

...and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembly together...but encouraging one another.
Heb 10:24-25

Share the teaching
Guard the sharing

Male Call

November 7, 2008—Our Spiritual PDA—What Is Our Goal In Hearing From God?

6:00 – 6:05	Coffee & Donuts Opening Prayer
6:05 – 7:00	<p>1) Last week we said: Every Christian should be able to answer two questions. First, what do you think Jesus is saying to you at this point in your life, in the context of the challenges and opportunities you are facing? Second (and just as critical), what indicators give you some measure of confidence that it is indeed Jesus speaking to you rather than someone or something else?¹</p> <p>2) Why do we want to hear clearly from God?</p> <p>a) Aren't we already saved?</p> <p>b) What will you gain that you do not already have?</p> <p>c) Consider Matthew 22:37</p> <p>i) What does it mean for the church to be the bride of Christ? (1) E.g., Ephesians 5:25-27; Revelation 19:7</p> <p>ii) Is it "me" or "we"? (1) John 14:6; 1Peter 4:17-18; Genesis 12:1-2</p> <p>iii) Can I/we attain unity with Christ? (1) Ephesians 5:28-32</p> <p>iv) What does this mean?</p> <p>3) What is the nature of this journey?</p> <p>a) There are many, many, many descriptions of the journey and the effort expended in it. Here are some of the classics:</p> <p>i) New Testament writers</p> <p>ii) <i>The Philokalia</i>—Compiled writings of the early church fathers and mothers</p> <p>iii) <i>Ascent of Mt Carmel</i>—St John of the Cross</p> <p>iv) <i>The Way of Perfection</i>—St Teresa of Avila</p> <p>v) <i>The Cloud of Unknowing</i>—unknown author (British)</p> <p>vi) <i>The Imitation of Christ</i>—Thomas à Kempis</p> <p>vii) <i>The Way of a Pilgrim</i>—unknown author (Russian)</p> <p>viii) <i>The Pilgrim's Progress</i>—John Bunyon</p> <p>ix) <i>Hind's Feet in High Places & Mountains of Spices</i>—Hannah Hurnard</p> <p>x) <i>Foxes Book of the Martyrs</i>—John Foxe</p> <p>b) <u>Caution</u>: we don't want to make normative any individual's experience,</p>

¹ *The Voice of Jesus*. 1.

	<p>including those of the individual writers or mine or yours. Want to explore the range of experiences we have had along with the saints past (even though not all may be valid). However, we will discover that there are some clear signs and tests.</p> <p>4) Are you motivated to participate in this hard work?</p> <p>a) Consider Matthew 7:13-14</p> <p>i) What motivates you to want to do this work?</p> <p>ii) Would you do it even if there were no reward of eternal life with God?</p> <p>b) Consider John 6:44</p> <p>i) Chosen or free will?</p> <p>5) Have you counted the cost?</p> <p>a) Consider Matthew 13:24-30; Luke 8:4-8</p> <p>i) What are some weeds in your life entangled with God?</p> <p>ii) Can you remove them all?</p> <p>b) Consider Luke 14:26-35</p> <p>i) What is the cost to you?</p> <p>6) Can you persevere with God?</p> <p>a) Consider Matthew 10:22, 24:13; 2Peter 2:20-21; Hebrews 6:4-6</p> <p>7) Table Talk</p> <p>a) Well?</p>
7:00	Closing Prayer

Further reading:

- *The Bible*
- Craig, William Lane. *Reasonable Faith*. Crossway Books. 1994.
- Smith, Gordon T. *The Voice of Jesus*. Intersity Press. 2003.
- Willard, Dallas. *Hearing God*. Intersity Press. 1999.
- Green, Thomas H. *Opening to God: A Guide to Prayer*. Ave Maria Press. 2007 printing.