

# Tommy, Can You Hear Me?

## Part 2: Follow the Fingerprints of God

**John 10:27** // My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.

Last week we drew two simple conclusions from this emphatic statement from Jesus.

- Any child of God can hear God's voice
- And if you want to hear God's voice, quit looking to everyone else to hear it

God did not call us to be led by the advice of others.

**He called us to be led by His Spirit.**

**Romans 8:14** // For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God.

As we begin to spend time with God during our devotional time, how do we hear His Voice?

**Today we will be learning to follow the fingerprints of God.**

Your first rule of thumb is to ask "does this direction or thought have God's fingerprints upon it?"

What does that mean?

**Fingerprints identify us specifically and uniquely.**

**And there are certain things that truly identify God.**

Things like His Character, His Nature, The essence of who He is.

**These are His Fingerprints.**

And how do we know God's character?

**It is revealed to us in His Word.**

**Every piece of guidance we receive in life must be measured against the Character of God AS REVEALED IN HIS WORD.**

Not as revealed by our feelings or our own thinking.

**Psalm 119:105-106** // “Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path. I have taken an oath and confirmed it, that I will follow your righteous laws.”

**The direction of God will always follow the character of God revealed in his Word.**

**God's direction in your life will never violate the guidance we have written down for us in His Word.**

**1 John 5:7** // “For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one.”

When God speaks to us, it will be unified with the Word.

At times we are going to have to allow the Word to correct our thoughts, even those thoughts we've received during our devotional times, if those thoughts do not have God's fingerprints on them.

**2 Timothy 3:16-17** // “All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.”

**God's word will reprove and correct us at times.**

And to be successful in hearing God's voice, we must be humble enough to allow His Word to correct us at times.

The key questions to ask yourself when deciphering the direction of God is, "**Does the decision I'm about to make have the fingerprints of God in it?**"

**What are some baseline things we should establish in identifying God's fingerprints?**

**Galatians 5:16,22,23,25** // "16 If you are guided by the Spirit, you won't obey your selfish desires. 22 God's Spirit makes us loving, happy, peaceful, patient, kind, good, faithful, 23 gentle, and self-controlled... 25 God's Spirit has given us life, and so we should follow the Spirit."

**These are the attributes of God that should lead us.**

•**Selfless** - Is the direction selfish or selfless?

•**Loving** - Is the direction one that expresses genuine care, concern, and compassion for others?

•**Happy** - Does the direction make you happy deep down on the inside?

**You may receive direction or correction but does it make you feel uplifted?**

**A spirit of heaviness is not from heaven.**

**The enemy can show up in your personal time and try to deceive you.**

•**Peaceful** - Does the direction calm the waters or leave them at a place of unrest?

•**Patient** - Is the decision you are about to make coupled with patience or is it a hurried, pressure, knee jerk decision?

•**Kind** - Does the direction display the qualities of our recent "**Be Nice**" series?

•**Good** - Is the decision full of goodness and void of anything unethical?

•**Faithful** - Does the decision honor commitments?

**God is not a God of ever changing paths.**

• **Gentle** - Is the decision based in a quiet confidence that allows you to deal softly with others?

• **Self-Control** - Is the decision based on restraint offered from the word or based on lack of control based on desires opposed to the word?

**Our decisions have to be shaped by the self control to choose God's word over our personal desire.**

We need to learn to follow the Fingerprints of God

**We need to let His hands guide us.**

**We need to allow the Character of God revealed in His Word to guide us.**

**When we do this, things will always turn out for our good.**

**Psalms 1:1-3** // "Blessed is the man Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful; But his delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night. He shall be like a tree Planted by the rivers of water, That brings forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also shall not wither; And whatever he does shall prosper."

**When we choose to put God's word first in our lives it creates sound, stable, prosperous lives.**

**First three steps to hearing the voice of God:**

- Make sure you're His sheep
- Stop asking everyone else and spend some time along with God
- Let God's Word dictate every decision you make. Follow the fingerprints of God.