

# 21 QUESTIONS

TO FOCUS YOUR LIFE

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## SEIZE THIS MOMENT!

God moves in cycles and seasons. A new cycle is beginning, and if you try to live this year with last year's mantle or mentality, you will miss the best this New Year holds for you. There is a particular grace available in the window to the New Year, and that grace is on you NOW to hear your Heavenly Father's counsel. There is a promise for you: "He shall prepare your GOING OUT (of the last year) and your COMING IN (to the new)." How you exit this season will determine how you enter the next. Now is the time to prune the tree and make room for fresh growth and initiatives from heaven.

**With that thought in mind, here are the 21 Questions that I promised.** The challenge for some of you will be that you cannot possibly know the answers to all these questions without help in learning the skill of asking, listening, and writing—this is the essence of the grand master skill that more than others, enables me to really hear and process divine impressions. **So if you are not in the habit of asking, listening, and writing what you hear, this will be a new and wonderful experience.**

The practice of *Journaling* implies the dynamic that God is both alive and talking. Doesn't that make sense? Is your faith a living walk with God or a stagnant walk with a strategic plan? Is it an adventure of guidance or a storyline you put together? I've learned that God does not give us all the details, BUT He delights to communicate direction, edification, comfort, warnings and yes—even correction! Most people fail to engage in the dialogue and treat the Lord like the only thing He has to say comes from a chapter and verse in the Bible or a quote from a favorite preacher. **Actually, the most powerful life is the life that combines both diligent planning (based on past guidance) and ongoing direction (based on a continuous dialogue led by the Holy Spirit).**

**YOUR LIFE IS  
ACTUALIZED  
WHEN YOUR  
AUTHENTIC SELF  
CONVERGES WITH  
YOUR PURPOSE.**

This is what I am offering you here—the best of both: preparation for the next season combined with thoughtful reflection and room for a heavenly dialogue.

Let's start with a quick study about how to hear God's voice. One of the exciting tools I learned years ago involves the art of hearing and writing what I am hearing. Some people refer to this as *journaling*.

**Everything we do in the kingdom involves an aspect of faith.** Without faith it is impossible to please God. Therefore the first thing you need to settle is the fact that God really does want to

speak to you! The second concept ties in closely to the first, namely, you can hear God's voice! One verse settles the matter — *"My sheep hear my voice ..."* ( John 10:27).

**If you are a believer, you can hear.** I was once blown away by the comment someone made claiming they could prove that God speaks to everyone, including those who do not know Him. Then they pointed out that every believer was an unbeliever at the moment they heard God's invitation to put their faith in Jesus. That's clearly true. If I could not hear God I never would have gotten saved.

If unbelievers become believers by hearing Him, how much more should those that believe keep on hearing Him now that they know Him?

## 7 SPECIFIC KEYS TO HEARING GOD'S VOICE RIGHT NOW!



**GET A JOURNAL OR NOTEBOOK.** Preferably a new one that is really nice and looks worthy of something special being captured in its pages.




**CHOOSE A QUIET PLACE.** Find a spot where there are no distractions or interruptions— no phones, no people. Early morning or the quiet at the end of the day is often best for this special time with God. Pick a location that inspires you.





**BE STILL.** You cannot approach this conversation in the rush and busyness of the last week. Relax your soul, cease striving in your mind, rest in your body and wait as you do this process. The goal is to hit the “refresh” button on the screen of your mind like you would a computer. Many find their way into the intimacy of Gods holy chambers through the path taken by David of old ... he shifted his focus on the greatness of the One he sought and did so by rehearsing all God's goodness to him and his people in the past. In a very practical way this means that you need to turn your attention from what is not working to what is working anywhere. Inventory all the good that has been given to you.



**COME CORRECTLY.** There is a protocol to entering the presence of any great King. We are admonished to “enter His gates with Thanksgiving in your heart.” Rehearse audibly, perhaps in your own song, all that you are most thankful for at this moment of your life. His pathway into this hoped for dialogue was often paved by song and a variety of instruments he mastered. You may not have an instrument, but here is where the Bible says you can find one—your voice, “*making melody in your hearts to the Lord*” (Colossians 3:16), and turning your gaze and song upward. When you do this, you recalibrate your own state so that it is receptive to His. Some people prefer to play music to support this process. We suggest you use instrumental music to set an atmosphere rather than lyrics, which can distract or even lead your thoughts. The ideal end state is one where your soul can be at peace—still, quieted, and coming from a place of gratitude.

 **KEY #5 LISTEN.** This is perhaps the most important concept—you do not need to expect God’s voice to be thunderous or loud. The Prophet Elijah referred to it as “a still small voice.” When God speaks it is often subtle and its sound is often not so very different from the sound of your own. Recognize that God’s voice most often comes as spontaneous thoughts which light upon your mind—gently, almost quietly engaging the thoughts you are having as if walking along side in a conversation. Picture the image of a dove landing rather than a flash of lightening. This is not to say that God’s communication cannot be dramatic and distinct, but it is to say that in my experience it is often missed or lost because of lack. I did not discern the need to be “still” and heed the “small” sound because my loudness and busyness drove the “still small voice” of the dove away.

 **KEY #6 WATCH.** The Prophet Habakkuk said, “‘I will stand my watch,’ *(this was probably in the evening)* and watch to see what He will say to me...” Then the Lord answered him and said, ‘Write the vision and make it plain on tablets ...’” (Habakkuk 2:1-2). Recognize that God also speaks in impressions, images, pictures and vision. The eyes of your heart are able to see. The art of “seeing” seems to be similar to the secret of “hearing.” Namely, shifting gears from “doing” something in God’s presence to simply “being” in God’s presence. Enter the stillness of the moment without driving the flow of impressions, but “waiting” to “see” and “hear” what your Creator wants to communicate. We can “see what He will say” when we allow images from heaven to come as spontaneous pictures which light upon our minds. These can easily be pushed aside if we dismiss them because they don’t make sense or if we are preoccupied with a multitude of business.

 **KEY #7 WRITE IT DOWN.** Write down the flow of images and thoughts that arise, and do so uncritically, suspending judgment. Forget grammar, forget spelling, and avoid excessive theological evaluation. There will be an opportunity to discern, refine, and sift your answers out later. But at this moment we are exercising faith for God to put something into our fisherman’s net. Jesus taught that the kingdom is like a net that caught all kinds of fish. After it was dragged to shore the fish could be separated into categories, good and bad. So place your pen down on the page and simply start to write the faintest impression.

I have just given you seven keys that will help you hear the voice of the Lord. When you pay attention to what He says and take the time to write it down, you honor His voice. It is critical to your success that you remain in open dialogue with heaven. Never feel that time spent listening or reflecting is wasted or unproductive. On the contrary, this time is where God will download the blueprints for the things He wants to build in your life. The more skilled you become at discerning the voice of the Lord, the more mistakes you will avoid and the more opportunities you will seize. Use these seven keys as you work through the 21 Questions. Don’t try to cover them all at once—take your time. Some questions you will ask yourself. Other questions you will ask God. Take the time to listen to God and to yourself ... and be prepared to see change in your life!







*(If you are Single—use these alternate questions.)*

5. What do you want to tell me about your plans for me in this area of my life?

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6. Write a description of at least ten qualities that describe the kind of person you would like to marry, then recite them as a prayer to the Lord and ask, “Lord, is there anything You know I really need that I am missing here?” Write out whatever He says and add that to your list.

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10. How would you have me nurture my relationship with each of them?

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## YOUR MINISTRY



**So far you have been focusing on the things you sense God wants you to think about regarding His communication with you. Now we will shift to a searching of your own soul.** There are things God has put into your heart that you must begin to embrace, bring forth, and explore. When David's son Solomon came to the age of ruling on the throne of Israel, he was young, yet God visited him in a dream and asked him what he wanted. This is amazing! In doing this God has shown us

that He explores what is in our hearts and works with the desires of our hearts to form a blueprint that incorporates into our journey the unique thing we long to see manifest. It is amazing to consider that God can bring us to the place where our will on earth can be done because it is so compatible with His will in heaven. His plan for our lives incorporates our desires, therefore, "whatsoever **things you desire** when you pray, believe that receive them and you shall have them" (Mark 11:24).

11. Lord, what is the primary ministry You would have me doing at this time? How can I be more effective in this ministry?

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## YOUR WORK

12. Ask yourself—What are the things this past year that I notice I really love to do most? I never tire of the subject. It just energizes me from the moment I wake up till I end the day. I never tire of the beauty or study or experience of this. What is my ultimate passion? (*List what comes to mind—have at least 3 to 5 things.*)



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**13.** What did I do best this year? Maybe I was surprised, but what was I really really good at? What are the top three skills or talents I saw at work this year? What did people usually come to me for? *(Hint—it's either something people seek you out for to tell them, in terms of advice, or something you have a particular skill to do, or a combination of both.)*

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**14.** What really bothered me most about the church, the world, my family or people in general this year? What needs am I motivated to see fixed? What's starting to disturb me more?

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**15.** I'm a year more mature now. What difference do I really want to make in the earth before I leave the planet? What do I want my legacy to be most remembered for?

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**16.** If God came to me like He did to Solomon and told me I could have whatever I wanted, what would the perfect Dream Career for myself look like?

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**17.** Who are the people I want on my team or around me in this work? What are they like? *(Describe their talents, personalities, values, and abilities.)*

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*Now read over what you have written for “your work” and write out a single defining paragraph that pulls it all together in a single powerful passionate career statement beginning with the words ...“Five years from now, in the year 2015 I am living my passion—here is what I am doing!”*

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**18.** What can I do to take concrete action toward this dream? What skills or knowledge do I need? How could I raise my skill and expertise in this area? Who comes closest to doing this?

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**19.** Where can I look to study a model or find a mentor to learn from?

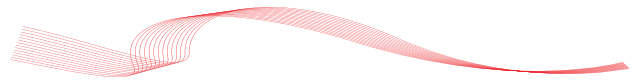
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**NOW...LET'S TURN THIS BACK INTO  
A DIALOGUE WITH GOD ...**



**20.** Lord, as you look at my dream, what are your thoughts? How do You see it?

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21. Lord, what do You want to say about the work I am currently doing. How do You see it and how do You want me to see it?

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## YOUR NEXT STEP! GET THIS AMAZING BONUS MESSAGE!

As an extra powerful resource, I have made the entire message God gave me for 2011 regarding **YOUR ASSIGNED FIELD** available. This message was recorded live on Near Years' night at Morningstar in Charlotte, N.C. The price for this message on MP3 Audio is only \$4.99 (U.S.).

Visit [www.lancelearning.com](http://www.lancelearning.com) to download now!



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