

Session #3: Preparing Our Heart & Mind To Hear God!

1 Samuel 3:1;9–10 (NLT) *The LORD Speaks to Samuel* Meanwhile, the boy Samuel served the LORD by assisting Eli. Now in those days messages from the LORD were very rare, and visions were quite uncommon.

⁹So he said to Samuel, “Go and lie down again, and if someone calls again, say, ‘Speak, LORD, your servant is listening.’ ” So Samuel went back to bed. ¹⁰And the LORD came and called as before, “Samuel! Samuel!” And Samuel replied, “Speak, your servant is listening.”

3 Foundational Scriptures For Our Message

John 16:13–15 (NLT) ¹³When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own but will tell you what he has heard. He will tell you about the future. ¹⁴He will bring me glory by telling you whatever he receives from me. ¹⁵All that belongs to the Father is mine; this is why I said, ‘The Spirit will tell you whatever he receives from me.’

Romans 8:14 (NLT) ¹⁴For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God.

Hebrews 10:19–22 (NLT) *A Call to Persevere*

¹⁹And so, dear brothers and sisters, we can boldly enter heaven’s Most Holy Place because of the blood of Jesus. ²⁰By his death, Jesus opened a new and life-giving way through the curtain into the Most Holy Place. ²¹And since we have a great High Priest who rules over God’s house, ²²let us go right into the presence of God with sincere hearts fully trusting him. For our guilty consciences have been sprinkled with Christ’s blood to make us clean, and our bodies have been washed with pure water.

Motivation For This Word:

- A. Listen closely to God! He is speaking to you!
- B. When sincere Christians walk in the confident certainty that they hear God’s voice and obey His will, they experience deep peace because their lives are truly led by Him.

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(Next Week – Precisely How God Speaks To You!)

First, To Really Hear All God Wants To Share, We Must Be A Child of God:

John 8:47 (NLT) ⁴⁷ Anyone who belongs to God listens gladly to the words of God. But you don't listen because you don't belong to God

John 10:26–27 (NLT) ²⁶ But you don't believe me because you are not my sheep. ²⁷ My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.

1 Corinthians 2:13–14 (NLT) ¹³ When we tell you these things, we do not use words that come from human wisdom. Instead, we speak words given to us by the Spirit, using the Spirit's words to explain spiritual truths. ¹⁴ But people who aren't spiritual can't receive these truths from God's Spirit. It all sounds foolish to them and they can't understand it, for only those who are spiritual can understand what the Spirit means.

How To Become a Child of God

John 3:3 (NLT) ³ Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, unless you are born again, you cannot see the Kingdom of God."

John 3:6 (NLT) ⁶ Humans can reproduce only human life, but the Holy Spirit gives birth to spiritual life. **John 3:16 (NLT)** ¹⁶ "For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.

Salvation Prayer

"Lord Jesus, I know I am a sinner and need Your forgiveness.

I believe that You died on the cross for my sins and rose from the dead.

Right now, I turn from my sins and trust You as my Savior and Lord.

Take control of my life and help me to live for You. In Jesus' name, Amen."

In Preparing To Hear God We: _____

1. Seek His Will

John 5:30 (NLT) ³⁰ I can do nothing on my own. I judge as God tells me. Therefore, my judgment is just, because I carry out the will of the one who sent me, not my own will.

Proverbs 3:5–6 (NLT) ⁵ Trust in the LORD with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. ⁶ Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take.

2. Expect To Hear

Psalms 32:8 (NASB95) I will instruct you and teach you in the way which you should go; I will counsel you with My eye upon you.

1 John 5:14–15 (NLT) ¹⁴ And we are confident that he hears us whenever we ask for anything that pleases him.

¹⁵ And since we know he hears us when we make our requests, we also know that he will give us what we ask

for. (--- if you are asking to hear God, won't He answer, and shouldn't you expect Him to guide you?) **Mark 4:24–25 (NLT)** ²⁴ Then he added, “Pay close attention to what you hear. The closer you listen, the more understanding you will be given—and you will receive even more. ²⁵ To those who listen to my teaching, more understanding will be given. But for those who are not listening, even what little understanding they have will be taken away from them.”

3. Yield Some Time

Luke 5:15–16 (NLT) ¹⁵ But despite Jesus’ instructions, the report of his power spread even faster, and vast crowds came to hear him preach and to be healed of their diseases. ¹⁶ But Jesus often withdrew to the wilderness for prayer.

Matthew 6:6 (NLT) ⁶ But when you pray, go away by yourself, shut the door behind you, and pray to your Father in private. Then your Father, who sees everything, will reward you.

4. Come Before Him With Thankfulness

Psalms 100:4 (NLT) ⁴ Enter his gates with thanksgiving; go into his courts with praise. Give thanks to him and praise his name.

1 Thessalonians 5:18 (NLT) ¹⁸ Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you who belong to Christ Jesus.

5. Come Before Him With A Humble Heart

Proverbs 11:2 (NLT) ² Pride leads to disgrace, but with humility comes wisdom.

James 4:6 (NLT) ⁶ And he gives grace generously. As the Scriptures say, “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.”

Matthew 13: 15 (NLT) ¹⁵ For the hearts of these people are hardened, and their ears cannot hear, and they have closed their eyes— so their eyes cannot see, and their ears cannot hear, and their hearts cannot understand, and they cannot turn to me and let me heal them.’

6. Put The Spirit in Charge (Self is Not In Charge)

Before we gave our life to Christ and were born again, we lived for ourselves. At that moment, we let God and His Spirit take control. Self dislikes this change self does not want to give up control.

Galatians 2:20 (NLT) ²⁰ My old self has been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me. So I live in this earthly body by trusting in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Romans 8:14 (NLT) ¹⁴ For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God.

Psalms 131:2 (NLT) ² Instead, I have calmed and quieted myself, like a weaned child who no longer cries for its mother's milk. **Yes, like a weaned child is my soul within me.**

7. Are Open To The Holy Spirit

John 16:13–15 (NLT) ¹³ When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own but will tell you what he has heard. He will tell you about the future. ¹⁴ He will bring me glory by telling you whatever he receives from me. ¹⁵ All that belongs to the Father is mine; this is why I said, 'The Spirit will tell you whatever he receives from me.'

Acts 2:17–18 (NLT) ¹⁷ 'In the last days,' God says, 'I will pour out my Spirit upon all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy. Your young men will see visions, and your old men will dream dreams. ¹⁸ In those days I will pour out my Spirit even on my servants—men and women alike— and they will prophesy.

Preparing To Hear God We:

1. Seek His Will
2. Expect To Hear
3. Yield Some Time
4. Come Before Him With Thankfulness
5. Come Before Him With A Humble Heart
6. Put The Spirit In Charge, (Not Self)
7. Are Open To The Holy Spirit