

Apprenticeship Prayer Partner Questions

1. Where are you currently seeking God’s direction in your life? Where have you sensed he may be speaking to you?
2. Which of the 7 lenses have you been intentional to ‘look’ through and practically speaking, what has that experience been like for you? Are there any you need to consider further?

Hearing God Practice

Consider an area in your life where you would like to receive further direction from God. Review the questions related to each of the 7 lenses and journal responses in your listening prayer journal.

If you’re not sure where to start, or are not facing a major decision presently, the following are suggestions of the kinds of things you might take time to ask Jesus about this week:

- Next steps in your walk with God (*character, holiness, listening prayer*)
- Healthy marriage/relationship cultivation
- Kids’ extracurricular involvement
- Spiritual growth of kids (*things to pray for or actions to take as parents*)
- Finding an Apprenticeship Prayer Partner
- Engagement with neighbours, co-workers and classmates
- What to do on time off (*weekend or vacation time*)
- Finances (*giving, saving, spending*)
- Fasting, exercise & eating
- Devotional life (*Bible reflection, prayer, other reading*)
- Ministry calling and spiritual gift development
- Ministry/serving involvement
- Scheduling (*amount being done, strategies for greater efficiency and effectiveness*)
- Career path
- Education path



The Practice of Discernment

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The bigger the impact of a decision, the more important it is that we receive confirmation!

7 Lenses Through Which God Brings Confirmation and Clarity*

1. Community

Acts 15:28 NLT
For it seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us...

How does this choice fit with others’ observations of who I am and what God is doing in my life? Am I willing to open up every facet of this decision to a trusted spiritual friend or director for their wisdom and insight?

2. Direction and calling

Ephesians 2:10 NLT
For we are God’s masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.

How does this choice fit with the overall direction and calling of God on my life? Which choice fits the larger patterns of what God is doing in my life that are already in motion?

If I imagine myself on my deathbed, which choice would I wish I had made? Does this choice value what is eternal and permanent, what holds the deepest value, rather than what is temporary and fleeting?

3. Life. Peace. Freedom.

John 10:10 NIV
The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

Philippians 4:7 NLT
Then you will experience God’s peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.

2 Corinthians 3:17 NLT
For the Lord is the Spirit, and wherever the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.

Which choice brings the deepest sense of life, inner peace and freedom? As I consider moving in this particular direction, is there a growing sense of wholeness, authenticity and congruence with who I am in God?

4. Scripture

Psalms 119:5 NLT
Oh, that my actions would consistently reflect your decrees!

Psalms 119:18 NLT
Open my eyes to see the wonderful truths in your instructions.

Psalms 119:29 NLT
Keep me from lying to myself; give me the privilege of knowing your instructions.

Is there a particular Scripture that God is bringing to mind relative to this choice? What is it saying to me?

5. Circumstances & Details

Ephesians 1:17-18 NLT
[I pray] asking God, the glorious Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, to give you spiritual wisdom and insight so that you might grow in your knowledge of God. I pray that your hearts will be flooded with light so that you can understand the confident hope he has given to those he called—his holy people who are his rich and glorious inheritance.

How might God be speaking through the small things, the seemingly coincidental things (things we read, people we speak with, circumstances, subtle details) in a way that confirms or aligns with a particular path?

6. Character Growth & Development

Galatians 5:22-23 NLT
But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things!

What is God doing in my character and spiritual growth, and will this choice continue to nurture this growth? How will this direction nurture the fruit of the Spirit in me—particularly the fruit of love, which is at the heart of our Christian calling and the litmus test for what it means to be truly Christian.

7. Life of Christ

Galatians 2:20 NLT
My old self has been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me. So I live in this earthly body by trusting in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Is this choice consistent with what I know about the mind and heart of Christ and his loving, redemptive purposes in the world? Given the primacy of love and unity in Christ’s teachings and example, what does love call for in this situation?

* Adapted from Ruth Haley Barton’s book, *Pursuing God’s Will Together*, chapter 3.