

LISTENING TO GOD

EXPERIENCE A DEEPER RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD BY LEARNING TO HEAR HIS VOICE

Lesson 1 – God Has Something to Say to You

One of the most important lessons you and I can learn is how to listen to God.

If you are going to develop a relationship with another person, you have to converse with that person in some manner. That means both talking and listening.

Does God really speak to us today?

Hebrew 1:1-2, “God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in times past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds.”

What do you think the writer of Hebrews means when he says that God has “spoken to us by His Son”?

How does God speak to people in the 21st century?

When God speaks, He is speaking to you. Everything in the bible applies to your life in some way. This may be the most important concept we can grasp in learning how to listen to God.

Sometimes He will command you to change certain aspects of your behavior. Sometimes He desires to encourage you so that you might live your life with greater joy and strength. God’s word is for your transformation, it is ALWAYS intended to change you in some way.

Here are some questions I want you to keep in mind as we go through this study.

How would you describe your prayer life? Dull and dry? Intimate and exciting? Somewhere in between?

In what ways could your prayer life be strengthened? What aspects of your prayer life are in good shape?

In what areas have you struggled in attempting to hear God’s voice?

“You may soon find a living man that does not breathe, as a living Christian that does not pray.”

– Matthew Henry

Why does God want to communicate with me personally?

He speaks to us for reasons that are purely His own

He loves us and desires to have a relationship with us.

Psalm 81 is a deeply moving plea from God to His people.

Can you hear the sorrow in God’s voice as He pleads with His people to listen to Him?

According to these verses from Psalm 81, what must God’s people do if they want to hear His voice?

What does God promise to do for His people if they will obey?

God created us for fellowship that we might be in a relationship with Him. He desires to walk and talk with us, just as He did with Adam and Eve.

God has given the Holy Spirit to all believers. The Holy Spirit reveals to us the truth God wants us to hear.

1 Corinthians 2:12, “Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God.”

What is “the spirit of the world”? What sort of things does that spirit teach people?

How is God’s Holy Spirit different from the spirit of the world? What sort of things does He teach?

What are “the things that have been freely given to us by God”?

God desires that we know the mind of God.

For many reasons we may be limited in our understanding of God’s motives and methods.

- We may not have read the entire bible
- We may have cultural differences
- We may not have the maturity in Christ that we need to understand deeper layers of meaning

NONE of these reasons have to be permanent!

We can grow in our understanding by reading more of God’s Word, studying the cultural background of the bible, gaining more maturity in Christ, and learning how to read the bible with spiritual understanding.

John 14:26, “But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.”

What does it mean that the Holy Spirit will “bring to your remembrance” the words of Jesus? What is required of us for Jesus’ words to be brought back to our memory?

Psalms 119:11, “Thy word have I hid in mine heart that I might not sin against thee.”

When have God’s words come suddenly into your mind? How did His words help you in those situations?

The Lord desires that we know the truth about Him.

He is our creator

He is our life

He loves us

Genesis 2:7, “And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.”

In what ways is mankind different from the rest of creation? What privileges does our special status bring?

Before Adam sinned, God spoke with him face to face, what happened to our relationship with God after Adam sinned? How does this affect our relationship in the present day?

2 Corinthians 5:17, "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new."

What does it mean that Christians are a "new creation"?

What "old things" have passed away? How have all things "become new" for Christians? What do these things have to do with prayer?

As we discover more about ourselves, we usually begin to see others in a new light.

We become much more inclined to love others unconditionally.

John 15:17, "These things I command you, that you love one another."

Why did Jesus command his followers to love one another? Why is it necessary to make such a command in the first place?

As we read and hear God's word, we come face-to-face with ourselves, our deficiencies, our errors, and our faults.

If we are truly listening to God we realize that we are not like Jesus, but we have the sincere desire to be more like Him.

Romans 12:2, "And be not conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is good and acceptable and perfect will of God." -

What does it mean to be "conformed to this world?"

How does one renew his mind? Why is this renewal necessary if one is to understand God's will?

How does a renewed mind improve a believer's communication with God? How would a Christian's prayers be hindered if he is "conformed to this world"?

God wants us to have a loving relationship with Him but He also wants us to have loving relationships with others.

He wants this for us so our lives might be more joyful, meaningful and fulfilling.

1 Thessalonians 5:11, "Therefore comfort each other and edify one another."

What does it mean to edify one another?

1 John 4:20-21, "If someone says, "I love God" and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen? And this commandment we have from Him: that he who loves God must love his brother also."

Why is it important to love other people if we want to love God? What is the connection between the two?

What is the connection between loving others and having good communication with God?

How might a lack of love for others hinder your prayers?