

*Your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, **This is the way, walk in it.**" Whenever you turn to the right hand or whenever you turn to the left. – Isaiah 30:21*

I. PREPARING TO HEAR FROM GOD

- A. What new insights have you gained?
- B. Have you ever had a similar experience?
- C. How do you feel about the material?
- D. In what way do you feel challenged to respond or to act?

II. God Has Something to Say to Us

- A. God's Personal Word
 - 1. Hebrews 1:2
 - 2. How does God speak to people today?
 - 3. How has God spoken to you in the past?
 - 4. John 8:47
 - 5. Why is it important to open God's Word to have a vibrant relationship with Him?
- B. God's Guiding Voice
 - 1. James 1:5
 - 2. When are some times you sought God's wisdom by engaging in His Word? What happened as a result?

3. How had God personally guided you through His Word?

C. God's Comforting Voice

1. Isaiah 26:3
2. How does reading God's Word keep your mind "stayed" on God?
3. How does this result in trusting God . . . and greater peace in your life?

D. God's Purposeful Voice

1. Proverbs 19:21
2. When are some times God has changed your plans?
3. How did He make you aware that He was guiding you in a different direction?

III. Why God Speaks to Us

- Psalm 81:8

- What do God's people do if they want to hear His voice?
- What does God promise to do for His people if they will obey?

A. Comprehending God's Truth

1. John 14:26
2. What does it mean that the Holy Spirit will "bring to your remembrance" the words of Jesus?
3. What is required of you for Jesus' Words to be brought back to your memory?

B. Learning the Truth about God and Ourselves

1. 1 John 4:7
2. How does this verse suggest we are to reflect that love to others?
3. 2 Corinthians 5:17
4. What does it mean to be a "new creation" in Christ?
5. How does the Holy Spirit help us to be "new creatures"?

C. Being Conformed by God's Truth

1. Romans 12:2
2. What does it mean to “be conformed to this world”?
3. How does a renewed mind improve a believer's communication with God?
4. How would your prayers be hindered if you are “conformed to the world”?

D. Communicating God's Truth to Others

1. 1 Thessalonians 5:11
2. What does it mean to edify one another?
3. How might you improve another person's communication and relationship with God by edifying him or her?

4. 1 John 4:20
5. Why is it important to love other people if you truly want to love God?
6. How might a lack of love for others hinder your individual prayers and communications with God?

IV. How God has Spoken

A. Ways God Does Not Speak to People

1. Psalm 19:1
2. The Bible shows that nature speaks of God, but how is this far different from believing that God speaks through nature personally to you?
3. Leviticus 19:31
4. What is the danger in trying to hear God through means such as tarot cards, mediums, and other practices associated with the occult?

B. God Speaks through Direct Revelation and Visions

1. 2 Samuel 3:10
2. What does Samuel's response say about how we should respond when we hear God's voice?
3. Acts 10:19-20
4. How did Peter know the vision he received was from God?
5. How did the Holy Spirit confirm the vision to him?

C. God Speaks through the Written Word and Prophets

1. Isaiah 40:8
2. What does this verse say about your ability to always and continually rely on the Bible as the source of God's direction for your life?

D. God Speaks through Circumstances and Angelic Messengers

1. Hebrews 2:3-4
2. According to these verses, what is God's purpose in sometimes using "signs and wonders"?

3. Hebrews 1:14
4. According to this verse what is the role of angels?

E. God Speaks through Jesus and the Holy Spirit

1. John 1:14
2. In what sense is Jesus the incarnation of God's Word? What are the implications of this truth?
3. John 14: 16-18
4. How did Jesus describe the work of the Holy Spirit?
5. Why is it significant that the Holy Spirit – which the world cannot receive – dwells within the believers?

PRAYERS

God Has Something To Say

God, thank You that You speak to us today. We praise and bless You for being so gracious, loving, kind, and willing to hear us. Today, I pray for those who have never received Christ, and never listened for Your voice. We pray the Holy Spirit would speak to their hearts the simple truth of the gospel, and they would be aware of Your presence in a real way. In Your name I pray, Amen.

Why God Speaks to Us

Father, thank You for Your lovingkindness and Your tender mercy toward us. How often I must have had the wrong impression about You because I didn't understand the ways You speak to us today – because I saw You only as others taught me to see You. I pray the Holy Spirit will use this message to stir up, motivate, cleanse, and cultivate my life. Use it, Father, to compel me to continue to see You each day and listen for Your gentle voice.

How God Has Spoken

Lord, I choose to listen for Your voice and hear from You – the God of the Bible. Thank You for showing me the many ways You have spoken to Your followers in the past . . . and still continue to speak to us today. I see that You are my loving Father, intimate friend, patient teacher, gentle guide, generous provider, faithful supporter, and understanding counselor. Help me to ever listen for Your voice, comprehend what You are saying, and follow Your direction.