



# RIVERS OF LIVING WATER

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LISTENING TO GOD'S VOICE

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## LISTENING TO GOD'S VOICE

**D**o not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good. (Romans 12:21 NKJV)

The Bible tells us that evil can be overcome with good, but this can only be achieved when we allow ourselves to be led by the Holy Spirit. We need to be careful about allowing the world to influence us. Many times the things of the world or the thinking of the world can lead us astray.

*A prudent man foreseeth the evil, and hideth himself: but the simple pass on, and are punished.* (Proverbs 22:3 KJV)

We need to take this truth to heart, and we need to learn to identify the evil in order to be able to hide ourselves from it, or separate ourselves from it; but once again this can only be achieved when we allow ourselves to be led by the Holy Spirit. When we make decisions without taking the Holy Spirit's guidance into account, we go wrong.

What do we need to do in order to separate ourselves from the evil? We're going to look at three principles which we can find in the Word of God.

**L**earn to listen to God's voice. *My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.* (John 10:27-28 KJV) According to Jesus, who are those who hear His voice? One needs to be a sheep in order to hear God's voice. A sheep is docile and sensitive to his shepherd's call. Jesus is the Good Shepherd; He knows each one of His sheep, but the sheep need to learn to know Him. And not just to know Him, but to follow Him also. In order to be guided by Him, we have to follow Him with absolute trust. What kind of sheep are you? Which voice are you listening to? Who are you following? If you are following religiosity, rules, or the thinking of the world, it is time that you learn to hear the voice of Jesus in order to be able to follow Him and in this manner you can live in victory.

**D**on't stray from the path. *Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.* (John 14:6 KJV) Many are lost because they stray from the path; they get their eyes on men, on religion, on customs and traditions of men; and even on money or success. What are your eyes on?

Remember that Jesus is the only way. If we stray from His path we will fail. An example of straying from the path which God has given can be found in the first book of Kings, chapter 13:

<sup>11</sup> *Now there dwelt an old prophet in Bethel; and his sons came and told him all the works that the man of God had done that day in Bethel: the words which he had spoken unto the king, them they told also to their father.*

***A prudent man  
foreseeth the evil, and  
hideth himself: but  
the simple pass on,  
and are punished.***

<sup>12</sup> *And their father said unto them, What way went he? For his sons had seen what way the man of God went, which came from Judah.*

<sup>13</sup> *And he said unto his sons, Saddle me the ass. So they saddled him the ass: and he rode thereon,*

<sup>14</sup> *And went after the man of God, and found him sitting under an oak: and he said unto him, Art thou the man of God that camest from Judah? And he said, I am.*

<sup>15</sup> *Then he said unto him, Come home with me, and eat bread.*

<sup>16</sup> *And he said, I may not return with thee, nor go in with thee: neither will I eat bread nor drink water with thee in this place:*

<sup>17</sup> *For it was said to me by the word of the LORD, Thou shalt eat no bread nor drink water there, nor turn again to go by the way that thou camest.*

<sup>18</sup> *He said unto him, I am a prophet also as thou art; and an angel spake unto me by the word of the LORD, saying, Bring him back with thee into thine house, that he may eat bread and drink water. But he lied unto him.*

<sup>19</sup> *So he went back with him, and did eat bread in his house, and drank water.*

<sup>20</sup> *And it came to pass, as they sat at the table, that the word of the LORD came unto the prophet that brought him back:*

<sup>21</sup> And he cried unto the man of God that came from Judah, saying, Thus saith the LORD, Forasmuch as thou hast disobeyed the mouth of the LORD, and hast not kept the commandment which the LORD thy God commanded thee,<sup>22</sup> But camest back, and hast eaten bread and drunk water in the place, of the which the Lord did say to thee, Eat no bread, and drink no water; thy carcase shall not come unto the sepulchre of thy fathers.<sup>23</sup> And it came to pass, after he had eaten bread, and after he had drunk, that he saddled for him the ass, to wit, for the prophet whom he had brought back.

<sup>24</sup> And when he was gone, a lion met him by the way, and slew him: and his carcase was cast in the way, and the ass stood by it, the lion also stood by the carcase.<sup>25</sup> And, behold, men passed by, and saw the carcase cast in the way, and the lion standing by the carcase: and they came and told it in the city where the old prophet dwelt.<sup>26</sup> And when the prophet that brought him back from the way heard thereof, he said, It is the man of God, who was disobedient unto the word of the LORD: therefore the LORD hath delivered him unto the lion, which hath torn him, and slain him, according to the word of the LORD, which he spake unto him. (1 Kings 13:11-26 KJV)

God had given this man of God a mission to complete. He was ordered to return by the same route by which he had come; and not to eat anything anywhere. But this man of God allowed himself to be deceived by an old prophet. He returned by another route and he ate with the old prophet, disobeying the orders which God had given him. And what happened as a result of this disobedience? A lion appeared and killed the man of God. The consequence of straying from the path and disobeying God's voice was death. Perhaps at times you and I have strayed from the path, but because of the grace of God through his Beloved Son we have not been consumed. We need to follow the only path, which is Jesus Christ. When we walk in His way we also walk in the truth and the reward for this is Life. Dear brother or sister, don't stray from the path; keep moving straight forward and never go to the left or the right.

**A**llow the Holy Spirit will guide you. *Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.* (John 16:13 KJV) When you are led by the Holy Spirit you don't need to fear failure because the Holy Spirit will never lead you into doing evil. Through Jesus Christ, you and I are sons of God. We have the best possible Father, who cares for us deeply. Like every loving father he will never leave us in the hands of evil. Although he allows us to pass through trials, he never abandons us in our trials and never leaves us on our own. When we are guided by him, we are living as his sons. <sup>14</sup> *For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.* <sup>15</sup> *For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.* <sup>16</sup> *The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:* <sup>17</sup> *And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.* (Romans 8:14-17 KJV)

**I**n conclusion, let me give you an example which a Christian friend gave to me. It's an illustration of listening to God's voice. Before this friend came to Christ, he used to really enjoy going to "ferias" (a type of fair characterized by drinking). On one occasion he went to a feria in the countryside, in which a sport was being played called, "Cut the head off the chicken". This game consisted in burying a live chicken and just leaving its head above the ground. The competitor who was going to try to decapitate the chicken was blindfolded and the crowd would shout to him telling him where the chicken supposedly was so that he could decapitate it. Obviously many people in the crowd would try to confuse him with what they shouted. It was not easy. My friend told me that he made an agreement with another friend that he would call out to him where the chicken was, and my friend would concentrate only in his friend's voice and not those of the crowd. So, once they had blindfolded him he concentrated solely on his friend's voice amidst the shouting and yelling of the crowd. Even though many people shouted to him telling him where the chicken was, he ignored them. He only followed his friend's voice, as his friend called out, "Take 4 steps forward. Now turn to your right. Walk 3 steps forward. Now the chicken is right in front of you, so bend over and swing your machete!". In this way he was able to decapitate the chicken and they won the prize.

The same happens when we listen to the Lord's voice and we obey. We win the prize!



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**Jesus is the Good  
Shepherd; He knows  
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