

WHISPERS

HEARING THE VOICE OF GOD

Part 4-Living as Friends of God

How can I naturally include talking with God in my life?

1. What does seeking God with all your heart actually look like?
 - a. More about your focus than doing something radical
 - b. Luke 5:16; Psalm 46:10 – Regularly quiet yourself
 - c. Fully embrace the mission of Jesus
 - d. Be present to God – driving a car vs. riding a train
2. What does normal life as a friend of God look like for me and how does that relate to how I am wired?
 - a. Get excited about what excites him
 - b. Regular honest communication
3. How will being connected to God impact my spiritual growth?
 - a. Quicker and deeper transformation because you will be challenged to embrace God's will. He has a way of putting his finger on where we need to change.
4. How can I talk about hearing God without sounding like an arrogant, deluded wacko? What if God tells me to go tell someone something?
 - a. "I just had this thought that...does that make sense?"
 - b. Don't use power language like "God told me..."
5. What if I actually go weird or make a major mistake?
 - a. Get good Christ-followers around you, stay humble and trust them to help keep you on track
6. Is there any chance the devil will deceive me?
 - a. You don't need to worry if you remain humbly rooted in Christ, Scripture and community (Matthew 7:7-11; Luke 11:9-13)
7. What if I feel no connection with God whatsoever?
 - a. Many feel that way. You are not defective.
 - b. Remember God has spoken in Jesus so stick with that.
 - c. He will speak to you when he has something to say.
 - d. He may speak through others to you and that counts.
 - e. Others may see God at work in your life in ways you don't feel or sense.

How can we include our conversations with God in our Home Churches?

1. How can our different wirings help keep us balanced, normal and on track?
 - a. See I Corinthians 12-14; Galatians 5:22-23
2. How can we include our insights from God without sounding like lunatics?
 - a. "When I read this passage, what struck me was..."
 - b. "When I was praying, I had this sense that maybe..."
 - c. "Something came in my thoughts as I was processing..."
3. What do I do in the group if someone says something that is completely off base or sounds crazy?
 - a. Ask your leader or a mature member of the group for their thoughts (make it easy for someone to respond)
 - b. Feel free to say you are not sure that makes sense
 - c. Say you would like to hear your Lead Pastor's thoughts
 - d. See Ephesians 4:7-16
4. What are the normal things that can happen in a group where people feel safe and can be guided by God in conversation?
 - a. Conversation moves toward more heart matters, rather than remaining on the surface
 - b. Greater awareness of God's activity and heart
5. Should we be worried about people who are counterfeits?
 - a. You should be aware but not afraid – see 2 Peter 2:1; 1 John 4:1

CONCLUSION

Ephesians 3:14-21

HOME CHURCH QUESTIONS...

WARMING UP...

1. What one question about hearing God speak was either addressed by this message or series? What question do you still have? Take time to discuss these questions.

LOOK TO THE BOOK...

2. Read Acts 13:1-3. What do you see in this short passage about a group of people experiencing God speaking during one of their times together. What lessons can we learn from this passage and how can this inspire us to want to hear God speak?

SO WHAT?...

3. Take time in your group to experience listening prayer. Invite God to share his thoughts and heart with you and then take about 5 minutes of silence to just pray silently and listen. Share any feelings, thoughts, or impressions you experienced during this time. Give feedback to each other if you sensed God did connect with one or more in the group.

Tim Day @ THE MEETING HOUSE – Sunday, June 28, 2009