**PRE-MESSAGE:** 7 perks flier…

Bible dec.

Open up to Proverbs 3 and James chapter 1.

* This passage that we’re going to get to in James 1 changed my whole life.
	+ I can confidentially say that I would not be standing here today if it weren’t for the revelation that the Lord gave me through this passage.

My parents started this church when I was 5… So I’ve been around ministry my whole life. I’ve been around all different types of people in different seasons and walks with the Lord. Through the years, this is one of the most commonly asked questions, maybe the most asked question, I’ve heard.

Today I want to talk about…

**How to hear God’s Voice**

The inability or lack of priority to hear God’s voice is one of the biggest limitations on believers today

**Proverbs 3:5-6** “Trust in the Lord with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; **6**In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.”

This says to “lean not on your own understanding”…

* Some of you live your whole life and lean on nothing else but your own understanding.
	+ Every decision you make is based purely on what you think you should do or want to do.

**EXAMPLE:** Two job opportunities…I’ve sent people to pray. They come back with reasons.

Just listen to people talk… You’ll be able to tell who’s directing their steps.

A lot of people make decisions by their own understanding and then blame God when it doesn’t work out.

**EXAMPLE:** My company shut down and I got laid off. I guess God just wanted to teach me a lesson in this… Maybe.

-Or maybe you took this job because it paid more, but God would have told you to take the other one so that you would have been promoted instead of fired.

God doesn’t always tell us to take the path that seems like the worse choice. But He sure does sometimes.

-That’s why you can’t serve God and mammon (money, material things).

Let’s read it one more time…

**Proverbs 3:5-6** “**Trust** in the Lord with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; **6**In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.”

Okay. So we’re supposed to acknowledge the Lord. But how do we hear God’s voice to know what He wants us to do?

Well, there are several ways…

* first and foremost: **Through the word.**

**2 Timothy 3:16-17** “All Scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, **17**that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.”

The scripture is unchanging and unfiltered by your emotions, preferences, ego and etc.

* Another way is: **through other people**

We see all throughout the bible that God will send people to speak to us or give them the words to say.

* Another way is: **through the Holy Spirit**
	+ Which by the way is the same Holy Spirit that speaks through the word and other people
	+ He will speak directly to you.
		- Now I’ve never heard the audible voice of God… I would love to, but I don’t need to believe Him.
	+ He’ll often speak in a couple different ways
		- Inward witness (some people call it)
		- Actual sentences or phrases.

**James 1:5-8 (Read once, then breakdown)** “If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. **6**But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. **7**For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; **8***he is* a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.”

So here’s what I’ve decided in my life…

As long as it **1.** doesn’t go against the word of God… and **2.** Feels good to the people that God that He’s put in my life (since the bible says there’s safety in the multitude of council)… WHEN I ASK GOD FOR WISDOM, I WILL RUN WITH WHAT I HE’S SAYING.

I will not spend my whole life in the boat refusing to step out because I’m always questioning things… Was that my head? How do I know that was God? Etc.

I will believe what the word says in James…

TWO STORIES TO PLUG IN:

**STORY:** I can speak to animals

We need wisdom from the Lord on how to handle situations.

**STORY:** Last night… Had conversation with a young adult guy via text… Conversation looks like this:

**Me**: Hey bro, just checking in… Are you doing okay?

**Him**: Good broo

**Him**: I’m thinking about hoping steroids though

(Optional to share) **Me**: Hahahaha DO NOT DO THAT... BAD CALL.

**Part 2**

What is hindering you from hearing God’s voice?

1. Unforgiveness

2. The heart

3. Pride

4. Noise

5. Sin… Sin will just steal your confidence.