

Question

What are some of the things that one has to do to get a vital, continuous connection with God?

Answer

Jesus said that we are the branches and He is the Vine. What Jesus is saying is that we are to be in a union with Him that is so close that we take on His characteristics and produce the fruit that He produced while on earth. When He walked the earth, Jesus was the Branch (Isaiah 11:1) and produced the fruit of the Word of God through the anointing of God. (Luke 4:18-19)

Jesus is no longer here on earth physically, but as members of His body on earth we are commanded to continue the work He started. We can accomplish this only through the vital connection that is accessed in the spirit realm. God is Spirit, Jesus is spirit, we must operate in the spirit.

Jesus only becomes real by experiencing His presence through reading the Word and most importantly, time spent in His presence, in praise and worship, and listening to Him. We are to stay connected to the Vine and no amount of study or thought can help us.

Many denominations criticize and downplay the act of praying in other tongues (in the Spirit), but this gift of God that is available to every born again believer is the only way we can get into the deep things of God.

To illustrate, if I were Chinese and you were French, I could learn French through a course and

communicate with you at a certain level, however, I would never fully understand French culture and character. If, however, I went to live in France for a while I would eventually get to understand how the French think and why they think the way they do.

Similarly, I could pray to God in English, and read the printed Word of God, but until I gain access to the realm of the Spirit of God, and communicate with Him in His language (the language of the Spirit) I will not reach my full potential in Him, because I will never fully understand the way He thinks and what He wants from me.

As we pray in the Spirit, meditate on the Word of God and walk in obedience to Him, our union with Him will become stronger as we go from glory to glory.

Question

I know that sometimes God speaks to you in different ways, either directly or through friends, family, even strangers but how can you be absolutely sure that it is Him speaking to you and not something planted from the enemy to divert you. What are some of the things that you look for?

Answer

First of all God only speaks to us through his Spirit to our spirit and by his Word, however he confirms this through His word and sometimes by people.

A part of the answer lies in the response to question 1. Abide in Him, in the Spirit, and we will hear Him so clearly that we will seldom, if ever be diverted by the enemy.

There are however, certain things we should avoid doing as we listen for God's direction.

- 1) You must never, never, never, seek to hear an audible voice. God may choose to speak to someone audibly, but these occasions may be rare in the life of the Christian. We hear God through our spirit. What some call a "hunch" or "gut feeling" is for the Christian a witness in the spirit. Whatever we get in our spirit will be and must be in line with the Word of God.
- 2) Don't "put out a fleece": i.e. don't say to God "if this or that happens then I will know it is You". The devil will deliberately cause it to happen to put you off- track. Gideon put out a fleece because he did not have the indwelling Spirit to help him hear God clearly!
- 3) In order to hear God clearly, you must shut out other voices. If you have spoken to God about a situation and you are waiting to hear God clearly, shut out other voices! Don't go discussing the situation with Tom, Dick and Harry, because your mind will be cluttered with all the feedback from them. Moreover, do not discuss or seek opinions from non-Christians because they do not have the Spirit of God in them and therefore could not possibly get their information from God!
- 4) The answer to everything is in the Word of God. Any answer will and must be in line with God's Word.
- 5) Will the direction you are taking lead you away from God's purpose for you? If so, then that is not the right direction.

