

Session 3

How to Listen for God's Voice

- *Habakkuk 2:1-3 I will stand at my guard post*

And station myself on the tower;

And I will keep watch to see what He will say to me,

*And what answer I will give [as His spokesman] when I am
reproved (corrected)*

Then the Lord answered me and said,

"Write the vision

And engrave it plainly on [clay] tablets

So that the one who reads it will run.

"For the vision is yet for the appointed [future] time

It hurries toward the goal [of fulfillment]; it will not fail.

Even though it delays, wait [patiently] for it,

Because it will certainly come; it will not delay.

- God's preferred way to communicate with us.
- What God's voice sounds like when spoke to our heart.
- How to listen for God's voice.
- How to keep a journal of God's messages to you.

Today we are going to discuss how to "listen" for God's voice.

James 1:19 NKJV

*So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear,
slow to speak, slow to wrath.*

James is telling us we need to:

- Listen more
- Talk less
- Control our emotions

The problem isn't that God isn't talking. The problem is we aren't listening, or perhaps don't know how to listen.;

Remember the four ways God wants to communicate with us?

1. The written Word of God (Your Bible)
2. Counsel of spiritual friends and leaders.
3. Circumstances.
4. The inner voice of God to your heart.

For me, I usually hear God's voice clearly when reading and meditating on the Word of God or during my prayer time.

The little book of Habakkuk gives us very clear instructions on how to hear God's voice.

Habakkuk 2:1 I will stand at my guard post

And station myself on the tower;

And I will keep watch to see what He will say to me,

*And what answer I will give [as His spokesman] when I am
reproved (corrected)*

Five Keys to Hearing God's Voice:

1. Meet with the Lord regularly in a special place of prayer

"I will stand my watch". It would appear that Habakkuk had a particular place that he went to pray. He called it his "Guard Post" and indicated that it was in a "tower".

Those words make me think of a scripture: Isaiah 62:6-7

I have set watchmen on your walls, O Jerusalem.

They will never hold their peace day or night.

You who make mention of the LORD, do not keep silent.

*Give Him no rest till He establishes and makes Jerusalem
a praise in the earth."*

2. Look for God to speak to you: "I will watch to see." Think again of the ways God speaks to us and expect Him to communicate His will to you.

3. Listen for the word of the Lord "He will say to me". One of our greatest problems is that we simply do not listen. We come to God with a wish-list and present it to Him and then we say "amen" and leave his presence.

Isaiah can teach us a very valuable lesson: Isaiah 6:1-8

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, and the train of his robe filled the temple. 2. Above it stood seraphim; each one had ix wings; with two he covered his face, with two he covered his feet and with two he flew. 3. And one cried to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of His glory!" 4. And the post of the door were shaken by the voice of him who cried out; and the house was filled with smoke. 6 I said

woe is me, for I am undone because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips for my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of Hosts. Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a live coal which he had taken with the tong from the altar, 7. And he touched my mouth with it and said; "Behold this has touched your lips; your iniquity is taken away, and your sin purged." 8, Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, "Whom shall I send and who will go for Us?" Then I said, Here am I! Send me!"

- *Prayer and worship opened Isaiah's eyes to the presence of the Lord.*
- *Prayer and worship opened Isaiah's eyes to his personal sin.*
- *Prayer and worship cleansed Isaiah and opened his ears to hear God's voice*
- *Prayer and worship caused Isaiah to respond correctly to God.*

We need to learn to wait before the Lord and "listen" for His voice. Listening is a learned behavior. It is easier to talk, but you can't "hear" while you are talking. So learn to make time to "listen" when you are in God's presence.

In our next session we will discuss how to keep a Journal and how to "Wait" for the fulfillment of what God speaks to you.

4. *Keep a journal of things that God speaks "write the vision." We will discuss this important step to hearing and understanding what God is speaking in our next session.*

5. *Wait for God to bring it to pass: "it will surely come".*

Habakkuk not only expected to hear from God, he also expected for the words God spoke to become reality.

Again, we must develop faith through spending time in God's Word and in prayer.