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HEARING GOD

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1. God wants to talk to us.

A. There are three reasons why it's important to hear God's voice:

- I. It shows that you are _____ of God's family. John 10:27.
- II. It _____ you from mistakes. Proverbs 3:5-6
- III. It _____ personal results. Psalm 32:8.
 - a. produces
 - b. protects
 - c. part
 - d. nothing

B. How to prepare to hear God's voice. If you want to hear God's voice:

- I. _____ an open mind. Luke 8:5
- II. _____ time to listen. Luke 8:6, 13
- III. _____ your mind. Luke 8:14
- IV. _____ with what He says. Luke 8:15.
 - a. clear
 - b. cooperate
 - c. cultivate
 - d. capture

2. Common ways that God speaks to us:

A. God speaks to us through the Bible. Job 33:14,

- I. Some things God doesn't need to _____ to us because He has already _____ them to us through the bible. 2 Timothy 3:16,17
- II. _____ taints our life that we can't determine if we are coming or going. 2 Corinthians 4:4.
- III. God's word is like a flashlight that shows us just what lies _____, it doesn't show us two or three miles ahead. Psalm 119:105
 - a. communicate
 - b. communicated
 - c. ahead
 - d. sin

B. God speaks to us is through God's friends and family

- I. We often _____ those around us because we know their faults. Proverbs 12:26.
- II. We all have _____ spots. This is why small groups are so important. Proverbs 12:15. Proverbs 27:6.
 - a. hope
 - b. overlook
 - c. blind

"Where lives are changed, hurts are healed, hope is restored, and Jesus is Lord!"

- C. God speaks to us is through impressions or ideas from the Holy Spirit.
 - I. A _____ is a thought, suggestion, impression, notion, or inspiration that the Holy Spirit puts in our minds. John 14:26. Romans 8:16.
 - II. Caution; impressions don't just come from _____, impressions come from all different _____.
 - a. God b. prompting c. sources

- D. God speaks to us is through pain.
 - I. God cannot have anything to do with pain that is caused by sin, so any pain that is the result of sin did not _____ with God. Proverbs 20:30.
 - II. Pain causes us to _____. Psalm 119:71.
 - III. Pain is like a spiritual _____ aid.
 - a. hearing b. originate c. change

- E. God speaks to us through silence. 1 Samuel 26.
 - I. Nobody knows the future except for God. Anyone who tells you that they know the future is flat out lying.
 - II. Two things to do when God is silent:
 - i. Remember that God is in _____
 - ii. _____ him. Psalm 50:14
 - a. Trust b. control

3. How to get guidance from God. Points that serve as a framework for us to better hear God speaking in our own life.

- A. You have to _____ or _____ to hear God's voice in our life
 - I. You have put forth _____ to prepare ourselves to receive God's voice in our life.
 - a. effort b. steps c. develop
 - II. You will never _____ God speaking to you unless you want to hear from him. Psalm 85; Psalm 40; Psalm 119; Deuteronomy 4:29.
 - a. hear b. run

- B. You have to _____. Matthew 6:6. Matthew 6:31-32.
 - a. withdraw b. look c. Wait.

 - I. Satan _____ us to hear from God so the minute we decide to set aside time with him he will do two things:
 - i. He will _____ us.
 - ii. He zaps our conscience with _____.
 - a. doesn't b. want c. watch d. distract e. guilt

- C. God sometimes speaks by putting a mental picture in our head. He gives us an image or a picture.
 - I. First, ask God. James 1:5.
 - II. Secondly, be specific.
 - III. Thirdly, expect an answer.

- D. Write or record the ideas that you receive. Write down clearly what God reveals to you. Habakkuk 2:2

E. Worship. Psalms 106:1

4. Ways that we can test whether something is from God or not: Proverbs 14:12. 1 John 4:1. John 7:17, 18

A. Does it agree with the Bible?

- I. God will never contradict his word. Luke 21:33. Proverbs 12:19. Galatians 1:8.
- II. If you want to test something, first put it up against the Bible.

B. Does it make me more like Christ?

- I. This thought, if I follow through on it, will it make me more like Christ? Jesus is the standard for our behavior and action in life. Philippians 2:5.
- II. God will not put an idea in our head that would lead us in an opposite direction; than to grow into the likeness of his son. 2 Corinthians 10:5. James 3:14-16.
- III. If the thought or impression in your head has angry feelings or jealousy or envy or selfishness, it's not from God. James 3:17.

C. To test an idea is to ask does it concern my responsibility

- I. God has given each of us certain things that we will be held accountable for.
- II. We are accountable for _____ John 21
 - a. Ourselves
 - b. eating
 - c. sleeping

D. To test an impression is to ask; does my church family confirm it?

- I. God created the church for this purpose. Ephesians 3:10.
- II. If the impression or idea you've got is really from God then other mature believers will confirm it. Proverbs 11:9.
- III. Two reasons people mess up in life:
 - a. Some have no spiritually mature friends they can rely on.
 - b. Some do have spiritually mature friends, but they don't listen to them. Proverbs 11:14.