

Training Your Ears to Hear

"...he goes before them, and the sheep follow him,
for they know his voice." - John 10:4

2 Questions Every Believer Should Be Able to Answer:

"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 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?" – Gordon T. Smith, *The Voice of Jesus*

KEYS TO RECOGNIZING JESUS' VOICE

1. **Spend time knowing God and _____ by God.**

"For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long." – Psalm 32:3

2. **Be _____ of your struggles, hurts and opportunities.**

"I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate." – Romans 7:15

3. **Practice discernment: _____ and _____.**

"My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will." – Matthew 26:39

Consolation: Movement towards God involving praise, love, and service to God and others. Encourages and facilitates a deep sense of gratitude for God's faithfulness, mercy, and companionship in our life. In consolation, we feel more alive and connected to others.

Desolation: An experience of the soul in heavy darkness or turmoil. Excessive restlessness and anxiety, and feeling cut off from others. Such feelings move one toward lack of faith and leaves one without hope and without love. It is a movement away from God.

Key Question: Where is the movement coming from and where is it leading me?