

Hearing from God

We Can Hear From God

Is it possible to come to God like an inquisitive child?

- Mark 10:13-16 – Jesus encouraged the children to come to Him.
- Matt 18:1-5 – Be like little children... (inquisitive, trusting...)
- Gal 4:6-7 – We call God our Father because Jesus lives in us. We are His child.

Does God answer our questions?

- Jer 29:12-13 – when we seek Him with all our hearts, He will listen.
- 2 Chron 7:14 – when we humble ourselves and repent from sin, He will listen.

Can we trust that we are hearing from God?

- John 10:1-5 – God's people will hear His voice.

Steps in Hearing from God

Ask God questions, expecting that He wants to give you answers.

Test the answer. Then accept or reject the answer after careful testing.

To analyze an answer from God:

Is it Biblical? (We need to know His Word.) Think of a verse. Look for one.

(Memorize God's Word. Put it in your mind to get rid of the negative.)

Does the Holy Spirit give you peace?

Do other believers agree that it is from God? Ask a mentor/friend.

If you accept it, will it make a positive difference in your life? How?

Accept the Answer?:

Thank God

Believe God

Act on it – God wants me to....

I will tell _____ to hold me accountable.

Reject the Answer?:

Ask God where it came from

Ask God what He wants you to do about it

Analyze the answer

"Be still and know that I am God." – Ps 46:10

Practical Application #1:

Ask God: What do you want me to be thankful for today? Why?

(Apply 'Steps in Hearing from God' above)

Practical Application #2:

Ask God: What do you see when you look at me? Why?

(Apply 'Steps in Hearing from God' above)

We Hear From God Through Nature

Where does God reveal himself universally?

- Ps 19:1-6 – The heavens declare the glory of God

What does God reveal about himself in nature?

- Romans 1:18-20 – His invisible qualities, eternal power, divine nature

What should be humanity's response?

- Job 42:1-6 – We acknowledge God's superiority and bow down under his sovereignty. Job questions God but didn't curse Him. When God is silent, wait and read His Word.

How does God use nature to send us messages?

- Matt 6:19-33 – His care for nature should secure our confidence and trust in his care for us.

- Ps 1 – He compares aspects of nature to how we should live.

How do we test whether a message is from God?

- Does it align with Scripture?

- Does it cause you to obey him? Bring him glory? (Westminster Catechism – The chief end of man is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever.) God sent Jesus to bring Him glory. It's all about Him.

- Does it confirm what he has already been telling you through the Spirit or other people?

Practical Application #1:

Get into groups of 2 or 3.

Choose one of the following passages.

a. Exodus 12:1-13; 1 Cor 5:1-8

b. Psalm 23

c. Luke 6:46-49

d. Eph 6:10-18

e. Rev 1:9-20

(Referenced: "Invited" by Laurie Marten)

- Read through the passage in its entirety.

- Reread the passage looking for how God uses physical objects to represent something spiritual.

- Reread the passage looking for everything you learn about God.

- What could God be telling you about yourself? Ask Him.
(Apply 'Steps in Hearing from God' to test what you hear.)

He is our Guide and Protector – powerful Creator and He made and equips me.

Practical Application #2:

- Take a walk outside by yourself or position yourself so that you can look around you.
- Ask God to open your eyes to a specific object around you.
- Ask God to speak to you through what you are seeing. Write down what you hear.
- Ask God to tell you why he wants you to hear this right now. Write down what you hear.
- Ask God what he wants you to do with what you have heard from him. Write down what you hear.
- Test it.

Do you suffer with guilt? Is it specific? It's more likely to be from God. Is it personal ("You are terrible.") Then that's Satan.

We Hear From God through Others

Why did God create humanity?

- Romans 5:6-11 – God created us for relationship with him.

What does relationship look like?

- Matt 22:37-40 – It begins with loving God and then loving each other.

How are the two linked?

- 1 John 4:7-12

What does this love look like?

- John 13:34 – A new command I give you: love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.
- Romans 12:10 – Be devoted to one another in love. Honour one another above yourselves.
- Romans 14:13 – Therefore let us stop passing judgment on one another.
- Romans 14:19 – So let us do all we can to live in peace. And let us work hard to build each other up.
- Romans 15:7 – Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you in order to bring praise to God.
- Ephesians 4:32 – Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgive each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.
- 1 Thess 4:18 – Therefore encourage and reassure one another with these words.
- 1 Thess 5:11 – Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.
- 1 Thess 5:13 – Be at peace with one another.

- Heb 10:24 – Let us think of ways to stir up/ encourage one another to acts of love and good works.

Why is it possible to love others like this?

- Because of God's love for us.

Practical Application #1:

Get together with a partner.

Write your partner's name here:

Ask God what he likes about your partner. Why?

Ask God what gift he would like to give to your partner. Why?

Ask God what your partner needs to know about God today. Why?

Take turns sharing what you heard from God for your partner.

Exchange papers so you can keep the copy with your partner's answers for you.

End by thanking God for speaking through you today.

Ask God questions about your husband and kids. Asking why gives us purpose.

God – me

God – created order

God – others

God – His Word

We Hear From God Through His Word

What is the most sure way that God speaks?

- 2 Timothy 3:16-17 – All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

List some ways of getting to know God's Word

- read and journal
- pray through it
- memorize it
- sing it

Reflective Reading

- Read the passage prayerfully
- Read the passage looking for a word or phrase that grabs your attention
- Read the passage looking for a word or phrase which is for you today?
- Read the passage looking for God's invitation.
- Ask God how He wants you to respond to His invitation.

Jer 29:10-14 NLT:

10 This is what the Lord says: "You will be in Babylon for seventy years. But then I will come and do for you all the good things I have promised, and I will bring you home again. 11 For I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope. 12 In those days when you pray, I will listen. 13 If you look for me wholeheartedly, you will find me. 14 I will be found by you," says the Lord. "I will end your captivity and restore your fortunes. I will gather you out of the nations where I sent you and will bring you home again to your own land."

Reflective Reading of Jer 29:10-14

Read the passage.

Read the passage looking for a word or phrase that grabs your attention. Underline it and record it below.

Read the passage looking for a word or phrase which is for you today. Draw a box around it and record it below.

Read the passage looking for God's invitation. Draw a circle around it and record it below.

Ask God how He wants you to respond to His invitation. Pray expecting to be loved. Record what you hear below.

Then test it using the criteria previously mentioned.

Worship God, thanking him for being so personal.

What did you learn about God today?

God – has plans for us, listens to us. He will do what He says. He restores and rescues us.

- Heb 13:20-21

(See Next Page for Questions to Ask God)

Questions to Ask God

What do you want me to be thankful for today?
Who are you God?
What characteristic of yours do I need to remember today?
What promise do you want to give me today?
What gift do you want to give me today?
What game do you want to play with me today? Why?
How do you see me today?
What do you like about me today? Why?
What does my heart look like?
What gift can I offer you today?
What do you think about the TV/movies I watch?
What do you think about what I read?
What do you think about what I say? My language?
What do you think about my parenting?
What do you think about the way I am towards my husband?
What burden am I carrying that you want me to give to you today?
What fears do I have that are holding me back?
What lie do I believe about myself?
Who do you want me to pray for today? What should I say?
Who can I encourage today? How?

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Does the Holy Spirit give you peace?
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Accept the Answer?:

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Believe God
Act on it – God wants me to....
I will tell _____ to hold me accountable.

Reject the Answer?:

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Ask God what He wants you to do about it
Analyze the answer

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(Source: Bev Peters - Feb 2011, Stillwood Retreat)