

CHIEF

MINISTRIES

February 2026

Greetings, here it is February, first I apologize for the lateness of the January newsletter. As some of you may know, as part of my, we'll call it "quality control," I send a newsletter to myself so I can keep track of the time it takes for you to receive the newsletters. Chief was my "quality controller" as he would let me know when he received it, and time adjustments were made when he wrote, figuring the time it took for me to receive by mail, me to transcribe, proof, print, fold, seal, confirm recipients location (TDCJ makes a lot of moves), change database, print labels and address, before taking them to the PO for bulk mailing. During the last few months of 2025, mail delivery was taking 3-5 days, even during the holidays. I figured that mailing the January newsletter on December 29th would mean you would receive it by January 4th, one week later. But I just received mine on Thursday, the 15th, almost 3 weeks. Big "quality control failure"! Therefore, I will go back to mailing the 3rd week of the month,

So let's get started with this month's topic: **Discerning whether a voice, thought, or prompting is from God or from another source** (our own mind, the world, or spiritual deception). Why is this important? Well, as we grow in our faith and in our relationship with the Lord, we want to fulfill our responsibility in our time here on earth by what we did with the gifts and talents He gave us. So, He will welcome us as spoken in Matthew 25:21 & 23. If we aren't able or don't know how to hear His voice, one ends up in deception. So.....

1. God's voice always agrees with Scripture. The Bible is the primary and final authority.

"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness." (2 Timothy 3:16).

God does not contradict Himself. Any message that:

- denies Jesus as Lord (1 John 4:1-3),
- contradicts biblical teaching, promotes sin, pride, hatred, or immorality, **cannot be from God**, no matter how powerful or convincing it feels. *"If anyone preaches another gospel... let them be accursed."* (Galatians 1:8)

2. God's voice reflects His character

God's nature is revealed throughout Scripture. *"God is light; in Him there is no darkness at all."* (1 John 1:5)

God's voice is consistent with being:

- loving yet truthful (Ephesians 4:15),
- holy (1 Peter 1:16),
- just and merciful (Micah 6:8),
- peaceful, not chaotic (1 Corinthians 14:33).

A voice that encourages manipulation, fear, condemnation, cruelty, or self-exaltation does not reflect God's character.

3. God's voice produces the fruit of the Spirit.

Jesus taught that **fruit reveals the source**. *"By their fruit you will recognize them."* (Matthew 7:16)

- The Spirit of God produces: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control (Galatians 5:22-23)

If a message produces: persistent fear, shame without repentance, obsession, pride, despair, hatred, it is NOT the voice of God.

4. God's voice brings conviction, not condemnation

The Bible distinguishes between the Holy Spirit's conviction and destructive condemnation. *"There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus."* (Romans 8:1)

- **Conviction** leads to repentance, hope, and restoration.
- **Condemnation** leads to despair, shame, and separation from God.

God corrects His children, but always with the goal of healing and drawing them closer. *"The Lord disciplines the one He loves."* (Hebrews 12:6)

5. God's voice invites, not coerces

God respects human will. *"Here I am! I stand at the door and knock."* (Revelation 3:20)

God does not: force, bully, rush with panic, threaten abandonment for obedience.

Voices that demand immediate action through fear or pressure are not consistent with God's way.

6. God's voice is confirmed through wisdom and community

Scripture warns against isolated interpretation. *"Plans fail for lack of counsel, but with many advisers they succeed."* (Proverbs 20:18)

Christians are encouraged to test what they hear through: prayer, Scripture, mature believers, the church community.

"Do not despise prophecies, but test everything; hold fast what is good." (1 Thessalonians 5:20-21)

7. Scripture warns that not every spiritual voice is from God

The Bible explicitly acknowledges spiritual deception. *"Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God."* (1 John 4:1)

Even Satan can appear convincing. *"Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light."* (2 Corinthians 11:14)

This is why discernment is essential and why Scripture is the anchor.

8. God most clearly speaks through His Word

God can guide through prayer, conscience, and circumstances, Scripture is the clearest, safest way God speaks.

“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.” (*Psalm 119:105*)

Feelings and impressions must always be secondary to God’s written Word.

In summary (biblical test) ASK

- Does it agree with Scripture?
- Does it reflect God’s character?
- Does it produce the fruit of the Spirit?
- Does it bring conviction with hope, not condemnation?
- Is it confirmed through prayer and godly counsel?

If the answer to any of these is no, we are instructed to reject the voice.

So how can we put these things into practice? Below are practical, biblically grounded steps we can use to grow in spiritual discernment. These are habits developed over time, not instant skills, and Scripture presents them as part of spiritual maturity.

1. Stay rooted in Scripture daily

Discernment grows from **familiarity with God’s Word**. “*But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.*” (*Hebrews 5:14*)

Practical habits

- Read Scripture consistently, not only when confused. (You have a read the bible in a year guide, or do word study, there are many ways to stay in the word) Read whole passages, not isolated verses.
- Ask: *What does this reveal about God’s character?*

The more Scripture shapes your thinking, the easier it is to recognize what does not align with it.

2. Pray for wisdom, not just answers The Bible encourages asking God specifically for wisdom. “*If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God... and it will be given.*” (*James 1:5*)

Practical habits

- Pray before reacting, deciding, or interpreting experiences.
- Ask God to correct you if you are mistaken.
- Sit in silence after prayer, resisting the urge to fill the space.

Discernment often grows in **patience**, not urgency.

3. Practice obedience in small, clear things Jesus links discernment to obedience. “*Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me.*” (*John 14:21*)

Practical habits

- Act on what Scripture clearly teaches before seeking new guidance.
- Examine whether confusion increases when known obedience is delayed.

Faithfulness in small things builds clarity in larger ones (*Luke 16:10*).

4. Learn to examine inner thoughts carefully Christians are taught not to assume every thought is spiritual. “*Take every thought captive to obey Christ.*” (*2 Corinthians 10:5*)

Practical habits

- Ask: *Is this thought true? Biblical? Loving? Wise?*
- Notice patterns: God’s guidance is steady, not erratic.
- Reject thoughts that produce fear, despair, or pride.

Discernment includes learning your own emotional and mental patterns.

5. Test impressions over time God’s guidance does not decay with time. “*The wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable...*” (*James 3:17*)

Practical habits

- Do not rush major decisions.
- Wait to see whether clarity increases or confusion multiplies.
- Revisit Scripture and prayer after emotions settle.

Time often exposes what is not from God.

6. Seek mature Christian counsel. God uses the body of Christ to sharpen discernment. *“In an abundance of counselors there is safety.” Proverbs 11:14*

Practical habits

- Share what you’re discerning with trusted, spiritually mature believers.
- Invite honest correction, not just affirmation.
- Pay attention when multiple wise voices raise the same concern.

Isolation weakens discernment; community strengthens it.

7. Examine the fruit, not just the feeling. Discernment focuses on outcomes, not intensity. *“A good tree cannot bear bad fruit.” (Matthew 7:18)*

Practical habits

- Ask what a decision or belief produces over time.
- Watch for peace paired with humility.
- Be cautious of anything that leads to pride, division, or obsession.

Strong emotions are not proof of God’s voice.

8. Learn God’s peace, not anxiety, as a guide Scripture often links God’s guidance with peace. *“Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts.” (Colossians 3:15)*

Practical habits

- Distinguish between calm conviction and pressured urgency.
- Refuse to make decisions driven by fear.
- Return to prayer when anxiety dominates.

God may challenge, but He does not torment.

9. Accept that discernment is a lifelong process The Bible frames discernment as growth. *“Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord.” (2 Peter 3:18)*

Practical habits

- Expect mistakes and learn from them.
- Practice humility: “I could be wrong.”
- Trust God’s faithfulness more than your accuracy.

God is patient with those who sincerely seek Him.

10. Anchor yourself in the gospel. Discernment flourishes when grounded in grace. *“My sheep hear my voice, and I know them.” (John 10:27)* Christians trust that:

- God desires to guide,
- Christ is the ultimate revelation of God,
- The Holy Spirit works within, not against, God’s Word.

A simple daily discernment prayer

“Lord, shape my mind by Your Word,
guard my heart from deception,
teach me to recognize Your voice,
and give me wisdom to walk in truth. Amen.”

May we all grow in discernment and clearly hear the voice of God in 2026!!

Blessings and prayers to each of you,

Ms. Chief (aka Ms.G)

If you want to know more about CHIEF Ministries or would like to be a part, please go to www.chiefministries.com

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