

THE INSIDE RUNNING

Maturity comes when we are led by God. The starting place is wisdom from scripture. Is the voice we are responding to consistent with His Word? Building on that foundation is ongoing guidance from the Holy Spirit. Other godly people can help confirm the direction we are taking.

I have found that people who are teachable and faithful are consistent in their Christian walk. Some of the most challenging people are those who act alone because they have "heard from God" and will not consider any alternative. Later, when they change course totally, it is hard to believe that God changed His mind!

Following God's guidance seems elusive for many people. Conflicting voices of others, self and God can make it difficult to follow His leading. Kevin's message talks about the signs that indicate we are in God's will and following His direction. These include provision, productivity and protection.

This month's DVD is packed with resources to help us hear from God more clearly. Summer is a great time to stop, look and listen so that our course for the coming year reflects a mature relationship with God.



John

John Subritzky

Who's Guiding You?

by Geoff Wiklund

I think hearing God communicate to us must be the most important thing in our walk with God. If we don't hear then we will miss the moment. The Bible has so much to say on the topic and I want to outline some key thoughts.

"For He is our God, and we are the people of His pasture, and the sheep of His hand. Today, if you will hear His voice..." Ps 95:7 Today is always a good day to hear His voice. Jesus said in John 10:27 *"My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me"*.

Sheep are mature and a sign of our maturity is our relationship with the Lord and hearing His voice. Let me share a few things I have learned along the way.

Jesus said that He was the bread of life and also said He was the Word. If we know Him then we know the Father. So we can see that if He is the bread we need that daily bread daily! How the Lord showed it to me was that during the time of Moses in the desert, God fed them daily with manna. Every morning they would go out and collect it. If they didn't it was burned off by the sun and lost. Same with our devotions. If we don't take some time each morning to hear God then we will lose that chance to hear from Him.

Why in the morning? We need to fill up and hear Him for the day. Daniel and David did it three times a day. Here are some other verses to support the idea:

"My voice You shall hear in the morning, O Lord; In the morning I will direct it to You, And I will look up." Ps 5:3

"O God, You are my God; Early will I seek You." Ps 63:1

Then Jesus Himself who is our example to follow: *"Now in the morning, having risen a long while before daylight, He went out and departed to a solitary place; and there He prayed." Mark 1:35*

When I was starting out on this journey, God spoke to me from this verse: *"I love those who love me, and those who seek me early and diligently shall find me."* Prov 8:17

I argued that because of my commitments I would have to get up at 5:30am. I would be tired. God's answer: Go to bed earlier! I couldn't argue with that, and so began a lifetime of early mornings.

I find I can't sleep in easily even when I can read my Bible later. If you seek Him early you will find Him.

The other discipline I learned was to journal. When I take the time to write out the verses and think on them, I find the Holy Spirit speaks to me, then when I begin to share what I saw in the Word that day with someone else, I find that God gives me more. *"To him who has, more will be given."* Matt 13:12. It is a scriptural principle. It also has the advantage that you can go back and look at what God

continued over >

was saying to you. James 1:25 says don't be a "forgetful hearer".

So you have read your Word, written down a verse or two. Now what? You need to ask two questions: 1. What is the Holy Spirit saying to me? 2. What does the Holy Spirit want me to do about it? James 1:25 says to be a "doer".

So you have a time, early in the morning; you have a Bible and a journal - now all you need is a place. I am blessed that in my new house I can literally lock myself in my closet. I have a chair in there and I can get away from all distractions and seek God. It is important to have a place of meeting.



Next, put that time in your diary. Expect to meet with the God of the universe and hear Him speak to you through the Word. In the beginning of teaching this stuff I used to tell my students to spend an hour. Now I am less legalistic and suggest you stay in your place until God speaks to you. Leave when He has finished speaking and you have had your say as well. Just listen twice as much as you speak.

Excerpted from "Hearing God." For full article see this month's DVD ROM.

The Seeking God

by Francis Frangipane

Question: What will happen if, in your spiritual walk, you turn lukewarm instead of steadfastly seeking the Lord? The answer is, nothing will happen. Meteors won't fall from the sky and hit you. Nothing that is not common to man will happen to you. You will simply remain the same as you have been: unchanging. An

unchanged life is judgment enough... The Almighty doesn't demand we change. True, He will convict us of sin and push us away from a slope into hell, but He isn't going to dominate our will or make it impossible to disobey Him. Convictions and warnings from the Spirit will help save us from hell, but they won't equip us for heaven.

My point is this: our pursuit of the Lord cannot be motivated simply by fear

or relief from a present conflict. The treasure of God's presence is the extreme value in all the universe. He must be sought for the incomparable worth of knowing Him for Himself. For this goal we seek Him. Yet He also seeks something from us...



For full article see this month's DVD ROM. www.frangipane.org

What's on the DVD



FEATURED SPEAKER:

Kevin Forlong – "Tuning In". Kevin is an experienced pastor and leadership facilitator. This message gives steps to help you tune in to God's guidance and identify the messages that are from Him and not from other voices. 25 min

DRAMA: A New Beginning 5 min

BONUS FEATURES:

• **My Story: Tim Mora – A Young Man Pursuing God.** Tim's father became the well-known church spokesman during the Pike River disaster. Tim describes his own journey and how he has grown as a Christian at Promise Keepers. 1 min 21

• **PK Music Medley: I Exalt Thee; Give Me Jesus** 7 min

• **Game On Event Highlights Video:** This short video gives a great overview of the 2011 Events. 6 min

• **Raised from the Dead:** A doctor responds in obedience to God's guidance in a case that seems hopeless, and sees a dead person restored to life and full health. 6 min

• **Break Free 2012 Promo** 1 min 14

HUMOUR: Changing tyres can be dangerous; Piano stairs; Blind man on a Harley 4 min 45

RESOURCES: Faith on the Field – DJ Forbes 5 min; How to Open the WiseChoices DVD ROM 4 min

DVD ROM

Access these using Windows Explorer on a PC. For video instructions on how to open the DVD ROM go to the [WiseChoices](http://WiseChoices.com) DVD ROM 4 min

ARTICLES:

Praying for the Government – Derek Prince; Hearing God – Geoff Wiklund (full version); The Seeking God – Francis Frangipane (full version); Can You Hear Me Now? – Richard Blackaby; 7 Tips to Develop Your Own Bible Reading Plan – Pat Morley; Cindy's Miracle; Balancing Your Life

RESOURCES: Weekly Studies for Men's Small Groups; Men's Stories; Game On photos – Wellington; Promise Keepers Ministry; Kevin Forlong Study Questions and PowerPoint; Bible Reading Plans

MP3s:

Including - Kevin Forlong; Derek Prince – Hearing God's Voice; PKUSA Classic: Steve Farrar – Fighting the Good Fight; PKNZ Classics: Seth Fawcett & Geoff Wiklund – Hearing from God; Music track

IPOD VIDEOS: Kevin Forlong; DJ Forbes; Game On Highlights

#1 A Promise Keeper is committed to honouring Jesus Christ through worship, prayer and obedience to God's Word in the power of the Holy Spirit.

NEXT ISSUE: REACHING YOUR WORLD



PK Men's Events 2012 - Book Early!

- Christchurch 24-25 Aug 2012
 - Wellington 14-15 Sep 2012
 - Auckland 5-6 Oct 2012
- 0800 PROMISE (77 66 47)
Break Free QR Code >

