

DISCERNING THE WILL OF GOD

A SEMINAR PRESENTED VIRTUALLY TO
MEMBERS OF KSCF-KEAT ON 22ND JANUARY 2023

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Preamble

- **Commendation:** KEAT leadership for sustaining these rich nurturing and equipping monthly engagements
- **Appreciation:** KEAT leadership for counting me worthy of the ministry
- **Testimony:** Affirmation of my continued personal choice to walk in obedience to God
- **Praise:** To God for His unending love and grace



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Objectives

- **Topic:** The Will of God = Discerning The Will of God
- **Objective:** To help appreciate the breadth of God's sovereign will and how to recognize it in the midst of other claims and calls competing for heart allegiance
- **Approach:** Devotional from a biblical perspective



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Introduction

- Jehovah is a speaking God—He is always speaking (Job 33:14)!
 - The Bible is full of innumerable instances of God speaking to His people—and they hear and understand Him
- Hearing and recognising God's voice leads to understanding of His will, without which we live below or outside of God's intention/purpose
- God rarely speaks in audible voices—challenge is how to recognise and discern His voice among all the others



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- This process involves learning how to tune one's ears to the voice of God
 - Shut off or diminish all the other voices
 - Jesus' often repeated saying "He who has ears to hear, let him hear ..." (about 15 times in the NT)
- *Need to distinguish between God's voice, the human soul and the devil



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Biblical Foundation

- a) Jeremiah 29:12-13 "Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart."
- b) Isaiah 30:21 "Your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, "This is the way, walk in it," Whenever you turn to the right hand or whenever you turn to the left."
- c) Proverbs 3:5-6 "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths."



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- d) Proverbs 16:3 "Roll your works upon the Lord [commit and trust them wholly to Him; He will cause your thoughts to become agreeable to His will, and] so shall your plans be established and succeed" (Amplified Bible)
- e) Psalm 37:23-24 "The steps of a good (righteous, born-again) person are ordered by the Lord, And He delights in his way. Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down; For the Lord upholds him with His hand" (Amplified Bible)



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These and similar verses indicate/imply the possibility of validating/confirming the genuineness of God's will after discerning His voice

✓ How do we carry out this very crucial 'test' on a claim of God's will?



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Knowing and Judging God's Will

Every possible idea, thought or intention in seeking for God's will should be examined against the following seven principal ways

- The same should apply to the words and actions of other [Godly] people whose counsel may influence our decisions and choices in life



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1. The Holy Scripture: God has expressly spoken and revealed Himself and His purposes in and through Jesus Christ. Moreover, this revelation is fully captured and recorded in the Bible which is given as being trustworthy and dependable in all matters of life and godliness.



Saturday, 21 January 2023

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- a) **Hebrews 1:1-3** “Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, 2 but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. 3 He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high” (ESV)
- b) **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 complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work"



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2. The Inner Prompting of the Holy Spirit: In the new covenant in Christ, God promises to speak directly to His children via the Holy Spirit. This could be through ideas or thoughts 'strangely dropped' into one's heart or mind by the Holy Spirit. Yet these are very distinct from our own human process of thinking.



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- a) Hebrews 8:10-11 "For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my laws into their minds, and I will write them on their hearts. and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. And they shall not teach everyone his fellow citizen, and everyone his brother, saying, 'know the Lord,' for all will know Me, from the least to the greatest of them."
- b) 1 Cor. 2:14 The natural person does not receive the things of the Spirit.....spiritual things are spiritually discerned



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3. The Prophetic: God occasionally uses supernatural ways of speaking to His people

--These could include word of knowledge, word of wisdom, dreams, visions, and personal prophecy

- a) "Do not quench the Spirit; do not despise prophetic utterances. But examine everything carefully; hold fast to that which is good" (1 Thess. 5:19-21)
- b) 1 John 4:1 "Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to determine if they are from God"



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4. The Counsel of Godly Christians:

- a) Proverbs 11:14 "Where no counsel is, the people fall: but in the multitude of counselors there is safety."
- b) Proverbs 24:6 "if you wage war seek counsel...."

***Caution: Matthew 23:9**

5. The Witness and Confirmation by Other [Mature] Believers:

- a) Matthew 18:16 "By the mouth of two or three witnesses every fact may be confirmed."



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6. The Circumstantial Leading and Timing:

- a) Acts 18:1-3 "After these things he (Paul) left Athens and went to Corinth. And he found a certain Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus, having recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla, because Claudius had commanded all the Jews to leave Rome. He came to them, and because he was of the same trade, he stayed with them and they were working; for by trade they were tent-makers."

[This relationship between Paul, Aquila and Priscilla—which happened as a result of circumstances— became one of the most important strategic partnerships in the book of Acts].



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7. The Peace of God:

- a) Colossians 3:15 "Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful"

NB: However, just having peace about a matter is not sufficient to confirm that God is leading you into it—the subjective nature of ‘personal/inner peace’ makes it least dependable in discerning God’s will. Thus, it should be accompanied by other more objective indicators of God’s guidance.



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Caution: God's will may sometimes be confirmed through a number of these ways. It is also crucial, especially when faced by a major life-changing decision or choice, to seek for more than one way of confirming God's leading.

- a) However, every claim to God's leading must conform to and be aligned to His will as taught in Scripture. The Bible is the primary expression of God's will about all matters of life and godliness. It is the perfect and final revelation of God's mind regarding all things.
- Thus, it is the foundation upon which God deals with humanity. Any contradiction is a clear warning sign not to proceed.



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- b) All other methods of discerning the will of God are inferior to the Scripture and must thus be tested by it!
- [This then demands skill in properly handling and interpreting the Bible]
- c) There are three broad but foundational ways of authenticating any apparent claim to God's will; (1) Congruence with Scripture, (2) Assistance by Other Believers, and (3) Observation of a Pattern from Previous Experiences/Guidance/Leading



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Practical Implications

The above understanding raises some serious practical implications for anyone desiring to discern the will of God. Practically, ability to discern the voice of God is conditioned and facilitated by the following;

- a) A transformed heart fully surrendered to God
- b) A life of obedience to Him
- c) Knowledge of His word in the Bible
- d) Commitment to prayer in seeking for God's leading
- e) Fellowship with and accountability to mature believers



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Conclusion: Assurance of a Right Relationship with God as The Fundamental Qualification

Emphasise that God lead's His children--He has uniquely committed Himself to continually provide guidance to those who walk in devotion and obedience to Him

- Does this mean that God does not lead non-believers? Not really. Rather, their lack of spiritual connection with God leaves them to operate in the realm of natural faculties—largely limited to God's general/good will. They lack the deeper experience of being led into God's perfect will. Thus, personal seeking for God's will for a non-believer will obviously be a difficult and uncertain pursuit. Nevertheless, in His unlimited mercy, God does in fact lead unbelievers, particularly as blocks of people, through the agency of His children in His Church.



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Hymn: “Turn your eyes upon Jesus, Look
full in His wonderful face, And the things of
earth will grow strangely dim, In the light
of His glory and grace.....”



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You cannot amend or
change God's will and
expect Him to bless
your substitute



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Group Response Q & A

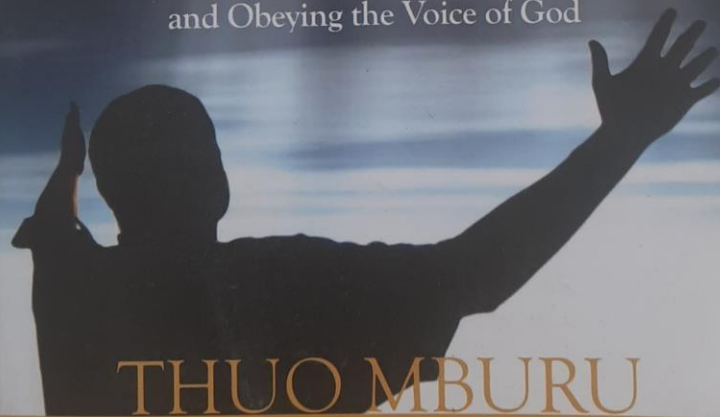


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I HEARD GOD

Real-life Testimonies of Discerning
and Obeying the Voice of God



THUO MBURU
FOREWORD BY JOHN NG'ANG'A



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*Thank
you*



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