

GOD, I HAVE A QUESTION..



Week 2: How do I know if God is speaking to me?

John 14:15-26

What is your favorite story of God speaking to someone in the Bible? What do you think it was like to interact with God in that way? How do you think you would have reacted if you were that person?

Do you think God still speaks to people today? Tell about a time that you think you heard from God: What was the situation? What did you hear from God? What made you think it was God speaking to you? What was the outcome of hearing from God?

One of the foundational principles of hearing God speak is obeying His commands. Why does obedience to God help us hear Him and disobedience obscure His voice? Are there areas of disobedience in your life that need to be dealt with? Take a moment to confess this to the group and have them pray over you (James 5:16) for God's grace to help you move toward greater obedience.

John 14:20 speaks of God in us and us in God (depth of relationship and intimacy). In what way(s) does our closeness to God impact our ability to hear from Him? Which things in life keep us close to God? Which can drive us away from God? What has been most helpful for you in developing a closer connection with God? Explore the list of spiritual practices on page 2 for ways that we as individuals and a group can develop a stronger connection with God.

Pastor Mark also mentioned the value of community in hearing from God (assuming it's a godly community). How have you experienced the benefit of community in hearing from God in the past? What do you think are some barriers that keep us from tapping into community when we want to hear from God? Is our group facing any of these barriers? If so, how can we overcome them so we can speak into each others lives more?

Disciplines of Letting Go

These practices allow us to relinquish something in order to gain something new. We abstain from “busy-ness” in ministry, family life, and work. We stop talking for a while to hear from God. We give up buying another material possession to experience God more fully. [First Peter 2:11](#) warns us to “abstain from sinful desires, which war against your soul.” Identify what is keeping you from experiencing greater strength and perspective. Do you talk too much? Are possessions controlling you? Are you too worried about what others think? Choose disciplines that will help you become more dependent on God.

Solitude—*Spending time alone to be with God.* Find a quiet place to be alone with God for a period of time. Use the Bible as a source of companionship with God. Listen to Him. Remain alone and still.

Silence—*Removing noisy distractions to hear from God.* Find a quiet place away from noise to hear from God. Write your thoughts and impressions as God directs your heart. Silence can occur even in the midst of noise and distraction. But you must focus your attention on your soul. This could mean talking less or talking only when necessary. And it could mean turning off the radio and the TV.

Fasting—*Skipping a meal(s) to find greater nourishment from God.* Choose a period of time to go without food. Drink water and, if necessary, take vitamin supplements. Feel the pain of having an empty stomach and depend on God to fill you with His grace.

Frugality—*Learning to live with less money and still meet your basic needs.* Before buying something new, choose to go without or pick a less expensive alternative that will serve your basic needs. Live a simple, focused life.

Sacrifice—*Giving of our resources beyond what seems reasonable to remind us of our dependence on Christ.* Choose to give your time or finances to the Lord beyond what you normally would.

Disciplines of Activity

Dallas Willard writes, “The disciplines of abstinence must be counter-balanced and supplemented by disciplines of engagement (activity).” It’s choosing to participate in activities that nurture our souls and strengthen us for the race ahead.

Study—*Spending time reading the Scriptures and meditating on its meaning and importance to our lives.* We are nourished by the Word because it is our source of spiritual strength. Choose a time and a place to feed from the Word of God regularly.

Worship—*Offering praise and adoration to God.* His praise should continually be on our lips and in our thoughts. Read psalms, hymns, or spiritual songs, or sing to the Lord daily using a praise tape. Keep praise ever before you as you think of God’s mighty deeds in your life.

Prayer—*Talking to and listening to God about your relationship with Him and about the concerns of others.* Find time to pray to God without the distraction of people or things. Combine your prayer time with meditation on the Scriptures in order to focus on Christ.

Fellowship—*Mutual caring and ministry in the body of Christ.* Meet regularly with other Christians to find ways to minister to others. Encourage one another.

Confession—*Regularly confess your sins to the Lord and other trusted individuals.* As often as you are aware of sin in your life, confess it to the Lord and to those you may have offended.

Submission—*Humbling yourself before God and others while seeking accountability in relationships.* Find faithful brothers or sisters in Christ who can lovingly hold you accountable for your actions and growth in Christ.