

FOLLOWING GOD'S VOICE

THROUGH LIFE'S TRANSITIONS

With Pastor Oscar



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RESOURCE
EP 16



INTRODUCTION

Pastor Oscar shares his journey from comfortable associate pastor in Montreal to church planter in Vancouver—a move that required leaving security, selling a newly-purchased home, and stepping into the unknown. His story reveals practical principles for hearing God's voice and walking in obedience during seasons of transition.

Three Foundational Keys

1. KNOW THAT GOD SPEAKS TO YOU

It's your inheritance as a believer to hear from God. Approach prayer with confidence, not hope. Start by thanking God that you can hear His voice.

"As a believer, it's our inheritance to hear from the voice from the Lord. When I seek the Lord, I'm like, I know he's going to speak to me."

Scripture foundation: "My sheep know my voice, and the voice of a stranger they will not follow" (John 10:27)

2. FOLLOW WHERE JOY IS

Joy (not happiness) is a compass. In His presence is fullness of joy. Look for where God's presence is—that's where deep, sustaining joy will be, even amid difficulties.

"If you heard from the Lord, look where joy is taking you. Because that means he's there. His presence is there... There has to be an aspect of joy in whatever the next step that God's calling you to."

Important distinction: Difficulties will come (Paul faced prison and shipwrecks), but there should be underlying joy in your calling.

3. BE WILLING AND OBEDIENT

Both qualities matter. Willingness without obedience = good intentions only. Obedience without willingness = legalism. You need both to truly follow God.

"I hear him say very clearly... 'You're supposed to go.' And I said, Lord, send somebody else. But every time I would ask, 'What am I supposed to do?' The response: 'You're supposed to go.'"

HOW GOD SPEAKS:

KEY INSIGHTS

- ▶▶▶ **God speaks differently to different people.** Learn your own spiritual language. Don't compare your experience with others.
- ▶▶▶ **God speaks daily, not just for major decisions.** "There's fresh manna from heaven every single day of our lives." Seek His voice daily.
- ▶▶▶ **Start with consecration.** "If I'm consecrated, I know that I'm doing what you've told me to do. Then I will hear your voice and I will move in that direction."
- ▶▶▶ **God's delays aren't always denials.** The couple who was supposed to plant the Vancouver church kept getting delayed—because God was preparing Pastor Oscar instead.
- ▶▶▶ **Ministry should be enjoyable.** "Why would God call you to something to make you miserable?" If you've lost joy, check your direction.

Life Integration: Family & Ministry

Key principle: Your family and ministry aren't separate—they flow together.

"There's no distinction for us. It's not 'my work,' it's my life. Everything is ministry. Kids are part of it."

Pastor Oscar would minister with his young daughter on his hip. She'd ask "who are these people?" and he'd simply continue praying. God uses all of life, not just the polished moments.

ACTION STEPS

Apply these principles this week:

1. BEGIN WITH THANKSGIVING

Start every prayer time: “Thank You, Lord, that I have the ability to hear Your voice. Thank You that Your sheep know Your voice.” Build confidence in your identity.

2. IDENTIFY YOUR SPIRITUAL LANGUAGE

Journal about times you clearly heard from God. What patterns emerge? Internal voice? Peace? Open doors? Understand how He speaks to you personally.

3. CREATE A JOY INVENTORY

List your current activities and opportunities. Where do you sense God’s presence most? Where is that deep, sustaining joy? This reveals where He’s leading.

4. AUDIT YOUR OBEDIENCE

Has God already spoken about something you haven’t acted on? Write it down. Identify one concrete step to take this week. Remember: both willingness AND obedience.

5. CONSECRATE YOURSELF DAILY

Each morning, commit the day to God. “Lord, I’m Yours today. Show me what You want me to do.” Fresh manna comes daily—seek it daily.

6. PRACTICE INTEGRATED LIVING

Stop compartmentalizing life. Your family time, work, errands—all are sacred. Ask God to help you see His presence in the ordinary.

KEY QUOTES TO REMEMBER

*"Thank you, Lord, that I have the ability to hear Your voice.
Thank you, Lord, that you said in your word that your
sheep know my voice and the voice of a stranger
they will not follow."*

*"In his presence there is fullness of joy. Look where joy
is taking you. Because that means he's there.
His presence is there."*

*"God must speak to you differently than he does to me.
You start learning how God speaks to us and then,
just move in that direction."*

*"Ministry is supposed to be enjoyable. Why would God call
you to something to make you miserable?
I'm not saying there are not difficulties, but there has to
be an aspect of joy."*

*"If you don't see me joyful at church, there's a problem.
There's something going on with me. I'm disconnected.
But there has to be joy."*



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- »»» When was the last time you clearly heard God speak to you? What did that look like?
- »»» Are you currently experiencing joy in what God has called you to? If not, what needs to change?
- »»» Is there something God has already told you to do that you haven't obeyed? What's holding you back?
- »»» How do you typically hear from God? Has He developed a unique spiritual language with you?
- »»» Are there areas of your life you've compartmentalized instead of integrating with your faith?



PRAYER

(From Pastor Oscar)

"Father, thank you that you said in your word: My sheep know my voice and the voice of a stranger they will not follow. Thank you that the Lord is not just a good shepherd to the world, but God is a good Shepherd to them specifically.

I pray right now that they feel your presence in a very real way. May they get more familiar with your voice and your presence. May their ears always be attentive, their eyes always be open to the next thing you have for them. May they be found faithful. In Jesus' name, amen."



THE BOTTOM LINE

God speaks to His children. It's not for super-spiritual people—it's your inheritance. Learn how He speaks to you. Follow where His presence (joy) leads. Be both willing and obedient. Don't separate your "spiritual life" from your everyday life—it's all sacred to God.

Whatever transition you're facing, whatever question you're asking, whatever step you're considering—you serve a good Shepherd who knows His sheep by name. He's speaking.

Are you listening? And are you willing to obey?



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