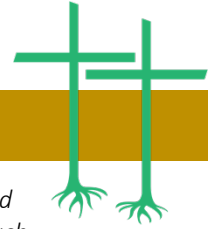


MINISTRY TOOL #4 – FOR MIND RENEWAL

Hearing God & Prophetic Ministry



The Holy Spirit will guide you throughout the ministry session. Knowing how to listen for His voice and apply His guidance will enable you to help people in areas that natural human ability could never reach.

John 10:27 – My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.

EXPLANATION:

Every Christian can hear God’s voice. In fact, according to John 6:44–45, we wouldn’t even be Christians if we hadn’t heard the Father’s voice drawing us to Jesus.

God rarely speaks audibly in a big, booming voice. Most people never hear Him in that way. Rather, He places His Spirit within us and speaks to us in ways that often feel like our own thoughts—feelings, impressions, sensations, dreams, mental pictures, etc.

When God speaks through a believer, He does so to strengthen, encourage, and comfort other believers (see 1 Corinthians 14:3).

Some of these thoughts and impressions are guidance from the Lord, directing the ministry process.

This isn’t an excuse to act super-spiritual. Humility is needed. All prophetic words are to be judged (see 1 Corinthians 14:29 and 1 Thessalonians 5:19–22). For this reason, we need to be especially careful when ministering to someone who is less mature in the Lord (and potentially less discerning). Such people may believe you wholeheartedly, so it’s important to invite them into the discernment process. Ask questions like, “Does that feel right to you?” Or instruct them, “The Bible says to judge prophecies, so don’t just take my word for it. Pray about what I said, and see if God shows you anything. If not, then I may have missed it.”

GOSPEL SUMMARY:

The whole point of the gospel is the reconciliation and uniting of God and humans. As we minister prophetically, we demonstrate what that union looks like while speaking words that invite people into deeper relationship with the Lord.

Real prophetic words remove barriers to intimacy with God and welcome people into His presence. Listen for God to speak things to you about the person’s life, both past and present. He is trying to show them His love and enhance their union.

HOW TO:

- ❑ Throughout the ministry session, listen with your heart for the Lord to guide you.
- ❑ Remain humble, and allow the person to be the expert on their own life.
- ❑ Speak with love, clarity, and compassion, considering how the way you're communicating might be impacting the person.
- ❑ Be especially attentive to pictures that might pass through your mind. This is a common means by which God speaks to us. Ask Him what those pictures mean. If you're still unsure, ask the person if the picture you see means anything to them. If you're still unsure, ask another minister in the room and perhaps press in with prayer a little longer. If all else fails, simply tell the person that sometimes you chase a rabbit trail that wasn't actually anything. Then move on.
- ❑ Sometimes God will play out a scene in your mind. Describe what you see to the person. This may occasionally be God's way of showing the person what He is doing in the invisible realm.
- ❑ Always take time to judge prophetic words with those in the room—both ministers and the ministry recipient.
 - Did that feel like it was from God?
 - Was that consistent with Scripture and God's nature?
 - Did anyone feel like something wasn't right about any part of that word?
 - Does anyone sense a confirmation in their heart that this message was from the Lord?
 - Etc.