

Are you where God wants you to be?

The beginning of the year is a great time for reflection. What's working? What's not working? I started doing church production when I was 11 years old. At that age, I wasn't sure what I would be when I grew up. As I progressed through different production environments, I found myself changing roles. I started out in audio, progressed to audio and lighting and eventually, I gained video knowledge and then utilized all these skills to become a production manager. Depending on the situation, I would morph into the role that was required. At first everything seemed random, but then I realized I was listening to the Holy Spirit.

Once I made this realization, I decided to be intentional about it. I came up with a pattern. I knew that when I got older and started to settle into life, the challenges that naturally spurred me to seek guidance would start to dissolve away. I would gravitate towards what is easy and comfortable. I needed to guard against that and teach my team how to utilize this amazing God-given guidance.

Does this apply to being on a tech team and operating gear? Yes! You can apply this to every decision. Hear what the Holy Spirit is saying to you in everything you do: how you mix, what tech decisions you make, how to converse with your manager, what technical standards and protocols you will set. Most importantly, listen to the Holy Spirit for ideas and unique approaches to problems.

Every year I ask this question, "God, is this where you want me to be?" It's an annual reflection. Inside this question is a pattern. What's the pattern? First, I pause, disconnect and listen. When pondering major questions, find a quiet place, disconnect from all of your devices and listen. This doesn't have to be a weeklong process, but the more time you put into it, the better. Daily is best, but I get it, life happens. Make every effort to do this at least once a week. Annually, set aside at least one or two days to put in more energy and effort. Enter into this time listening with your heart, your ears and

your eyes. Sometimes what I see happening around me speaks to me just as much as what I feel. Reading your Bible is a part of listening to God. Everything happens for a reason. Take, for example, interruptions. I used to get frustrated by interruptions to my quiet time. Then I realized they could be the exact answer I was seeking. Once I was seeking God about our Christmas production. I was frustrated. Things were not going as planned. My stress level was building and I needed direction. In the middle of my quiet time, my son bursts into the room and announces he wants to go get a Christmas tree. This interruption frustrated me and my thoughts went to all the work involved with the tree, decorations and OH THE LIGHTS! My son sensed this. He said it was not about the hard work of putting on the decorations, it was about being with me, his daddy. He didn't even care about what the tree looked like when we finished. He just wanted to spend time with me. That interruption was exactly the perspective I needed for the Christmas Production. God spoke through that little boy and changed my perspective.

Next, use that quiet time to establish a vision. This is a high level God-given guiding light for now and the coming year. Look for words that allow you to lock onto a mission you want to accomplish. You should have many missions throughout the year. All should facilitate the grand vision the Lord has given to you. This doesn't only apply to your spiritual walk, but also to every day needs, work issues, Church challenges and problems. Many times I have run this process and come up with new ideas that helped me.

Finally, I have run this process and come up with two missions and don't know which is best. I've learned that, almost every time, the trying mission, the hard route is the one I need to take. I learn more. I'm tested more. This actually makes the next choice easier to discern.

God gave us a guide. He allows us to have a personal relationship with this guide, the Holy Spirit. He knows our every step now and in the future. Put the Holy Spirit on your schedule. You won't regret it.

