings that people think is from the Bible that wasn't in the Bible anyway. Cleanliness is next to Godliness. How many of you ever heard it? That's not a scripture, uh-uh. God helps to those who help themselves. How many of you have heard and people ask where in the bible. That's not in the Bible. Money is the root of all evil. No. it's the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil. This too shall pass. That's not in the Bible. A fool and his money are soon parted. It's true but that's not in the Bible. God's works in mysterious ways. He does work in mysterious ways, but that's not scripture. What about the three wise men who came to Jesus? Nope. Bible never did say how many they were. It just says they were men, it could have been 20 for all we know. So, you got to first of all know what's in the Bible. So, in order to weigh it against God's word, you must know God's word. The second thing you have to do is you need to get quite. See, in the midst of confusion, you got all this stuff going.

00:15:01

You need to have some regular time every single day that you spend with God. And we are so busy -- and you know, we study from a lot of business professionals, even the business professionals and even the business coaches, they are now saying what everyone needs to do. They need to have what's called a digital sundown. What is a digital sundown? It's that everybody needs to have a time of the day, where they just turn off all the electronic stuff. We're so inundated with so much in terms of phone, and television, and computer and social media and is running in our world 24/7. You need to have a digital sundown. You need to have a time of the day where you just turn that stuff off, where you can hear God clearly. And right now, the patterns we're going to sleep looking at the television. We wake up with

it, we go to bed with it. The minute we wake up, we check email, we get on social media. How are you going to have God in the middle of all of that, when got all these different voices speaking to you and almost of none of them spiritual? At least not the right spirit. So, you got all these voices speaking to you.

So, the first thing to be able to hear God clearly, you just need to get quite. And when you're quite, your mind calms down. It does so much for you. So much of your illness now is simply due to stress, and stress is nothing but constant tension. And when you stay tight and intense all the time, your blood pressure is going to shoot up. You can't sleep, your nerves are going to get -- it causes all kind of damage in your body, just even getting quite to spend some time with God would do wonders just for your health. Just when you slow down, relax and spend some quite time and have a digital sundown. Turn some stuff off. You're going to say, "At 9 o'clock or 10 o'clock, I'm going to turn all this stuff of and I will just get quite." We're on 24/7 and is starting to show in our world and our lives and we can't hear anything because we never turn off.

The third thing is sometimes God will send people to confirm his word to you. And God would have spoken something to you and all of a sudden, that very next day, somebody goes, "You know, I think you ought to do this." Or it was placed in my spirit. So sometimes, God will send a person to confirm something that he has told you. God uses signs and circumstances to confirm his word. I remember when he had spoken to me, I was sitting in the boardroom, he say, "I want you to get it done before the year ends." And when I went to update my google maps that very same day, they had started listing Ev charging stations. It was a sign to.

Now, the thing about it is this, I've got to finished it about three days left to spare. And I don't know why he said to put it back there. There's not a whole lot of cars land at the church. We got in there. I don't know why. Sometimes, you will not know why but he will give signs of what you are do and you just get it done. As long as you get it done, don't worry about the why. You just get it done.

The fifth thing, we need to be receptive to what God is saying because often, it's not what we want to do. That's the other big issue with a lot of people from hearing the word of God. Often,

when you hear the word of God, it's not what you want to do. You may hear the word of God saying, "I want you to stop eating sweets" and you love yourself some sweets. That ain't God. That ain't God. I remember I was over my mother's house one day and my mother loves bacon. She loves herself some bacon, but mother was having a little bit of some conviction sometimes by eating the bacon and she put the bacon in the microwave and the microwave blew up. I said, "Mama, you recognize that's not --". That's no sign. That's just a bad microwave, just happened to blow up when I put the bacon in. That is no sign at all.

So sometimes, we got to be receptive to when God speaks and it is counter to what we want to do because I've just found in my own word most of the time when God tells me to do something, it's not something I am naturally inclined to do anyway. Because the stuff I'm naturally inclined to do anyway, I'm usually already doing. So we get to have ourselves receptive and may be is something God has told us to do and we just don't want to do it.

The sixth thing we need to understand is God always has a plan but he rarely tells us the whole plan. It's just like the Ev charging station. He's got a plan for it. I just don't know the whole plan. So, when you analyze, make yourself open, listen for a potential confirmation of the thing. Get quiet.

00:20:00

You will find that God will be able to speak to you and you be able to understand it a lot clearer and it may take some time. Jeremiah 29:11, we say this over and over, "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you a hope and a future." (00:20:19) Some of us had just taken that verse just that much, "For I know the plans I have for you, plans to prosper you, plans of bringing you a great future, plans to do good, plans to just take you."

We all know that verse, we've heard it so many times, but what you haven't heard and what you don't know is the verse right before that. See, that's Jeremiah 11. What you don't know is Jeremiah 10. Jeremiah 10 puts the verse in context, and this is where we often get off track with God's word because we take it out of context and we don't consider his whole plan.

Let me just read to you verse 10. ““This is what the Lord says: When 70 years are completed for Babylon, I will come to you and fulfill my gracious promise to bring you back to this place for I know the plans I have for you,’ declares the Lord, ‘plans to prosper you in 70 years.”” See, that’s the part we missed, that’s the part we cut out, that’s the part we don’t want to talk about. In 70 years, I’m going to come back and I know the plans I have for you, to prosper you, not to harm you. In 70 years -- that’s a whole lifetime.

So what God is saying in this verse -- it may take a whole lifetime for Me to do what I need to do in your life. You want it done in seven days and I’m saying a whole lifetime. You want it done in seven minutes and I’m saying a whole lifetime. I’ve got your whole life planned. I’ve got everything outlined for you, but you want it quick. And often, when we hear God speak and even when we see Him manifest some things, yet there’s so much more that’s coming but we forget about the 70 years and we think it’s coming tomorrow. And this is a part of even just understanding God’s program and the way that he works is really as fast as we want it. He can do it instantly, but some things He does super fast and some things we just have to wait on the Lord and do what we are supposed to do.

The main thing I can tell you is get quiet and spend some time with God because there’s so much confusion, there’s so much whirlwind around us, just getting quiet takes you to another level. Get quiet. And it’s hard to do. It is hard to sit there for 15 minutes without turning on your for phone, without talking. That’s why one of the programs we have no talk. No talk is one of the most transformational things I’ve ever done, but I went quiet for seven days, it was one of the hardest things I’d ever done. The first three hours nearly killed me. You only think it is easy. Do you know it’s hard to shut up? Turn to the person and tell him, “It’s hard to shut up.”

It’s hard to shut up, you can’t talk, no phone, no nothing but read about and that’s all you can do, no listening to music, and it’s like going out in the wilderness and someone had told me when you start to doing it, it’s going to be lack a flash and all this stuff is going to come out of your spirit. That doesn’t bother me. I bet they’ll go crazy after about the first three hours. But I made it to the seven days and it changed me.

Some of us just need to do just to no talk, just to get quiet and to do that every day, spends some time with God and you would be able to hear and it calms your spirit and it will change some things within your world. Because we're going to have a lot of things that will mingle together, so much confusion, so much stuff going on in politics, in government, in business, in relationships, in your body, stuff going on all kind of ways.

So how do you know when God is speaking to you? First thing you need to do is just get quiet so you can even hear God. I want to suggest spending just one minute just quiet, just one minute right now, just quiet. I want you to close your eyes. Five, four, three, two, one.

Five, four, three, two, one, that was one minute. Do you notice when you were quiet how you could hear every single thing that you would not have heard with talking?

00:25:01

You could hear the chairs squeaking, you could just hear a little crick up, ever think when you're quiet, the still small voice of God becomes louder and you won't hear it with all of the other stuff going on. Twice a day, early in the morning and before you go to bed, spend some time with God and get quiet and you will hear the voice of God and you will be far more spiritually sensitive.

And right before we dismiss today, we are going to do something a little bit unusual. Ms. Angela Nelson, she came to me and she said, "Pastor, God just impressed(ph) upon me for the brothers to actually pray for your mother today." And I had an interesting situation even with prayer. I was going to visit a member of the art last night and as I was walking down the hospital out, I heard God speak to me and He said, "Look --" And normally, when you go to visit people in the hospital, you lay hands on them and you pray for them. God says, "Look, I don't want you to pray for them. I want you to ask them to pray for you." I said, "That's a twist."

You don't know what God is going to tell you to do. But that was number one. I knew that and went with His word. I need all the prayer I can get. Just because you're a preacher, that doesn't mean you don't need prayer. I needed all the prayer I could get. And when I told them that, they just lit up, started laughing, they started clapping. They said, "That was just the best thing in the

world – the best medicine in the world.” See, God knows this stuff. So, there was something about it that just elevated them to know and the prayer did me a whole lot of good, did me a whole lot of good.

So, through Ms. Nelson, and she was a lady who is praying for the intercessory prayer before service began this morning, and she said God impressed her while she was up there. If God can speak to you, why are you praying? Mama, I want to just come up and your son is just going to pray for you and I don't know what's going on in mama's world but all of us need prayer. Mama is in great shape. Amen. And she has spent so much time praying for others. She really has.

Sometimes, the prayer warriors need prayer. The preachers need prayer. The prophets need prayer. All of us need prayer because all of us go through things and all of us have issues, all of us have challenges in life and we just want to just pray for our mother. This is an example for many of you. Some of you do the same thing. You've got mothers who have been praying over you all their life but you never prayed over mama. Mama have been praying for you all her life and you never prayed over mama.

And just like what happened to me last night in the hospital, God reversed who was doing the praying. So, mama had been praying over her sons all of their lives and some of you just may need to reverse it. But some of you, you have never prayed over your parents, and you may need to follow this example and go back and do that same thing right away and just say, “Mama or daddy, I want to pray for you.”

They supported you. No parent is perfect. Some of you may do that with your spouse, some of you have never prayed over your spouse and you (00:28:27) Some of you have never prayed over your spouse, all you've done is complaint about them, you never prayed over your spouse. So the power of prayer, there are more things wrote by prayer than you can imagine.

Dear Heavenly Father, first of all, we thank you for this anointed vessel. We thank you for sending us through this blessed womb. Father, we thank you that we could hear her praying in the early morning hours at home, we could hear her walking and praying and praising in your name. We never had a doubt that mama was

a true servant of God. We never had a question about her dedication or her devotion to You.

Father, if there was any question in our minds, it wasn't from mama, because we saw mama a full sold out soldier for You. Father, right now we just pray for everything within her world. Father, we pray from the top of her head to the bottom of her souls of her feet, Dear Father, every cell in her body, every gray matter, every brain cell, every neuron, Father, every fiber of her being right now. Father, we pray for even a renewing a refreshing a strengthening, Father, everything that he is. Father, we thank you for the vessel and right now we just pray for the vessel, we pray for the spirit within the vessel, we pray for even a new level, a new anointing, a new enlightenment, Father, a new direction for mama.

00:30:04

Father she has been such an inspiration to so many of us. We just pray for her right now, Dear Father. Let all of your glory shall rest upon her. All of Your might shall rest upon her, Father, that even her destiny for the future shall even be greater than her accomplishments of the past. For Father, we know that you can make it so and we know of no better deserving spirit in mama. In thy son, Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Say a quick prayer over mama. Amen.

We're now going to have a call to salvation, it's a call to action. So, may you all go and do likewise. If your mama is here, you can pray right over after service. Pray over mama, pray over mama. God will send this as an example. Amen.

Male:

Father, we just thank you so much for my mother here, Lord, and we just pray over her in Jesus name, we (00:31:06) the blood of Jesus over her. Father, we just thank you for renewing her youth as the eagles. We thank you, Lord, for removing any sickness or disease out of her body. Lord, we thank you for giving her clarity of mind, power, love and a sound mind.

We thank you for the example that she is in the earth. We thank you for the powerful praise and the power of prayer. We thank you for her character, her love, and peace and the joy. Thank you for her being a mother to the vessel and the mother to the church.

Mother in the body of Christ and mother of Zion. We thank you, Lord for her faith. Thank you for her to teach the younger women, how to be wives and how to be mothers. So, we thank you, Lord for her as she has been on the life of her sons and her children and her family, Lord. We thank you for her example, yes, in Jesus name we pray. Amen.

Male:

Lord, we just thank you for mother right now, oh Lord. We thank you first to mama that she is still with us, oh, Lord. We don't take it for granted and we just pray, right upon her, oh Lord. We pray oh Lord that you'll rejuvenate everything, oh Lord. We pray oh Lord for every area that is normally affected by age, oh Lord, we just called the years to be reverse, Oh Lord.

We pray over her mind, a memory, her thinking, oh Lord. We pray over her eyesight, oh Lord. Anything that might be down, oh Lord. We pray, oh Lord that you will just broom the dust of her that oh Lord, by your breath, oh Father. We pray over heart and circulatory system, oh Lord. We pray for her blood pressure, every artery, every vein, oh Lord. We pray over her hip bones, oh Lord, her knees oh Father.

We pray, oh Lord that you'll lubricate of father, everything oh Lord that may have done resting with age, oh Lord. We pray that all of your spirit, oh Lord. We just lubricate right now, oh Lord. We thank you Lord. Thank you for her mobility, oh Father. Thank you for her life of love, oh Lord. Her living a life, oh Lord as ministry, oh Lord just my oh Father. Thank you for her love, oh Father. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

Nathaniel

I thank you for joining us today here at brothers of the world. You can go to BrothersoftheWorld.com and listen to the entire series called Discernment or Deception: Hearing the voice of God. Thank you for joining us today, brothers of the world because brother, you need the world.

Amen.

Female:

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