

Hearing God With Clarity

Sample Book Excerpt:

Sitting as a sixth grader in Children's Church, I allowed my mind to wander. Mom and Dad had elected to remain for the second service because the first service was so good. The person who was teaching at the mic in my class was faithful, but not my favorite teacher. I started thinking that my parents' split-second decision to attend two, back-to-back services was interfering with me being able to see the Abbot and Costello movie that was scheduled for that hour.

Although that comedy team was way before my time, it was a safe, family-friendly pastime my siblings and I regularly enjoyed after the first service. Now we were going to miss it! I was disappointed.

In the midst of my errant thoughts, the voice of a female pierced through my consciousness.

"Did you know you are a mighty woman of God?" the speaker asked.

"Hmmm...I wonder who she's talking to?" I muse to myself. "There are no women here...just us kids who think we are too old for Children's Church now that we are in our first year of middle school."

"Did you know you are a mighty woman of God?" the speaker repeated, this time punctuating her words with the gravity of the weight they carried.

I turned and looked to my right and my left. Then, I looked behind me to the back of the classroom. "Who is she talking to? We are all kids here. Did a woman walk in here?" I asked myself incredulously.

She looked at me. Her eyes penetrated my very soul, and then it dawned on me.

"Oh, my goodness. Why, she's talking to me! She's calling *me*, a 12-year old kid, a woman of God."

She did not break gaze, so I nodded slowly realizing this was a holy moment.

God used a faithful, Children's Church teacher who I did not find particularly exciting to highlight to me that God saw me and had a plan for my life. Yet, this was just a

breadcrumb among many more breadcrumbs to come as I learned to discern the many steps along the way to get me to the desired plan and purpose of God for my life.

Many devoted Christians still wrestle with knowing God's plan for their lives. They catch a glimpse of it, but it often feels hazy—like trying to hold on to something that keeps slipping through their fingers. So the years roll by, and they keep saying, *"I'm waiting on God to show me the way."* But here's the truth: God has been guiding them the whole time. The signals are there—they've just been overlooked.

Too often, people let their own ideas of what God's plan *should* look like block the clear signals the Holy Spirit is sending. Maybe they received a prophetic word as a child and, without even realizing it, added their own spin to it. That's easy to do—because as the Scripture says, "we see through a glass dimly." In plain terms, we don't see the whole picture.

Pastor John Osteen put it this way: *"We don't see things as they are; we see things as we are."* Our perspective is shaped by our experiences, our biases, and our preferences. That's why it takes time, practice, and growing in grace to learn how to resist adding our own interpretation to the glimpse God has given us of the future.

Sometimes our early interpretations of a prophetic word can actually slow us down in God's plan. What we often miss is that His will isn't a one-time download—it's a journey. God leads us step by step, breadcrumb by breadcrumb. And as we faithfully follow those small promptings, we begin to connect the dots and see the bigger picture—the grand design He's been weaving all along.

Think back to those connect-the-dot coloring books we had as kids. The dots weren't laid out in a neat, straight line. They looked scattered, even random. But once you followed the sequence, a clear image appeared. That's how life in God works. His leadings may feel scattered, but they're intentionally connected. Each step depends on the last, training us to lean on Him and to trust the inward witness instead of brushing it aside.

Romans 8:16 reminds us: *"The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God."* None of us heard a booming voice when we were saved. Instead, we had the inner witness—that deep knowing—that we had been brought from darkness into light. If the Spirit could confirm that we belong to God, then surely He can also confirm the path we're meant to walk in His plan for our lives.

Hearing God's voice isn't meant to be complicated. Think about it—if He gave us the assurance of eternal life, then surely He can guide us in the steps we take here on earth.

The challenge isn't that God is silent; it's often our approach. If you come to Him believing His will is hard to find, that's exactly how it will feel. But He's not hiding His plan—it's already set aside for you, waiting to be uncovered.

Pastor Keith Moore once painted the picture like this: *"If the will of God were an acre of grass, and a dime was hidden in that acre, then being in the perfect will of God is you standing right on that dime."*

The tragedy is that so many of God's children are wandering around that acre without ever finding the dime. Some have a vague sense of the plan but no specifics. Others are wandering the city where the acre is located—frustrated, uncertain, and no closer than before. Still more are roaming the region, sensing it's "out there somewhere," but stuck in the same place they were ten years ago. And then there are those who have drifted so far they're wandering the entire country, convinced that hitting the bullseye of God's plan is only for a select few "spiritual elites." But here's the truth: that couldn't be further from reality. God's will isn't reserved for the elite—it's available to every child who will lean in, listen, and follow His leading step by step until they find themselves standing directly on the dime.