

## Chapter 4

# Master the Minors

To receive a clear signal, a radio must have a good antenna. In 1935, the famous Waldorf-Astoria hotel in New York City installed an antenna between the two spires on their roof that was so high and so big that it could receive radio programs from Europe.

Now that's a big antenna and you may wish that you could install an antenna on your roof to hear God, but of course it doesn't work like that. However, there are some ways to extend your spiritual antenna so you can hear God more clearly.

When you surrendered your life to Christ; the Holy Spirit moved into your soul. That's part of the process of sanctification. The Holy Spirit doesn't kick you out of your soul. You are still you. In fact; your spirit is the real you. It's the part of you that is now in harmony with God.

Most people have a hard time identifying their soul. More importantly, they have a hard time recognizing the difference between their soul and their subconscious mind. That's the reason you may struggle to know for sure if you've heard an instruction from God in your soul or just a suggestion from your own reasoning.

Think about your conscience for a moment. It's not your soul, but was likely your first experience hearing the voice of God even before you became a follower of Christ.

Let me be clear. A conscience can be manipulated for evil. It's not your soul. I'm just saying that you've already had the experience of hearing God speak to you, but you may have thought of it as your conscience.

Keep in mind that we're trying to learn to recognize the voice of God apart from all the other voices in the cosmos. That's the reason it's so important that you train your conscience. This is basic to living a good life and should be accomplished in childhood, but most adults still struggle with it.

To train your conscience and thereby extend the antenna of your spiritual radio; you need to master three basic disciplines: obey willingly, pray habitually, and learn continually.

### ***Obey Willingly***

A person who never learns to respect authority is a danger to themselves and civilized society. That's why disrespect to parents was a capital crime in Old Testament law<sup>1</sup> and honoring parents is the first commandment with a promise attached.<sup>2</sup>

In the New Testament, first century Christians were taught to submit to the pagan Roman government even though that government often persecuted them.<sup>3</sup> Christian slaves were taught to submit to their masters with sincerity as to Christ.<sup>4</sup> That's some extreme obedience.

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<sup>1</sup> Striking parents – Exodus 21:15 and Cursing parents – Leviticus 20:9

<sup>2</sup> Exodus 20:12 "Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the Lord your God is giving you. (NKJV)

The Bible teaches that you are born with a rebellious spirit that must be brought under control if you're to experience a life directed by God. This part of your development should have been completed by the time you started school.

As a child, did you learn to:

- Obey and honor your parents.
- Respect persons in authority.
- Abide by the law.

If you didn't develop these disciplines as a child and continue to struggle with them as an adult; doesn't it make sense that you'll have a problem listening to and obeying the ultimate authority figure.

If you have issues here; seek to understand why and work to improve.

- Read the Psalms daily and ask God to help you see yourself in the struggles of David.
- Talk with a wise Christian friend or counselor.
- Write a short history of your life and look for unresolved events and circumstances that could still be affecting your attitudes.
- Repent to God for wrong attitudes. If appropriate; apologize to people you've treated wrongly.

This may seem tedious or even unimportant, but don't be deceived. This strikes at the very heart of Satan's rebellion against God. Lucifer became the devil because he refused to obey God.

As followers of Christ, we become God-slaves. 'Slave' may seem like a strong term, but necessary in a society where independence and 'doing it my way' is seen as a God given right.

Yes, you are a 'child' of God, but never forget that Jesus emphasized that you are to be an obedient child.<sup>5</sup>

The New Testament writers saw themselves as slaves to God. Even as they taught the security of being a son or daughter of God; they consistently referred to themselves as 'servants' of Christ.<sup>6</sup>

Meditate on the issue of obedience before you read further. It's quite unlikely that you have no issues here.

## ***Pray Habitually***

There will never be a day when you don't need to pray. So make prayer a habit. The Old Testament tells the stories of some of the greatest men in history. Who would you vote for...

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<sup>3</sup> Romans 13:1

<sup>4</sup> Ephesians 6:5-8

<sup>5</sup> Matthew 21:28-31

<sup>6</sup> Romans 1:1, James 1:1, 2Peter 1:1, Jude 1, Revelation 1:1