



Some Hindrances to Listening to God's Voice

God may show you what is hindering you from listening to His voice, if you ask Him. As you go through the list of hindrances, ask the Holy Spirit to show you what could be hindering you.

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Heb 12:1

The end of all things is near. Therefore be clear-minded and self-controlled so that you can pray. Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. 1 Peter 4:7-8

1. Lack of love for God and others

*“Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?”
Jesus replied: “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’
This is the first and greatest commandment.
And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’”* Matt 22:36-39

If we love God, we will listen to Him, trust Him, and obey Him (John 14:15, 23-24). We may not like each other, but with God’s love, we can & will want the highest good for each other. We need to ask Him to let us see each other through His eyes (1 John 3:11-24; 4:7-12, 16-21).

*My command is this:
Love each other as I have loved you.* John 15:12

2. Unbelief

Many believe with their heads but not with their hearts. There is a blockage between the head and the heart. To believe means to 'be living' what you know is truth.

God has spoken to me through Peter's health. The first time when he almost died was when there was a blockage in the carotid artery between his head and heart. He could have had a stroke, or died, if we didn't get help quickly. God showed me then that there was a blockage between the head and heart of many Christians which could lead to spiritual weakness, and paralysis, where we are no longer effective in the Kingdom of God.

- Your unbelief makes God a liar - many sins come out of unbelief (1 John 5:10).
- It breaks God's heart when His children do not believe and have doubts.
- We fear all kinds of things when unbelief comes in. It brings confusion and anxiety.
- Unbelief can lead to discouragement, disillusionment, disinterest, and apathy.
- Unbelief shuts off intimacy with God.
- Unbelief leads to disobedience.
- Jesus did not do many miracles because of the lack of faith (Matt 13:58).

The most important foundation for our faith is God's character. He is a God of knowledge with limitless power, infinite wisdom, total justice, absolute righteousness, and unfathomable love.

... At Your feet they all bow down and from You receive instruction. Deut 33:3b

In Your unfailing love You will lead the people You have redeemed ... Exodus 15:13a

*I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go;
I will counsel you and watch over you. Psalm 32:8*

*For this God is our God for ever and ever;
He will be our Guide even to the end. Psalm 48:14*

*Whether you turn to the right or to the left,
your ears will hear a voice behind you saying,
'This is the way, walk in it.' Isaiah 30:21*

*... I am the Lord your God who teaches you what is best for you,
who directs you in the way you should go. Isaiah 48:17*

The one who calls you is faithful and He will do it. 1 Thes 5:24

... those who heard did not combine it with faith ... Heb 4:2c; see also Heb 3:7-15; Heb 5:11

3. Disobedience

God is brokenhearted over our unfulfilled destiny, which is a result of disobedience. Hear, and obey God. If your heart attitude is to argue with God, He'll stop speaking with you, until you are ready to listen. In Isaiah 1:18, God invites us to reason with Him.

Sometimes, God may ask us to do something without telling us why. We can trust that He is a good Father.

- A father would stop a child from running across a road with traffic, without giving an explanation at that time.
- As a soldier, you will obey orders. If not, you may die, and others under you. You are told to take a position, but you saw what you thought was a better one nearby. If you disobey the commanding officer, you could be killed, either by enemy, or friendly fire. In Revelation 19, God is calling us to get prepared to be His Bride, and also to be in His army. To be in His army, we must learn obedience.

What was the last thing God said to do? He won't tell you the next thing until you've done the last thing.

Cheerful obedience shows our love for Jesus and brings joy to the heart of the Father - absolute, immediate, unquestioning obedience.

*“If you love me, you will obey me.
... “Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching.
My Father will love them,
and we will come to them
and make our home with them. John 14:15, 23-24*

Absolute & Exact – There are many examples of exact (not partial) obedience in the Bible.

- Moses struck the rock, instead of speaking to it (Numbers 20:7-12)
- Building of the tabernacle (Exodus chapters 35-40)
- Naaman dipped 7 times in the river to be healed (2 Kings 5:9-14)
- Absolute and exact obedience is required in the little things, as well as, the big (Luke 16:10; Luke 19:17)

Immediate - Delayed obedience is disobedience. Obedience respects the time as much as any part of what is required. *‘Today if you hear His voice . . .’* (Psalm 95:7-11).

Unquestioning – Hebrews 11 illustrates faith & obedience in action. For example:

- Noah, *“when warned about things not yet seen, in holy fear built an ark to save his family”*
- Abraham *“when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going”*.
- Abraham *“when God tested him, offered Isaac as a sacrifice.”*
- Moses’ parents *“hid Moses for 3 months after his birth”*
- Jesus, Himself, was obedient to His Father. He was *“obedient to death— even death on a cross”* (Phil 2:8)

*And now, Israel, what does the Lord your God ask of you
but to fear the Lord your God,
to walk in obedience to him,
to love him,
to serve the Lord your God
with all your heart and with all your soul. Deut 10:12*

4. Worry & Anxiety

Worry and anxiety are basically the same thing. Matt 6:25-34 says we are not to worry about life; what we eat, or drink, or wear. Scripture also tells us not to worry about tomorrow. In Phil 4:6, the word “worry” is the same Greek word as “anxious” where it says: *“Do not be anxious about anything ...”*

If anxiety is given place, there is a “faith leak”, and anxiety increases. When we forget who God is, and where He is, that’s when anxiety comes in. In the storm, the disciples forgot who was with them, and they became fearful (Matt 8:23-27; Mark 4:35-41).

Anxiety often interconnects with impatience. It is the result of placing unrealistic expectations on ourselves, and others. Martha was worried and upset that Mary was not reaching her expectations to help her with hospitality and cooking (Luke 10:38-42).

If we have anxiety and stress, we become unfruitful.

*. . . but the worries of this life, the deceitfulness of wealth
and the desires for other things come in and choke the word,
making it unfruitful. Mark 4:19; see also Matt 13:22*

Anxiety begins in our minds (Phil 4:6-7).

Anxiety dulls our senses and causes us to be unprepared when days of despair come upon us.

Anxiety relates to what might, or might not happen, or what we will say in certain situations (Luke 12:11-12; Luke 21:14).

When anxiety comes on us, it activates or creates negative issues and thoughts (Job 3:24-26).

*What I feared has come upon me;
what I dreaded has happened to me. Job 3:25*

5. Underdeveloped Spirit

So often we build up our minds and emotions by what we read, look at, listen to, and think, instead of developing our spirits. If we don't exercise our spirit, we will be led by our minds, and our emotions.

- Deception will easily come in if you don't develop your spirit (Matt 24; 1 Tim 4:1; 2 Tim 3).
- We develop our spirits so we are in tune with the Spirit by:
 - Reading and meditating on God's Word (Joshua 1:8; Psalm 1:1-2; Psalm 119:9-16, 97-105, 129-130; 2 Tim 3:16-17)
 - Obeying the Word
 - Prayer (1 Thes 5:16-19; Luke 18:1; Col 4:2)
 - Communication with God through talking & listening to Him
 - Worship (John 4:23-24; Psalm 100:2; Psalm 104:33-34)
 - Spending time in His presence (Ex 33:13-14)
- We must learn to abide in Him so we can be led by the Spirit and live by the Spirit. As sons and daughters of the King, we should have a lifestyle of being led by the Spirit and abiding in Him (John 15:1-17; Rom 8:14-16; Gal 5:16-26).

*Since we live by the Spirit,
let us keep in step with the Spirit. Gal 5:25*

6. Deafness from Unforgiveness

Forgiveness is a choice; not a feeling. We choose to forgive. Through unforgiveness, your spiritual ears gradually become deaf to the voice of God.

Three areas of forgiveness:

1. Ask God's forgiveness (Prov 28:13; Luke 11:4; Acts 10:43)
2. Forgive others (Matt 6:14-15; 2 Cor 2:5-11; Eph 4:32; Col 3:13)
3. Forgive yourself (by receiving God's forgiveness)

7. Calloused Conscience

We live in a very different world now. Marriage and the family unit are under attack. Our God-given gender identities have been called into question. Increasingly, media bombards us with sounds & images that tout the sinful lifestyles as the norm. We can become easily desensitized to sin if we are not grounded in God's Truth.

If we continue to listen to the world, instead of to God, we will no longer know right from wrong.

- Violating your conscience (1 Peter 3:16-17; Titus 1:15-16)
- Conscience seared and deadened by stubborn, selfishness and habitual sin (Eph 4:17-32; 1 Tim 4:1-2; Is 5:20)
- No longer having the fear of God, which is the hatred for evil (Prov 8:13)
- Compromise in our lifestyle
- Being lukewarm in our relationship with God (Rev 3:15-17)

Like Paul, we can say: *"I strive always to keep my conscience clear before God and man."* (Acts 24:16)

8. Neglect

- Not spending time with the Lord
- Apathy (a lack of interest, or concern)
- Laziness & lethargy (a lack of energy and enthusiasm)

9. Pride

Often people don't look to God because they think they don't need Him. In our culture, our minds or intellect have become a god. What hinders us is an unwillingness to listen to God because we think we don't need Him.

Pride is when you think more highly of your own knowledge than of God's desires and wisdom. Pride reveals itself in a superior attitude, self-exaltation, or a desire to dominate. It also develops a spirit of independence.

*We know that we all possess knowledge.
Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up.
The man who thinks he knows something
does not yet know as he ought to know.
But the man who loves God is known by God. 1 Cor 8:1b-3*

A man can hide his sin, but not his pride. Sooner or later there will come a fall. When pride comes in, God has lifted His grace from individuals and ministries.

Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall. Prov 16:18

Our attitude should be the same as Christ Jesus. He is our model. He made Himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant even though He was the King of kings (Phil 2:5-11).

*The greatest among you will be your servant.
For whoever exalts himself will be humbled
and whoever humbles himself will be exalted. Matt 23:11-12*

God gives grace to the humble but opposes the proud. James 4:4-8

Faith without humility can become presumption (selfishness). Pride says there is no need to inquire of God. One of the most prevalent forms of pride is manifest in the sin of presumption through the lack of seeking God in detail. When we've heard something by the Spirit, it's easy to move ahead of God without seeking Him in the details. We need to continue to seek God for the specifics -- what, when, where, who, and how.

10. Religious spirit

Religion has emphasis on tradition; always about the way that we've done it. Religion is rules taught by man. It is loyalty to religious concepts and practices, rather than being led by the Spirit.

A religious spirit reveals itself through hypocrisy.

*"And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites,
for they love to pray standing in the synagogues
and on the street corners to be seen by men ... Matt 6:5*

It can also be revealed through hierarchy, which is the love of religious power. People with religious spirits project righteousness, but inwardly are filled with anger and resentment. They know the lingo, and know how to project themselves, and act to gain influence in church circles. They perform Christian duties without passion or hunger for God. They desire position and honor in the church, more than honor from God. Their identity is rooted in the Christian lifestyle, instead of rooted in Christ. They know the truth *about* Jesus, but not the way of Jesus. (Matt 23; Mark 7:4-23)

They look at, and judge others by the outward appearance, but God looks at our hearts. They conform to outward holiness, without inward transformation. Religion can put new clothes on man, but Christ puts man in new clothes (1 Sam 16:7; Luke 16:14-15; Psalm 51:6; 2 Tim 3:5; Rom 7:7-25).

With a religious spirit, comes accusation, gossip, striving, arguing, mistrust, and criticism.

The religious spirit is critical of others' walk with God. The closest Christian relationships are based on ministry activities, but they are superficial with God and others. They do not know how to connect heart to heart. It's church-related ministries, or functions, that hold their hearts together.

Some try to earn God's love and salvation. We don't need to serve the Lord to gain His approval. We already have His approval because of the power of the cross. We are His sons and daughters (Eph 2:8-9).

We are created for relationship, not religion. We must keep our eyes on Jesus and live what He taught. And learn from His relationship with His Father. Relationship with God is through love, listening, and trust (John 15:9-17).

11. Idols

What you think about most can become an idol in your life. Idolatry is excessive or blind devotion, admiration, love, or reverence for something or someone.

A believer can be drawn into idolatry when he allows his heart to be stirred with discontentment and looks for satisfaction outside of the relationship with God. He may find temporary satisfaction through people, possessions, performance, or position.

*Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature:
sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed,
which is idolatry. Col 3:5*

Idolatry can look like these:

- We cannot serve both God and money (Matt 6:19-24; Psalm 49:16-20; Luke 16:10-15; Heb 13:5; 1 Tim 6:10; 2 Tim 3:1-5).
- **Prosperity** can make us forget God - we can make the mistake of thinking our happiness is due to our prosperity (Deut 8:10-20; Phil 4:10-13).
- **Family** - listening to family, rather than to God, or loving family more than God (Matt 10:37; Luke 14:25-27).
- **Desire for marital companionship** - The desire for marriage, or companionship, is not wrong by itself. However, it can become an idol when it becomes an obsessive longing that someone else can complete one's life through marriage, or intimate relationship. God's desire for us is to focus on preparing to be His Bride and enjoy the fellowship of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor 7:35; Rev 19:7; 2 Cor 13:14).
- **Covetousness** is a strong desire to have that which belongs to another. It could be position, materialism, gifting, talent, appearance, friendship, someone's wife or husband, etc. It is the opposite to contentment (1 Tim 6:6). People covet God's gifts for selfish or self-serving reasons, not out of love for Jesus and His people. For example, a 'call' from God could be genuine, but sometimes the 'call' becomes more important than the 'Caller'.
- **Desire for recognition**
- **Food**

People who have the mantle of a prophet can become idols - Be careful! (Jer 23:16-22) Test their words to see if they are from God or if they are just 'tickling your ear' (2 Tim 4:3).

Idols of the heart can draw prophetic confirmations - Be careful! God answered Ahab according to the deception and idolatry in his heart. He received the words he wanted to hear but refused the true words of God (Ezekiel 14:2-4).

12. Immorality

Immorality is deliberately violating accepted principles of right and wrong according to God's Word. E.g. adultery, homosexuality, premarital sex, pornography, bestiality, polygamy. (1 Cor 6:13-20; Exodus 20:14; Prov 6:32; Heb 13:4, etc.)

*Flee from sexual immorality.
All other sins a person commits are outside the body,
but whoever sins sexually, sins against their own body.
Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit,
who is in you, whom you have received from God?
You are not your own; you were bought at a price.
Therefore honor God with your bodies. 1 Cor 6:18-20*

Sexual acts aren't just physical, they are also spiritual. Many achieve sexual gratifications to fulfill their flesh, which can lead to ungodly soul ties. Immorality affects the spirit. All emotional ties need to be broken (Psalm 32:1-5; Psalm 103:1-14; Prov 28:13-14; 1 Cor 6:12-20). Premarital sex is idolatry. Repent, and run into the Father's arms for comfort instead.

*There must not be even a hint of sexual immorality
or of any kind of impurity or of greed
because these are improper for God's holy people –
nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking,
which are out of place . . .
Therefore do not be foolish
but understand what the Lord's will is. Eph 5:3,4,15-17*

*You have heard that it was said, 'Do not commit adultery.'
But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has
already committed adultery with her in his heart. Matt 5:27-28*

Out of Esau's lust for food, he sold his inheritance for something to satisfy his flesh.

*See that no one is sexually immoral, or is godless
like Esau, who for a single meal sold
his inheritance rights as the oldest son. Heb 12:16-17*

13. Occult

If you, or your bloodline, have been involved in any of the occult examples below, it needs to be broken off in Jesus name. The satanic influence has to go, in the name of Jesus!

We have that authority in the name of Jesus (Matt 16:19; Matt 18:18-19; Luke 10:18-20).

Some examples of occult influences:

Fortune telling	Palmistry
Psychometry	Techniques of mind expansion
Telepathy	Hallucinogenic or Psychedelic Drugs
Clairvoyance	Hypnotism
Automatic writing	Satanism
Ouija board	Transcendental meditation
Astrology	Yoga
Horoscopes	Witchcraft
Tea leaf reading	Séances
Levitation	Psychics
Astral projection	Masonry
Spiritism	Eastern religions, e.g. Buddhism, Hinduism
Sorceries (Deut 18:10-13; 1 Sam 15:22-25; Is 47:12-15; Dan 2:2; Mal 3:5; Gal 5:19-21; Rev 21:8)	

14. Fear

*There is no fear in love.
But perfect love drives out fear,
because fear has to do with punishment.
The one who fears is not made perfect in love.* 1 John 4:18

*For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear,
but you received the Spirit of sonship.
And by him we cry, "Abba, Father."* Rom 8:15

Our fear could be of:

- what God will say, and what He will ask us to do
- what the future will bring
- death or disease
- poverty, and needs not met
- man (what people will say, or think, about us). See more on the chapter on 'Fear of Man'

Trying to live without God can cause fear, resentment and anxiety. Fear and anxiety are going to increase. Our security must be in God, and what God says (Phil 4:6-7).

The fear of man is being more impressed with man's reaction to your actions than God's reaction to your actions. You can become man pleasers instead of God seekers; desiring the approval of men (1 Sam 15:24; Is 51:7,12-16; John 12:42-43; Acts 4:18-20; 1 Thes 2:4-6; 2 Tim 4:3-4).

The fear of man was one of my biggest hindrances to listening to God's voice; always wondering what others will say, or think, about me. I was concerned about having friends and being accepted.

*The fear of man will prove to be a snare,
But whoever trusts in the Lord is kept safe.* Prov 29:25

When the heart is full of the Spirit of God, and the knowledge of God, the Lord is feared, not man.

15. Busyness

Often 'busyness' is looked upon as being important. We hear people say: "I am so busy!" or "I'm too busy right now!".

Busyness can be a false identity which easily hinders us from listening to God, and to others.

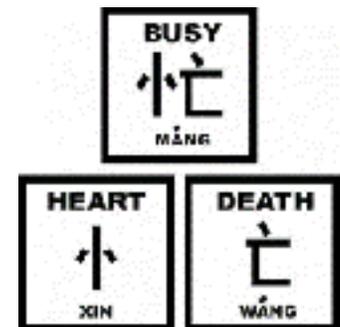
In the Chinese and Japanese languages, the character for busy means 'Heart Dead'!
We give in to distractions, which limit our time with God.

The **work of God** becomes more important than our **walk with God**. We should not only work for God, but also work *with* Him.

It is not wrong to be busy doing our Father's will. However, we should not be too distracted by the tasks themselves, and what we want, rather than what He wants (Haggai 9:5-9).

Mary chose the essential thing; spending time with Jesus.

*She (Martha) had a sister, Mary, who sat before the Master,
hanging on every word he said.
But Martha was pulled away by all she had to do in the kitchen.
Later, she stepped in, interrupting them.
"Master, don't you care that my sister has abandoned the kitchen to me?
Tell her to lend me a hand."
The Master said, "Martha, dear Martha, you're fussing far too much
and getting yourself worked up over nothing.
One thing only is essential, and Mary has chosen it—
it's the main course, and won't be taken from her." Luke 10:38-42 MSG*



Sometimes we need to set boundaries around our use of technology & social media, so we can take time to listen to God, and others. It's all about listening.

Peter and I try to spend one evening a week with our older grandchildren; to eat dinner and play games. We all put our cellphones in a basket. This way we can have fun, fellowship, and listen to each other.

16. Thought Lives and Attitudes

We must be careful what goes in our ears, our eyes, and the attitudes of our hearts. We are only as holy as our thought lives. We must learn to respond, not react. God looks at our hearts (1 Sam 16:7; Phil 4:4-8; Psalm 94:11; Psalm 139:1-4; Prov 15:26, 29; Gal 5:19-21).

Some areas that can creep into our thought lives that could hinder us from listening to God:

- not telling the whole truth, or not being completely honest e.g. exaggeration, embellishment. The enemy tells partial truths (Prov 6:17; Prov 26:28; Prov 19:22; Psalm 34:13; John 8:44)
- 'garbage' in your mind (from what you look at, and listen to)
- critical & judgmental spirit
- self-centeredness
- preconceived ideas
- distractions – to receive and retain revelations, we must get rid of distractions. “*Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.*” (Col 3:2-3) Song of Songs shares with us to “*Capture the little foxes.*”
- prejudice (Acts 10:34,35)
- impatience
 - self-pity
 - anger (Psalm 37:8; Prov 19:19)
 - confusion
 - trying too hard - striving
 - greed (Matt 6:24)
 - covetousness (Rom 13:9)
 - jealousy
 - lust (1 John 2:16; Job 31:1; Prov 6:25)

17. Lack of Honor

It's so important that we learn the culture of honor. When we recognize & acknowledge the position and responsibilities of the people God puts in our lives, we will be able to receive the gift of who they are to us.

We start by **honoring our parents** for who they are. It is one of the ten commandments. God used them to bring us into the world (Ex 20:12; Lev 19:3a; Deut 27:16).

One day I was walking with a girl who is in the DTS and loves Jesus. Her parents are Satan-worshippers. I was able to share with her the difference between obedience and honor. She needs to honor her parents for bringing her into the world. And learn obedience to her Heavenly Father because He loves her and wants the best for her.

You must forgive your parents for any wrongdoing and honor them for who they are.

You cannot change them.

God can work through imperfect parents.

*“Honor your father and mother”—
which is the first commandment with a promise—
“so that it may go well with you
and that you may enjoy long life on the earth.” Eph 6:2-3*

Not honoring your wife can hinder your prayers.

*The same goes for you husbands: Be good husbands to your wives.
Honor them, delight in them.
As women they lack some of your advantages.
But in the new life of God's grace, you're equals.
Treat your wives, then, as equals so your prayers don't run aground. 1 Peter 3:7*

18. Ungratefulness

Everything we have belongs to God. The earth is vibrantly alive with His blessings. So often we focus on the creation, or blessing itself, instead of the Creator and Giver of the blessing.

- The secret to being thankful is learning to see things from His perspective (Eph 5:18b-20).
- It is so easy to murmur, complain, and be anxious, instead of being grateful (Phil 4:4-7; 1 Thes 5:16-18).
- Satan hates it when we express thankfulness to God.

19. Unconfessed Sin

We want to make sure our hearts are pure before God so that nothing will hinder our prayers (Heb 12:1).

Sometimes we need the Holy Spirit to show us things in the past that we've forgotten, or our consciences have become seared. For example, you may be so used to watching movies that don't please God that you no longer think they are wrong. So, you need to let the Holy Spirit show you the heart of the Father, and what hurts Him.

- Repent, make restitution, and receive His forgiveness. Remember, He removes our sins as far as the east is from the west (Psalm 103:11-13). He puts them into the depths of the sea (Micah 7:18-19). After repentance comes refreshing (Acts 3:19).
- Ask the Lord if there is anything in your home that doesn't glorify Him, and burn it, or ask Him to show you what to do with it (Acts 19:18-20).

20. Authority Figures

We may have had authority figures in our lives who did not model the character of God, and the Father heart of God. For example:

- fathers who have been poor models - even abusive models - verbally, emotionally or physically
- absent fathers, or fathers who have not kept their word
- legalistic spiritual leaders

All these have given the wrong concept of who God is, and we need to forgive them.

We have a loving Father and His love is unconditional. God said in Heb 13:5: *"Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you."*

21. Life Experiences

Difficult life experiences can hinder us from listening to God. We need to leave all these at the foot of the Cross. For example:

- Events, from conception on, that caused physical and emotional pain
- Rejection
- Unkind words spoken to you, or about you, that aren't truth, especially as children (Prov 12:18; Prov 18:21; Prov 25:18)
- Feelings and emotions are real but they may not be truth. You must believe truth from God's Word.
- Hurts can become idols when we focus more on the hurts, than on God's forgiveness
- Disappointments in people's actions and words – what they said or didn't say, or what they did or didn't do
- False expectations - Sometimes, we can have higher expectations on people than God does
- Physical pain makes it difficult to listen to God. We need to "hide under His wing," and let others who are listening to God speak words of encouragement. Sometimes I put on worship music and try to enter into His rest.

22. Not Knowing Your Identity in Christ

The “fear of man” can sometimes make us behave or think differently than who God created us to be. God doesn't show favoritism, but He accepts men and women from every nation who fear Him and do what is right (Acts 10:34).

Our identity is so important. We need to know who we are in Christ, and who God created us to be in our gender, and in our cultural identities. From the time we were conceived, He knew all about us, and the plans He had for us (Psalm 139:13-18).

You cannot know who you are until you know who He is, and who He created you to be. You must not believe lies of the enemy that have been spoken to you through others, or your own thoughts.

23. Not Knowing God's Character and Not Believing or Speaking Truth

People are afraid to listen to God because they fear what He may say. This could be due to:

- a lack of knowledge of His character
- a lack of knowledge of His Word; not knowing what God's Word says about who He is (Hosea 4:6; Psalm 62:11-12)
- Not believing truth about who He is, and not speaking the truth about who He is

Leave anything you believe that's contrary to God's character at the cross.

24. Condemnation

Condemnation is like a heavy blanket that weighs over you. You keep wondering if you have done something wrong. When you are condemned, you sense you have to do something more to be loved. The enemy accuses you, and it develops into a spirit of slavery instead of sonship/daughtership. You 'feel' unloved, unworthy, like you are not enough, and not pleasing God.

Condemnation is not of God. It comes from the enemy. If the Holy Spirit isn't showing you something specific, then it's usually lies of the enemy, or your own thinking. There is nothing you can do to make God love you more, or less. He sees your heart and loves you unconditionally. It is unconfessed sin that hinders fellowship and relationship.

*Therefore there is now no condemnation
for those who are in Christ Jesus. Rom 8:1*

*For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear
but you received the Spirit of sonship.
And by Him we cry, 'Abba, Father.'
The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit
that we are God's children. Rom 8:15-16*

We need to learn to recognize the voice of the enemy.

- He **condemns**.
- He **accuses** (Rev 12:10).
- He brings **doubts** - he casts doubt on God's character and His goodness.
- He lies with statements like, "Did God really say?" or "He is withholding the best from you." He places doubts of your purpose here on earth, or doubts of God's will for you, in your mind (Gen 3:1-4).
- The enemy can speak through well-meaning people. He spoke through Peter regarding the will of the Father (Matt 16:23).
- He can cause you to doubt who you are in God's family. Sometimes, even your salvation.
- He brings **confusion** and **wavering** through unbelief which can lead to paralyzing anxiety (James 1:6).
- He brings **fears** - fear of failure, fear of God's rejection, and fear of not being 'good enough'. He causes us to question who we are and draws us into the fear of man. We start listening to the voice of man, rather than the voice of God (Prov 29:25).
- He tries to complicate things, or make them complex, often through religious leaders (2 Tim 2:14-19). Jesus said, unless you *'become like little children, you will never enter the Kingdom of Heaven'* (Matt 18:3-4).

*I am afraid that just as Eve was deceived by the serpent's cunning,
your minds may somehow be led astray
from your sincere and pure devotion to Christ. 2 Cor 11:3-4, see also verses 1&2*

God's ways are so simple that even a child can understand. We enter into His rest - His arms of love - and cease striving.

The enemy tries to isolate us and make us feel alienated. He separates us from one another and says, *"You better not let people see you for who you are or you will be rejected and disliked."*

*But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says:
"God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble."
Submit yourselves, then, to God.
Resist the devil,
and he will flee from you. James 4:6-7*

25. Repentance

If you become aware of any hindrances that keep you from listening to God, repent and ask His forgiveness.

Repentance is:

- admitting guilt and taking responsibility before God,
- confessing sins, not only with our mouths, but also our hearts,
- receiving forgiveness,
- making restitution.

Repentance is also . . .

- . . . a change of **mind** toward the sin
- . . . a change of **heart** toward the sin
- . . . a change of **life** toward the sin

Repentance restores love among us. Change of behavior, and time, restore trust.

Repentance is key in re-establishing fellowship with God. We hear truth from God and the Light exposes the darkness. Then we need to repent of lies we have believed.

Ask the Holy Spirit to convict you of any known, or unknown, sin in your life (Job 13:23; Psalm 19:12-14; Psalm 139:2-24).

We will be judged on our motives and should resist judging another's actions unless we know the intentions of their heart. God alone knows the heart (2 Chron 6:30-31; Matt 7:1-5; James 5:9).

APPLICATION

This is important. I have done this activity with thousands of people in different nations, and all generations.

- Get a blank piece of paper.
- Ask the Lord to take you back to your childhood and walk through your life with you.
- Ask Him to show you if there is anything that is hindering you from listening to Him, from conception on.
- Write it down on your blank piece of paper.
- Repent.
- If the Lord shows you that you need to make restitution, or ask forgiveness, make a commitment to God that you will do that. This could be through a phone call, or written communication, or maybe you have stolen something that needs to be returned.
- Forgive others who have spoken against you - put those words on the paper too.
- Forgive yourself, if you have spoken against others. So that you, too, can receive His forgiveness.
- Ask Him if there is anything in your living place that doesn't glorify Him, or if there's anything that has become an idol in your life. He will show you. What you think about most can become an idol.
- Now write "*Forgiven*" across the paper. Then burn the paper, with any articles that God has shown that you need to destroy (Acts 19:18-20).

I have seen hundreds set free as they burned CDs/DVDs, pictures, stolen articles, clothes from the past which reminded them of their immorality, or when they were involved in crime, wooden or china 'god' that were picked up as souvenirs. We must have no other gods in our homes.

The reason we burn them is to reveal the power of the cross. Once they are burned, you can't take them back. When you ask, and repent to the Lord, your sins are forgiven and forgotten. The enemy can no longer bring them back and accuse you. You are forgiven. Your sins are completely wiped out.

We want our bodies to be the temple of the Holy Spirit, and our homes to be a place where God can rest.

*Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit,
who is in you, whom you have received from God?
You are not your own; you were bought at a price.
Therefore honor God with your bodies. 1 Cor 6:19-20*

*What agreement is there between the temple of God and idols?
For we are the temple of the living God.
As God has said: 'I will live with them and walk among them,
and I will be their God, and they will be my people.'
'Therefore come out from them and be separate, says the Lord.
Touch no unclean thing, and I will receive you.'
'I will be a Father to you,
and you will be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty.' 2 Cor 6:16-18*

Now read these Scriptures, meditate on them, and believe truth.

Psalm 32:1-5	Micah 7:18-19
Psalm 51	Acts 3:19
Psalm 103:8-12	Acts 17:30
Proverbs 28:13	Acts 19:18-20
Isaiah 38:17	Romans 4:7-8
Isaiah 43:25	

We want to replace what we've burned with God's truth.
Ask Him how He will do that. And listen to what He says.