

How Can I Really Know?

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Introduction: Is it possible for two sincere people to agree upon what the will of the Lord is?

- A. Many will laugh at the idea that there is any force on earth that can bring men to yield their wills to stand upon a certain truth.
 - 1. I do not believe these people know the Lord or the power of His cross.
 - 2. Jesus fully expected his followers to be one! (**John 17:20-23**)
 - 3. I do not expect the “religious” of the world to ever be one but I do believe those who “have been crucified” with Christ will. (**Gal 2:20**)
- B. I want this lesson to challenge us to see if we really have a heart for God’s will.
 - 1. Jesus often pointed out the lack of real hearers. (**Mk 4:9**)
 - 2. The Jews, even though they knew much truth, were not real hearers! (**Acts 28:27-29**)
 - 3. Are you ready for a hearing test?

I. God really wants us to know

- A. Our God has made this abundantly clear! (**1 Tim 2:3-4**)
 - 1. God wants us to understand so as to be saved. He has no interest in man having understanding alone. He wants our hearts!
 - 2. God has revealed His will in such a way that only a humble heart can find it. (**Lk 10:21, 23-24**)
- B. Consider the provisions that God has made for the sincere seeker.
 - 1. He promises that we will know in time. (**Jn 7:17**)
 - 2. I can remember times in my life crying out to God for knowledge.
 - 3. How can I know that I will know? I must be a diligent seeker! (**Heb 11:6**)
 - 4. What would be characteristic of someone like that? Have you ever met one?
 - 5. It is not a seeking for newness so that we can glory in our wisdom, but a seeking for God’s will in every area of our lives. (**2 Cor 10:4-5**)
 - 6. Please do not give up this struggle and join those who are at ease with the world.
- C. We have been given the sword of the Spirit. (**Eph 6:17; Heb 4:12-13**)
 - 1. Many have completely missed the work of the Holy Spirit.
 - 2. God has chosen the teaching, hearing and learning process to mold our hearts.
 - 3. Are we listening to the Apostles? (**1 Jn 4:1, 6, Eph 3:3-5**)
 - 4. Be honest, are you really seeking to understand the written word of God?

II. The real key to knowing – having the right kind of heart

- A. Hearing was a mighty characteristic of Jesus Christ. (**Isa 50:4-6**)
 - 1. Have you ever thought of “the ear of the Lord?”
 - 2. There is a reason why people do not want to hear! They do not want to obey!
 - 3. Where did Jesus’ love to hear the Father lead Him?
 - 4. Until you are ready to become a servant, you will not be ready to hear.
- B. Many will not hear because of their idols.

1. What is an idol?
2. In essence it is something that you put ahead of God. (**Col 3:5**)
3. It is very interesting to meet those of varied religious backgrounds. There are times where I run across those who have made a specific doctrine an idol.
4. Whatever you refuse to be tested by the word of God has become an idol.
 - a. Some make relationships their idol.
 - b. Others make their passion their idol. Consider one Jewish man who wanted to keep hating Gentiles. (**Lk 10:29**)
 - c. Some “Christians” attitudes towards the assemblies. (**Heb 10:23-25**)
 - d. Do you really want to know?

III. Real hearing requires a struggle

- A. Why did Jesus reveal Himself the way that He did?
 1. You will not hear Jesus preach a lesson “Five proofs why I am the Son of God.”
 2. Jesus let men struggle.
 3. What did Nathaniel have to struggle with? (**Jn 1:45-46**)
 4. What did the family of Jesus have to struggle with? (**Jn 7:3-5**)
 5. Every “disciple” had to struggle and choose! (**Jn 6:66-69**)
- B. We must “struggle” over doctrine!
 1. Some are preaching that “churches of Christ have given too much emphasis to doctrine.”
 2. One of the key characteristics of God’s people is a willingness to be tested in respect to doctrine.
 3. Look at the example of the Jerusalem church (**Acts 15**) and the church at Corinth (**1 Cor 7:1; 11:1-2**)
 - a. It appears that Paul was a “doctrinalist.” (**Acts 20:27-31**)
 - b. The time has come in many places for a real struggle for God’s will.
- C. We must struggle over building a biblical faith.
 1. You are responsible over the kind of faith that you build. (**1 Cor 3:11-15**)
 2. God has no “grandchildren.”
 3. What do you do when you must make a decision in your life?
 4. Far too many who have been raised by Christians are strangers to the struggle to know when, where and how to stand. (**Josh 24:15**)
 5. Are you willing to hear about standing, suffering and even dying?
- D. Satan offers an easy alternative to hearing.
 1. He has many to will compliment you for your insight to be “non-traditional.” (**Jn 5:42-46**)
 2. If you stand with God you will not have to be alone!

Conclusion: God wants to open your heart so that you can hear.

- A. The opening of the heart in the scriptures is described as a “cut.”
 1. Some were “cut” and obeyed while others were “cut” and attacked! (**Acts 2:36-37; 7:54-55**)
 2. Has your heart been touched today?
- B. Open the door! (**Rev 3:19-21**)