

CAN YOU HEAR ME NOW?

GOD WANTS TO TALK TO YOU

Parts 1-3

Jesus: "He who has ears to hear, let him hear!"

LUKE 8:8 (NIV)

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO HEAR GOD?

- IT PROVES I'M IN GOD'S FAMILY

Jesus: "My sheep recognize My voice and follow Me."

JOHN 10:27 (NLT)

- IT PROTECTS ME FROM MISTAKES

"Listen for God's voice in everything you do, and everywhere you go; He's the one who will keep you on track."

PROVERBS 3:6 (MES)

- IT PRODUCES PERSONAL SUCCESS

"I will guide you along the best pathway for your life. I will advise you and watch over you."

PSALM 32:8 (NLT)

PREPARING TO HEAR GOD SPEAK

Parable of the Soils-Luke 8:4-15

1. CULTIVATE AN OPEN MIND

“A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path; it was trampled on, and the birds of the air ate it up.”

LUKE 8:5 (NIV)

“Those along the footpath are the ones who hear, and then the devil comes along and takes away the word from their hearts, so they cannot believe and be saved.”

LUKE 8:12 (NIV)

The hardened soil = A CLOSED MIND

3 CAUSES:

1. FEAR
2. PRIDE
3. BITTERNESS

“Get rid of all the filth and evil in your lives, and humbly accept the message God has planted in your hearts, for it is strong enough to save your soul.”

JAMES 1:21 (NLT)

2. ALLOCATE TIME TO LISTEN

“Other seed fell on shallow soil with underlying rock. This seed began to grow, but soon it withered and died for lack of moisture.”

LUKE 8:6 (NLT)

“The rocky soil represents those who hear the message with joy. But like young plants in such soil, their roots don't go very deep. They believe for a while, but they wilt when the hot winds of testing blow.”

LUKE 8:13 (NLT)

The shallow soil = A SUPERFICIAL MIND

*“Don’t give up the habit of meeting together;
Instead, let us encourage one another.”*

HEBREWS 10:25 (TEV)

3. ELIMINATE THE DISTRACTIONS

“Other seed fell in the weeds; the weeds grew with it and strangled it.”

LUKE 8:7 (MES)

“The seed that fell among weeds stands for those who hear, but as they go on their way, they are choked by life’s worries, riches, and pleasures, and they don’t mature.”

LUKE 8:14 (NIV)

The soil with weeds = A PREOCCUPIED MIND

“...there was the sound of a gentle whisper.”

1 KINGS 19:12 (NLT)

4. COOPERATE WITH WHAT GOD SAYS

“The seeds that fell in good soil stand for those who hear the message and retain it in a good and obedient heart, and they persist until they bear fruit.”

LUKE 8:15 (GN)

The good soil = A WILLING MIND

“...They listen to God’s words and cling to them and steadily spread them to others who also soon believe.”

LUKE 8:15 (LB)

CAN YOU HEAR ME NOW?

HOW GOD TALKS TO YOU

Parts 1-3

"God speaks in different ways, but we don't always recognize His voice."

JOB 33:14 (CEV)

SIX OF THE WAYS GOD SPEAKS

1. GOD SPEAKS THROUGH _____

"Everything in the Scriptures is God's Word. All of it is useful for teaching and helping people and for correcting them and showing them how to live."

2 TIMOTHY 3:16 (CEV)

"Your Word is a lamp to guide me and a light for my path."

PSALMS 119:105 (TEV)

2. GOD SPEAKS THROUGH _____

"Christ gifted some of us to be apostles, prophets, missionaries, pastors, and teachers, so that His people would learn to serve and His body would grow strong."

EPHESIANS 4:11-12 (CEV)

“God in His kindness gave each of us different gifts. If your gift is speaking God’s word, make sure what you say agrees with the faith.”

ROMANS 12:6 (GW)

“We do not speak in words taught by human wisdom, but in words taught by the Spirit, as we explain spiritual truths to those who have the Spirit.”

1 CORINTHIANS 2:13 (TEV)

3. GOD SPEAKS THROUGH _____

“The godly give wise advice to their friends; the wicked lead them astray.

PROVERBS 12:26 (NLT)

“Stupid people always think they are right. Wise people listen to advice.”

PROVERBS 12:15 (TEV)

“Wounds from a friend are better than many kisses from an enemy.”

PROVERBS 27:6 (NLT)

4. GOD SPEAKS THROUGH _____

“The Holy Spirit...will be your teacher and will bring to your mind all I have said to you.”

JOHN 14:26 (PH)

“The Holy Spirit speaks to us deep in our heart and tells us that we are God’s children.”

ROMANS 8:16 (NLT)

“God speaks again and again, in dreams, in visions of the night...as they lie on their beds. He opens their ears in times like that and gives them wisdom and instruction, causing them to change their minds, and keeping them from pride...and from falling into some trap.”

JOB 33:14-17 (LB)

***Always test impressions by the Bible!
God never contradicts what He’s already said.***

5. GOD SPEAKS THROUGH _____

“Sometimes it takes a painful experience to make us change our ways.”

PROVERBS 20:30 (GN)

“The suffering You sent was good for me, for it taught me to pay attention to Your principles.”

PSALMS 119:71 (NLT)

6. GOD SPEAKS THROUGH _____

“Saul prayed to God, but God didn’t answer—neither by dream nor by sign nor by prophet.”

1 SAMUEL 28:6 (MES)

“If God is silent, what’s that to you? If He turns His face away, what can you do about it? But whether silent or hidden, He’s there, ruling.”

JOB 34:29 (MES)

“I want you to trust Me in your times of trouble, so I can rescue you and you can give Me glory.”

PSALMS 50:14 (LB)

CAN YOU HEAR ME NOW?

HOW TO GET GUIDANCE FROM GOD

Parts 1-3

"I will climb up into my watchtower now and wait to see what the Lord will say to me and how He will answer my (question). Then the Lord said to me, 'Write My answer in large, clear letters so that a runner can read it and tell everyone else. But these things I plan won't happen right away. Slowly, steadily, surely, the time approaches when the vision will be fulfilled. If it seems slow, wait patiently, for it will surely take place. It will not be delayed.'"

HABAKKUK 2:1-2 (NLT)

1. _____ : I must desire to do God's will.

"I want to hear what God the Lord says..."

PSALM 85:8 (GW)

"My God, I want to do what You want."

PSALM 40:8 (NCV)

"What I want most of all and at all times is to honor Your laws."

PSALM 119:20 (CEV)

"If you search for God with all your heart and soul, you will find Him."

DEUTERONOMY 4:29 (NLT)

2. _____ : Get alone in a quiet place.

"I will climb up into my watchtower..."

HABAKKUK 2:1 (NLT)

"Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed."

LUKE 5:16 (NIV)

"Find a quiet, secluded place so you won't be tempted to role-play before God. Just be there as simply and honestly as you can manage. The focus will shift from you to God, and you will begin to sense His grace."

MATTHEW 6:6 (MES)

REMEMBER _____

*"Don't worry about what you will eat...or drink...or wear...
Your heavenly Father knows that you need (these things)."*

MATTHEW 6:31-32 (CEV)

3. _____ : Calm your thoughts and emotions.

"...I will wait..."

HABAKKUK 2:1 (NLT)

"...I will station myself..."

(NIV)

"Be still and know that I am God."

PSALM 46:10 (NIV)

• _____

"I wait quietly before God, for my hope is in Him."

PSALM 62:5 (NLT)

• _____

“Be still in the presence of the Lord, and wait patiently for Him to act.”

PSALM 37:7 (NLT)

• _____

“I wait expectantly, trusting God to help, for He has promised.”

PSALM 105:5 (LB)

4. _____: **Let God give you a mental picture.**

“I will look to see what he will say to me...”

HABAKKUK 2:1C (NIV)

“When I tried to figure it out, all I got was a splitting headache until I entered the sanctuary of God. Then I saw the whole picture.”

PSALM 73:16-17 (MES)

Ask God a _____

“If you want to know what God wants you to do, ask Him, and He will gladly tell you, for He is always ready to give a bountiful supply of wisdom to all who ask Him...But when you ask Him, be sure that you really expect Him to tell you...”

JAMES 1:5-6 (LB)

Look _____

“Open my eyes, so that I may see the wonderful truths in Your Word.”

PSALM 119:18 (TEV)

5. _____: **Record the ideas you receive.**

“The Lord gave me this answer, ‘Write down clearly...what I reveal to you...’”

HABAKKUK 2:2 (TEV)

“Write these things down for the future so that people who are not yet born will praise the Lord.”

PSALM 102:18 (NCV)

6. _____: Thank God for speaking to you.

“O Lord, now I have heard Your report, and I worship You in awe...”

HABAKKUK 3:2 (LB)

CAN YOU
HEAR ME
NOW?

HOW TO RECOGNIZE GOD'S VOICE

Parts 1-3

"What you think is the right road may lead to death."

PROVERBS 14:12 (GN)

"Don't believe everything you hear just because someone says it is a message from God; Test it first to see if it really is!"

1 JOHN 4:1 (LB)

Jesus: "Anyone who wants to do God's will can test this teaching and know whether it's from God or whether I'm making it up."

JOHN 7:17 (MSG)

7 WAYS TO TEST AN IMPRESSION

1. DOES IT AGREE _____ ?

"Heaven and earth will pass away but My words will never pass away."

LUKE 21:33 (NIV)

"Truth stands the test of time."

PROVERBS 12:19 (NLT)

“Let God’s curse fall on anyone, including myself, who preaches any other message. Even if an angel comes from heaven and preaches any other message, let him be forever cursed.”

GALATIANS 1:8 (NLT)

2. DOES IT MAKE ME _____ ?

“In your lives you must think and act like Christ Jesus.”

PHILIPPIANS 2:5 (NCV)

“We take every thought captive so that it is obedient to Christ.”

2 CORINTHIANS 10:5 (GW)

“If you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition...such ‘wisdom’ is of the devil. The wisdom that comes from God is pure, peace loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy, impartial and sincere.”

JAMES 3:14-17 (NIV)

3. DOES MY _____ CONFIRM IT?

“God’s intent is that through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known.”

EPHESIANS 3:10 (NIV)

“The wisdom of the righteous can save you.”

PROVERBS 11:9 (GN)

“In the multitude of counselors there is safety.”

PROVERBS 11:14B (KJV)

4. IS IT CONSISTENT WITH _____ ?

“We are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works which God prepared in advance for us to do.”

EPHESIANS 2:10 (NIV)

“God has given each of us the ability to do certain things well...”

ROMANS 12:6 (LB)

5. DOES IT CONCERN _____ ?

*Jesus: "If I want him to remain alive until I return,
what is that to you? You must follow Me."*

JOHN 21:22 (NIV)

*"Who are you to judge someone else's servant?
To his own master he stands or falls. And he will
stand, for the Lord is able to make him stand."*

ROMANS 14:4 (NIV)

*"We will all be judged one day, not by each other's
standards, or even our own, but by the judgment of God...It
is to God alone that we shall have to answer for our actions."*

ROMANS 14:10, 13 (PH)

6. IS IT _____ RATHER THAN _____ ?

CONVICTION (from God) VS. CONDEMNATION (from Satan)

Exposes what's wrong

Attacks your value

"This needs to change"

"You're worthless."

"There is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus.

ROMANS 8:1 (NLT)

*"Those whom I dearly and tenderly love, I tell their
faults and convict and discipline. So be earnest and
repent (changing your mind and attitude)."*

REVELATION 3:19 (AMP)

"Satan is the accuser of believers."

REVELATION 12:10 (NIV)