Voice Recognition:
How Can You Have the Assurance of Direction in Ministry?

We have all answered our phone and recognised the voice of the person on the other end. That kind of voice recognition is usually the result of frequent phone contact. When have you sought God for direction in ministry and not recognised His voice in response? One of the blessings that God offers every believer is the opportunity to walk and talk with Him. What helps Christians in ministry to have a Holy Spirit-led confidence in order to move forward with clarity of vision?

Ann Pritchard Blaser has led women through Bible Study Fellowship International for thirty years, teaching Scripture classes for women and training leadership groups. Her work now consists of mentoring and advising other women who are teaching and training leaders in Bible Study Fellowship. She is responsible for visiting classes and observing the training and teaching taking place and for giving encouragement and shepherding to the teachers. She is involved in her church through discipling, teaching, and writing training materials. Ann is married to Bill, and they have two children and two grandsons.

Introduction: The great mystery that God would desire to live with His people.

I. The Premise

    A. Romans 12:1-2 "Therefore, I urge you brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God – this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is – His good, pleasing and perfect will."

    B. Biblical direction in a nutshell

II. Romans 12:1

    A. Paul's words are "urging" his readers who are believers, "brothers."

    B. Quote

    C. What does it mean to present/offer one's body?

    D. What does it result in?

    Principle: The believer can only know God's will when he/she is ready to yield to whatever God's will actually is.

    Illustration: My spiritual act of worship

    Quote: Jim Elliott: "God always give his best to those who leave the choice with him."

Discussion questions:

III.   Romans 12:2a

A. Do not conform

B. Be transformed

C. By the renewing of our minds

D. God speaks through His Word

E. Putting ourselves in a place to hear from God.

F. What is a renewed mind?

Principle: The believer will recognize God's will when he/she is transformed by spending time hearing from God.

Illustration: Moses' perspective and privilege.   "A room with a view"

Discussion questions:

IV.   The Other Part of Transformation: Listening in Prayer

A. Changing our minds

B. Confession of Sin

C. Hiding a smoldering disobedience

D. "Whoever has ears, let them hear."

E. The risk of hearing from God

F. Bold prayer – Speak Lord, for your servant is listening."

G. Quote

H. The goal of hearing God's voice

I.   "Diligently listen" Ex 15:26 Quote: Mark Batterson

J. Noah – righteous and blameless

Principle: A believer who wants to know God's will must learn to listen diligently.

Illustration: "Ear medicine"

Discussion questions:

VII. Scriptures - God's good and pleasing will includes more than I thought

A. John 14:15 His will is that His own will obey Him and His commands because we love Him

B. II Cor. 10:5   Our role is to oppose that which opposes the knowledge of God taking captive even our thoughts.

C. Philippians 2:13 – It is God who works in us to will and to act according to His good purpose.

D. I Thessalonians 4:3-7 God's will includes sexual purity and sanctification.

E. James 5:13-16   God calls His own to prayer, praise and confession.

F. I Peter 2:15   God's will includes doing good in order to silence the ignorant talk of foolish men.

G. I Peter 3:17   God's will includes suffering for doing good.

H. I Peter 4:1-11 God's will calls His own to live for His will, clear-minded and self-controlled in order to pray.

Blaise Pascal insight

Principle: God's will is to make us more like Him and that only happens with "more Jesus."

Illustration:

Illustration:

Discussion questions: