

## Ten Spiritual Lessons on How to Recognize God's Voice

Ten spiritual lessons on how to recognize God's voice in discernment are identified in *Is Jesus Calling You To Be A Catholic Priest?* written by Reverend Thomas J. Richter. Understanding these lessons is essential in any discernment process.

1. **You must encounter Christ.** Discovering a vocation is not like solving a complicated puzzle or a mystery. You must enter into the love of Christ. This is done through receiving the sacraments and being committed to prayer. It is Christ that reveals himself, his plan, to you.
2. **Learn to desire what God desires for you.** You do not have to know God's plan for your entire life. When you want what God wants for you, he will take care of the rest.
3. **Trust God.** Jesus said to St. Peter, "Take courage, it is I; do not be afraid." He is saying the same thing to you. Would God lead you down the wrong path?
4. **It takes time.** If you focus on Jesus, he will reveal the next step one day at a time. If you are committed to listening for an answer, you will hear one.
5. **Your peace is found in Jesus.** Where do you experience his presence? Relish it and go back to it often. Thank him for being a part of your life.
6. **Your fear is from the spirit against Christ.** God does not reveal himself to you through fear or anxiety. The spirit against Christ fills you with fear. Even Mary experienced fear in God's presence. "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God" (Luke 1:30). What are you afraid of?
7. **God's will is found in your will when you are in Christ.** A man thinking about a priestly vocation desires a sign from God. Often the sign is closer than you think. It is Christ in your heart.
8. **The will of the spirit against Christ is revealed in fear.** God does not scare a man into any vocation. Only his love leads a man to his true calling. Fear is simply not of God, because with God there is nothing to fear. Fear is often your reaction to what you do not completely understand.
9. **You must stand firm in faith in what you have received from God.** Standing firm in faith is holding on to what Christ has revealed in peace. It is not letting fear be a wedge between you and God's plan.
10. **Jesus speaks to you through the Church.** Simply put, if God lets you know he is choosing you for priestly ministry, he will also inform your bishop. The discernment process is between God, you, and the Church.