

John 10:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And a stranger will they not follow, but will flee from him: for they know not the voice of strangers.

Analysis

Sheep flee from strangers because they don't recognize their voice. True believers possess spiritual discernment to recognize false teaching and false shepherds. This distinguishes genuine Christians from mere professors - the regenerate can discern spiritual truth and detect error. The Reformed emphasis on the Spirit's illumination appears here.

Historical Context

Sheep's wariness of unfamiliar voices protected them from thieves. Similarly, believers' spiritual discernment protects them from false teaching - a crucial defense in a world of competing religious claims.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How do you discern true teaching from false?
2. What voices are you tempted to follow that aren't Christ's?
3. How can you develop sharper spiritual discernment?

Interlinear Text

ἀλλοτρίων δὲ οὐκ μὴ ἀκολουθήσωσιν, ἀλλὰ φεύξονται
a stranger **And** **not** ^{G3361} **follow** **but** **will flee**
G245 G1161 G3756 G190 G235 G5343

ἀπ' αὐτοῦ ὅτι οὐκ οἶδασιν τῶν ἀλλοτρίων τὴν φωνήν
from **him** **for** **not** **they know** ^{G3588} **a stranger** ^{G3588} **the voice**
G575 G846 G3754 G3756 G1492 G245 G5456

Additional Cross-References

Revelation 2:2 (Parallel theme): I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars: