

Hearing the Spirit: Five Questions to Ask the Lord.

Pastor David Niquette, Christ Center Community Church, Revised August 28,2007

*"Look! I have been standing at the door, and I am constantly knocking.
If anyone hears me calling him and opens the door,
I will come in and fellowship with him and he with me."*

Revelation 3:20 TLB

"He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."

Revelation 3:22 NASB

Five questions to ask in our "table-talk" with Jesus (Rev.3:20). This conversation is facilitated by the Spirit.

1. **WHAT? Lord, what is on Your heart?** What do You want me to know? Talk to me. For example:
 - a. I want to know You better, more intimately, as my Friend, Bridegroom and King. Share Your heart.
 - b. Lead me to become more conformed to Your image, Lord Jesus. Show me Yourself – Your glory.
 - c. Tell me about this critical moment in world history as Your kingdom draws near so I can intercede.
 - d. How do I pray in this situation or challenge facing the Church, and my church in particular?
 - e. I need Your wisdom in facing a hard decision or problem in my personal life, family, or church.
 - f. Show me what You would say or do for this hurting, broken person in front of me right now in this ministry moment. Jesus, like You, I want to do what the Father is doing. **John 5:19; 8:38**
2. **REALLY? Lord, I need to know that this is really You speaking?** So . . .
 - a. Please confirm this impression through Your written Word, the Bible.
 - b. Would You reinforce the strength and clarity of this prompting as I wait on Your Spirit?
 - c. I anticipate that you may use other gifted believers or circumstances to confirm it. Help me to wait.
 - d. And here's the deal: "LORD, IF YOU SPEAK CLEARLY, I WILL OBEY COURAGEOUSLY!"
3. **WHY? Lord, why did you tell me this.** Was it to prompt me to act, or just because I asked?
 - a. Is this a secret – Friend to friend, that is an intimate disclosure for me alone right now?
 - b. Is this a clue – something I am to search out in Scripture, to be clarified over time?
 - c. Is it prophetic – a timely, specific prompting for intercession?
 - d. Is it a directive – Do You want me to take action, such as offering this prompting to others?
4. **WHEN? Lord, if You are directing me to offer this prompting to others, tell me when.**
 - a. Is now the time, and is this the place? An anointed ministry is as much related to timing as to truth.
 - b. If not now, when? I will be prepared and watch for Your open door. I stand patiently ready to obey.
 - c. How much? All or part? Which part of this "word from the Lord" do You want me to share now?
5. **HOW? Lord, how would you guide me to present this truth to others?** Specifically, . . .
 - a. Privately or publicly? Specifically to an individual, or generally to the whole group?
 - b. Gently? If so, I will "*offer and release*" as opposed to "*impose and control*." That means, I will:
 - Ask permission to share,
 - Offer my insight, and
 - Release them to the Holy Spirit's confirmation. 1 Thessalonians 5:20-21
 - c. Directly? If so, I will speak the truth in love boldly, trusting the Spirit to back up my obedience?

NOTES:

1. I must not disrespect other believers' accountability to God alone by "*corrective, directive*" words (OT). In will not insinuate myself between the Lover and the loved, between God and His child.
2. Rather, I will measure my intensions by 1 Corinthians 14:3 NIV. "*But everyone who prophesies speaks to men for their strengthening, encouragement and comfort.*"
3. When I say, "*Lord, if You speak clearly, I will obey courageously.*" I must not rush the first part.

"Call to Me and I will answer you, and I will tell you great and mighty things, which you do not know." Jer. 33:3