

## HEARING GOD : PS TERRY CALKIN

Four questions:

Why doesn't God speak in a loud voice?

Why doesn't he answer us immediately?

Why doesn't God do what we want?

Why is God always late when he answers?

Have you ever asked any of these questions in your mind?

God knows us, he knows that we are very self focused, self concerned.

Is this true, do you think?

He calls us to relate to him by faith.

Habbakuk 2.4 - God wants us to walk in complete reliance on him – in faith – in total dependence on God, not self.

If we are to walk in faith, we need to learn to listen to God. Faith can't be put in a box, we must have faith in God, not in what we think God should do.

James tells us that the prayer of faith heals the sick, but faith isn't a formula, we can't say, "If I do this, then God must do that." Faith is trust in God.

Does God always heal the sick? Some say yes, others say no, what do you say?

If everyone really trusted in God, relationships in every situation would be transformed. In what way?

So how do we learn to listen to God?

### **1.Prayer is a conversation** - Habbakuk 2.20

(That verse doesn't sound much like conversation, what do you think it means?)

Conversation is a two-way process. Often as we pray, we talk too much and don't hear his answer. When God speaks, he doesn't use a loud speaker, we can only hear as we are trusting him. When we listen to his still, small voice, (as Elijah learned to do, 1 Kings 19.12) our life is brought into line with his will. So until we are silent and listen, we won't hear his voice.

### **2.How does God speak?** Habbakuk 2.1

a. *By circumstance* – Revelation 3.8.

Sometimes we have to wait for opportunities, open doors – but always be sure the open door is from God.

b.*By his word* Psalm 119.33-36, 42

If his word shows us the way we should go, we need to know his word. Hebrews 4.12

We need to read it, meditate on it, know it.

c.*By His Spirit* Psalm 143.10

These three line up together and show us the way. The Spirit will never tell us to do anything contrary to God's word.

### **3. Getting to know God** Ephesians 1.17-19

In order to get to know God, we need to have conversation with him, have a really strong relationship with him. Daily devotions are a beginning, but in the end it is daily devotion to **him**, an ongoing devotion that leads to relationship.

Romans 8.11,14 If we walk in the Spirit we will hear him – it's a 24/7 relationship, walking with him, hearing his quiet voice. His Spirit is gentle, and as we walk with him and listen we hear his voice, that's why he doesn't shout.

As we read the Old Testament we see that God does sometimes speak very loudly in warning, through his prophets. Have you ever heard him speak loudly?

Why did Israel go into captivity? Ezekiel 8.6, 9.3, 10.4,18. They had stopped listening to God, were no longer walking with him.

See also Judges 16.20 – what had happened to Samson? Who was he trusting in?

We need a 24/7 conversation with God, listening to him, learning to know how he speaks, learning to hear. How easy is this?  
Remember, prayer is as much listening as speaking.

### **4. Learn to hear correction** Isaiah 30.21

Have you ever heard God direct you which way to go?

We don't always get it right in life. Sanctification/perfection is a lifelong process. Sometimes we could use God's name in conversation with others, to justify our actions - God told me to do it. Have you ever heard this and wondered? Or said it yourself? With what motives?

God used the prophets to tell the Israelites when they were going astray. How can we hear him correct us? Sometimes it is through others, sometimes through his word, but sometimes we don't want to know.

What do you think is the best way to hear his correction?

Finally, always be sure that the three points – Circumstance, God's Word, the Spirit line up in your life when you want to hear his voice, Don't try to help God – you'll just get in the way, and hinder his blessing, as Abraham and Sarah found out.

Tune in to the Spirit 24/7. The most important thing is learning to listen to God, getting to know him. How?

Firstly by giving our lives to him without reservation, wanting only his will, then getting to know him, walking with him, talking and listening to him all day every day.

