



# Thursday Thought

by Pastor Myron D. Atkinson

## 6-2-16 Hearing Voices

**Verse for the week: Matthew 7:24 (NLT) “Anyone who listens to my teaching and follows it is wise, like a person who builds a house on solid rock.”**

I’m not a big fan of water, bridges, or white water rafting. However, I do get into the water, I drive over bridges (with clenched hands on the steering wheel) and I have gone white water rafting on a few occasions. On one of the rafting trips, I remember listening to the guide giving us instructions. He told us what to do if we fell out and I remembered the story of a friend who fell out and the raft went over him and he almost drowned. Why was I going white water rafting? Oh yeah, because of teenagers who think they are going to live forever and nothing will ever go wrong. Okay, back to the story... the instructor showed us how to paddle and from which side to help us get through the rapids. He then proceeded to tell us that there would be a lot of voices out on the water. There would be people in other rafts talking and other guides giving instructions. In addition to those people, there would also be people talking in our raft. He shared that it would be very important to listen to his instructions and not anyone else.

I’ve thought of that story often and thought of how it’s so easy to be distracted. Sure enough, while we were rafting down the river and things started getting a little rough one of the people in our raft, not the guide, started yelling instructions and the guide had to correct him and remind us to listen only to him. Our world is full of voices telling us what to believe, where to go, what to do, etc. The advice of the world isn’t always correct. In fact, frequently it’s wrong. But the advice that comes from God is wise. **Proverbs 3:6 (MSG)** says, **“Listen for God’s voice in everything you do, everywhere you go; He’s the one who will keep you on track.”** I have found that the best place to go to hear God’s voice isn’t around a crowd of people, but in a quiet place with your Bible. I’ve had people tell me that “God spoke to them” yet it contradicted what the Bible said. God will never contradict Himself, He isn’t fickle (*adjective - changing frequently, especially as regards one’s loyalties, interests, or affection.*)!

**Question to ponder:** Whose advice, instructions, counsel are you listening to? If it contradicts the Bible, it’s not from God.