

Can You Hear Me Now?

Message Three How to Get Guidance from God

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In the previous message, we looked at the various ways God speaks to us. This week I want to go back and take a look at how God speaks through impressions and ideas. We will look at the book of Habakkuk for an example of how to get guidance from God.

I will climb up into my watchtower now and wait to see what the LORD will say to me and how he will answer my complaint. Then the LORD said to me, "Write my answer in large, clear letters on a tablet, so that a runner can read it and tell everyone else. But these things I plan won't happen right away. Slowly, steadily, surely, the time approaches when the vision will be fulfilled. If it seems slow, wait patiently, for it will surely take place. It will not be delayed. (Habakkuk 2:1-3 NLT)

STEP #1: WANT -- "I will..."

You will never hear God until you *want* to hear from God.

Psalm 85:8, *I want to hear what the Lord says. (GW)*

Psalm 40:8, *My God, I want to do what you want (NCV)*

Psalm 119:20, *What I want most of all and at all times is to honor your laws. (CEV)*

God called David a man after his heart because he was passionate about hearing from God.

STEP #2: WITHDRAW - "climb to my watchtower..."

You need to develop the discipline of silence and solitude.

Matthew 6:6, Here's what I want you to do: Find a quiet, secluded place so you won't be tempted to role-play before God. Just be there as simply and honestly as you can manage. The focus will shift from you to God, and you will begin to sense his grace. (Msg)

Jesus understood the value of withdrawing.

Luke 5:16, Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed. (NIV)

STEP #3: WAIT -- "I will wait..."

Wait **quietly**

Psalm 62:5, I will wait quietly before God, for my hope is in him. (NLT)

Wait **patiently**

Psalm 37:7, Be still in the presence of the Lord; wait patiently for him to act. (NLT)

Wait **expectantly**

Psalm 105:5, I wait expectantly, trusting God to help, for he has promised. (LB)

STEP #4: WATCH -- "I will look to see..."

God's voice is often visual, giving perspective.

Psalm 73:16-17, *when I tried to figure it out, all I got was a splitting headache. Until I entered the sanctuary of God. Then I saw the whole picture.* (Msg)

STEP #5: WRITE -- "*Write my answer...*"

Many great Christians for centuries developed the habit of spiritual journaling.

A good place to begin the writing is to ask a question.

James 1:5-6, *If you want to know what God wants you to do, ask him and he will gladly tell you, for he is always ready to give a bountiful supply of wisdom to all who will ask him...But when you ask him, be sure that you really expect him to tell you.* (LB)

STEP 6: WORSHIP -- "*I will worship you...*"

Habakkuk 3:2, *Oh Lord, now I have heard you report, and I will worship you in awe.* (LB)

You will not hear God unless you know God. Do you truly know God?