



Bible Study

Listen!

Matthew Kneisler

February 2005

Bible Study – Listen!

February 2005
Matthew Kneisler

1.0 Introduction.....	4
1.1 How Does God Speak in the Bible?	4
1.1.1 Face to face	5
1.1.2 Through His Spirit	6
1.1.3 Angels.....	8
1.1.4 Visions	8
1.1.5 Animals	9
1.1.6 Creation	9
1.2 Opened Eyes, Ears, Heart and Mind.....	10
1.3 Open the Eyes of My Heart by Paul Baloche	11
1.4 Questions	12
2.0 A Relationship with God.....	13
2.1 Exclusiveness.....	14
2.2 Talking VS Listening.....	15
2.3 The Love Letter	17
2.4 Why a relationship with God?.....	18
2.4.1 An Awesome God.....	18
2.4.2 A Loving God	19
2.4.3 A God Who Wants You.....	19
2.5 Who Am I by Mark Hall.....	20
2.6 Questions	21
3.0 Hindrance to God's Voice	22
3.1 Satan's Voice	22
3.1.1 Impatient Voice	24
3.1.2 World's Perception of Satan's Voice.....	25
3.2 Spiritual Warfare.....	25
3.3 Worldly Distractions.....	26
3.3.1 Lack of Knowledge of God.....	27
3.3.2 Poor Self-Image.....	27
3.3.3 False Guilt.....	28
3.3.4 Busyness	28
3.3.5 Unbelief.....	28
3.3.6 Anger toward God.....	28
3.3.7 Concealed Sin	29
3.3.8 Rebellious Spirit.....	29
3.3.9 Reject God Message	29
3.3.10 Not Forgiving Others.....	30
3.3.11 Hardened Hearts	30
3.3.12 Religious Activity.....	30
3.4 Questions	31
4.0 God's Voice.....	32
4.1 In Tune with God	33
4.1.1 The Piano	33
4.1.2 The Radio	35

Bible Study – Listen!

February 2005
Matthew Kneisler

4.1.3 An “in tune” Example	35
4.2 God’s Powerful Voice	36
4.3 Description	36
4.3.1 Water	37
4.3.2 Thunder	37
4.3.3 Harps	38
4.3.4 Trumpets.....	38
4.4 Obedience	38
4.5 Our Helper.....	39
4.6 His Word.....	40
4.7 Listen by Michelle Tumes	40
4.8 Questions	41
5.0 Allowing God to Talk with You	42
5.1 Jesus’ Example	42
5.2 A Story	43
5.3 A Test.....	44
5.4 Your Quiet Time	44
5.4.1 Stop, Drop and Listen	45
5.4.2 Prayer: A Prepared Mind	46
5.4.3 Location: A Special Place	46
5.4.4 Bible: God’s Word.....	46
5.4.5 Time: How Long?.....	47
5.4.6 Journal: Record Your Experience	47
5.5 Your Journal.....	47
5.6 Quiet Time by Dave Kramer	48
5.7 Word of God Speak by Mercy Me	49
5.8 Questions	50
6.0 Allowing God to Answer You.....	51
6.1 Wait on the Lord.....	51
6.2 McChristians.....	52
6.2.1 Patriarch Waiting	54
6.2.2 Christian Waiting.....	55
6.3 Hearing God’s Answer When We Least Expected It	55
6.4 Summary.....	59
6.4.1 His Creation	59
6.4.2 His Word.....	59
6.4.3 His Spirit	59
6.4.4 Understand Hindrances	59
6.4.5 Relationship and Quiet Time.....	59
6.4.6 Wait on the Lord	60
6.5 Hungry (Falling On My Knees) by Kathryn Scott	60
6.6 Questions	60
Appendix A - Quiet Time Accountability Sheet	62

Bible Study – Listen!

February 2005
Matthew Kneisler

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Bible Study – Listen!

February 2005
Matthew Kneisler

1.0 Introduction

When we are born, our physical senses come alive. Immediately our sense of touch is awakened as the doctor cradles us to the mother. Then our sense of hearing is stimulated with the soothing sounds from proud parents. As the infant develops, the mother's soft voice is clearly heard and her voice brings peace when the discomforts of life arise.



If there is a healthy and good parent-child relationship, the infant will **know** the parents voice! If there is no relationship, the infant will not know who is speaking.

Like the infant, we need to hear the voice of our heavenly Father. We must listen for it and respond to His voice. But how do we hear His voice? How do we know it is Him? Like the noisy hospital room with machinery, doctors, nurses, visitors and others, the infant can discern the mother and the father! Similarly, our noisy lives need to be pushed back, pushed out, wrestled away, and we will hear our Creators voice!

If we work at it by developing a relationship with God we will find that listening to Him is a skill that develops and improves over time. Through this bible study and the book, "How to Listen to God", by Charles Stanley, we will improve our relationship with God and improve our ability, our technique, our skills, and our spiritual ears to hear the voice of God and listen!

1.1 How Does God Speak in the Bible?

To begin to understand how to listen to God, let us first review how God speaks to people in the bible. As we see the various ways God makes His message

Bible Study – Listen!

February 2005
Matthew Kneisler

known, we begin to understand that our physical ears are not the only way to listen to what God has prepared for us!

1.1.1 Face to face

Abraham had a special relationship with God. It is evident in several locations throughout scripture.

Genesis 12:1 The **LORD had said** to Abram, "Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land I will show you. ² "I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."

Genesis 12:7 The **LORD appeared to Abram and said**, "To your offspring ^[1] I will give this land." So he built an altar there to the LORD, who had appeared to him. ⁸ From there he went on toward the hills east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. There he built an altar to the LORD and called on the name of the LORD.


Genesis 18:1 The **LORD appeared to Abraham** near the great trees of Mamre while he was sitting at the entrance to his tent in the heat of the day.

John 8:54 Jesus replied, "If I glorify myself, my glory means nothing. My Father, whom you claim as your God, is the one who glorifies me. ⁵⁵ Though you do not know him, I know him. If I said I did not, I would be a liar like you, but I do know him and keep his word. ⁵⁶ Your father **Abraham rejoiced at the thought of seeing my day; he saw it and was glad.**" ⁵⁷ "You are not yet fifty years old," the Jews said to him, "and you have seen Abraham!"

Moses was another patriarch who was able to spend a lot of time with his Creator. As a "friend" of God, his life example and his intimate face-to-face contact make most of us yearn for those days. But as Christians, we are actually in a better place for we have God's Holy Spirit within us!

Exodus 33:11 The LORD would speak to Moses **face to face**, as a man speaks with his friend. Then Moses would return to the camp, but his young aide Joshua son of Nun did not leave the tent.

The term face-to-face is a repetition of the word "paniyim" which can also mean "in the presence of". We know that no man has ever seen the face of God. The term face-to-face could more correctly mean "in the intimate presence of God". Again, as Christians, how much more intimate could His presence be in our lives since God lives within us!

Strong's Number	Original	Pronunciation	Outline of biblical usage	Translation Count
Hebrew 06440		paniyim {paw-neem'}	1) face a) face, faces	AV - before 1137, face 390, presence 76,

Bible Study – Listen!

February 2005
Matthew Kneisler

Strong's Number	Original	Pronunciation	Outline of biblical usage	Translation Count
			b) presence, person c) face (of seraphim or cherubim) d) face (of animals) e) face, surface (of ground) f) as adv of loc/temp 1) before and behind, toward, in front of, forward, formerly, from beforetime, before g) with prep 1) in front of, before, to the front of, in the presence of, in the face of, at the face or front of, from the presence of, from before, from before the face of	because 67, sight 40, countenance 30, from 27, person 21, upon 20, of 20, ... me 18, against 17, ... him 16, open 13, for 13, toward 9, misc 195; 2109

Blue Letter Bible. "Dictionary and Word Search for '*paniyim* (Strong's 06440) '" . Blue Letter Bible. 1996-2002.
16 Jan 2005. <<http://www.blueletterbible.org/cgi-bin/words.pl?word=06440&page=1>>

Exodus 33:18 Then Moses said, "Now show me your glory." ¹⁹ And the LORD said, "I will cause all my goodness to pass in front of you, and I will proclaim my name, the LORD, in your presence. I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion. ²⁰ But," he said, "**you cannot see my face, for no one may see me and live.**" ²¹ Then the LORD said, "There is a place near me where you may stand on a rock. ²² When my glory passes by, I will put you in a cleft in the rock and cover you with my hand until I have passed by. ²³ Then I will remove my hand and you will see my back; but my face must not be seen."

John 1:18 No one has ever seen God, but God the One and Only, ^[5] ^[6] who is at the Father's side, has made him known.

1.1.2 Through His Spirit

As Spirit led Christians, we have direct access to the mind of God. This is illustrated continually in the New Testament. This same power, this same awesome power is readily available to all those who are true Christians.

There are two required components for us to be led by the Holy Spirit:

1. We must **have** God's Holy Spirit
2. We must **desire** to be led by His Holy Spirit

Being led by the Spirit, will allow us to "hear" our Father through our spirit with spiritual hearing.

Bible Study – Listen!

February 2005
Matthew Kneisler

John 8:43 Why is my language not clear to you? Because **you are unable to hear what I say.** ⁴⁴**You belong to your father, the devil,** and you want to carry out your father's desire. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies. ⁴⁵Yet because I tell the truth, you do not believe me! ⁴⁶Can any of you prove me guilty of sin? If I am telling the truth, why don't you believe me? ⁴⁷**He who belongs to God hears what God says. The reason you do not hear is that you do not belong to God."**

Acts 2:4 All of them were **filled with the Holy Spirit** and began to speak in other tongues^[1] as the Spirit enabled them.

Acts 4:8 Then **Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them:** "Rulers and elders of the people! ⁹If we are being called to account today for an act of kindness shown to a cripple and are asked how he was healed, ¹⁰then know this, you and all the people of Israel: It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed. ¹¹He is "the stone you builders rejected, which has become the capstone."^[1] ¹²Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved."¹³ When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus.

Acts 4:31 After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were **all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.**

Acts 13:1 In the church at Antioch there were prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen (who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch) and Saul. ²While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, **the Holy Spirit said,** "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." ³So after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off.

Acts 13:9 Then Saul, who was also called Paul, **filled with the Holy Spirit,** looked straight at Elymas and **said,** ¹⁰"You are a child of the devil and an enemy of everything that is right! You are full of all kinds of deceit and trickery. Will you never stop perverting the right ways of the Lord? ¹¹Now the hand of the Lord is against you. You are going to be blind, and for a time you will be unable to see the light of the sun." ¹²Immediately mist and darkness came over him, and he groped about, seeking someone to lead him by the hand. When the proconsul saw what had happened, he believed, for **he was amazed at the teaching about the Lord.**

Acts 16:6 Paul and his companions traveled throughout the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been **kept by the Holy Spirit from preaching the word** in the province of Asia. ⁷When they came to the border of Mysia, they tried to enter Bithynia, but **the Spirit of Jesus would not allow them** to. ⁸So they passed by Mysia and went down to Troas.

Galatians 5:18 **But if you are led by the Spirit,** you are not under law.

1 Peter 1:10 Concerning this salvation, the prophets, who spoke of the grace that was to come to you, searched intently and with the greatest care, ¹¹trying to find out the time and circumstances to which the **Spirit of Christ in them was pointing** when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow. ¹²It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves but you, when they spoke of the things that have now been told you by those who have **preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit** sent from heaven. Even angels long to look into these things.

Bible Study – Listen!

February 2005
Matthew Kneisler

1.1.3 Angels

Acts 7:53 you who have received the law that was **put into effect through angels** but have not obeyed it."

Judges 6:20 The **angel of God** said to him, "Take the meat and the unleavened bread, place them on this rock, and pour out the broth." And Gideon did so. ²¹ With the tip of the staff that was in his hand, the angel of the LORD touched the meat and the unleavened bread. Fire flared from the rock, consuming the meat and the bread. And the angel of the LORD disappeared. ²² When Gideon realized that it was the angel of the LORD, he exclaimed, "Ah, Sovereign LORD! I have seen the angel of the LORD face to face!" ²³ But the LORD said to him, "Peace! Do not be afraid. You are not going to die." ²⁴ So Gideon built an altar to the LORD there and called it The LORD is Peace. To this day it stands in Ophrah of the Abiezrites. ²⁵ That same night the LORD said to him, "Take the second bull from your father's herd, the one seven years old. ^[c] Tear down your father's altar to Baal and cut down the Asherah pole ^[d] beside it. ²⁶ Then build a proper kind of ^[e] altar to the LORD your God on the top of this height. Using the wood of the Asherah pole that you cut down, offer the second ^[f] bull as a burnt offering."

1 Kings 19:5 Then he lay down under the tree and fell asleep. All at once an **angel touched him and said**, "Get up and eat." ⁶ He looked around, and there by his head was a cake of bread baked over hot coals, and a jar of water. He ate and drank and then lay down again. ⁷ The angel of the LORD came back a second time and touched him and said, "Get up and eat, for the journey is too much for you." ⁸ So he got up and ate and drank. Strengthened by that food, he traveled forty days and forty nights until he reached Horeb, the mountain of God.

1 Chronicles 21:13 David said to Gad, "I am in deep distress. Let me fall into the hands of the LORD, for his mercy is very great; but do not let me fall into the hands of men." ¹⁴ So the LORD sent a plague on Israel, and seventy thousand men of Israel fell dead. ¹⁵ And **God sent an angel to destroy Jerusalem**. But as the angel was doing so, the LORD saw it and was grieved because of the calamity and said to the angel who was destroying the people, "Enough! Withdraw your hand." The angel of the LORD was then standing at the threshing floor of Araunah ^[b] the Jebusite. ¹⁶ David looked up and saw the angel of the LORD standing between heaven and earth, with a drawn sword in his hand extended over Jerusalem. Then David and the elders, clothed in sackcloth, fell facedown. ¹⁷ David said to God, "Was it not I who ordered the fighting men to be counted? I am the one who has sinned and done wrong. These are but sheep. What have they done? O LORD my God, let your hand fall upon me and my family, but do not let this plague remain on your people." ¹⁸ **Then the angel of the LORD ordered Gad to tell David** to go up and build an altar to the LORD on the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite. ¹⁹ So David went up in obedience to the word that Gad had spoken in the name of the LORD.

1.1.4 Visions

Genesis 15:1 After this, the word of the **LORD came to Abram in a vision**: "Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, ^[a] your very great reward. ^[b] "

Genesis 46:2 And **God spoke to Israel in a vision** at night and said, "Jacob! Jacob!" "Here I am," he replied.

Bible Study – Listen!

February 2005
Matthew Kneisler

Numbers 24:15 Then he uttered his oracle: "The oracle of Balaam son of Beor, the oracle of one whose eye sees clearly, ¹⁶ the oracle of one who hears the words of God, who has knowledge from the Most High, who **sees a vision from the Almighty**, who falls prostrate, and whose eyes are opened:

Acts 16:9 During the night **Paul had a vision** of a man of Macedonia standing and begging him, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." ¹⁰ After Paul had seen the vision, we got ready at once to leave for Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.

1.1.5 Animals

On a very rare occasion, God used an animal to convey His message. Here is one of the most unusual stories in the bible where God speaks through an animal!

Numbers 22:21 Balaam got up in the morning, saddled his donkey and went with the princes of Moab. ²² But God was very angry when he went, and the angel of the LORD stood in the road to oppose him. Balaam was riding on his donkey, and his two servants were with him. ²³ When the donkey saw the angel of the LORD standing in the road with a drawn sword in his hand, she turned off the road into a field. Balaam beat her to get her back on the road. ²⁴ Then the angel of the LORD stood in a narrow path between two vineyards, with walls on both sides. ²⁵ When the donkey saw the angel of the LORD, she pressed close to the wall, crushing Balaam's foot against it. So he beat her again. ²⁶ Then the angel of the LORD moved on ahead and stood in a narrow place where there was no room to turn, either to the right or to the left. ²⁷ When the donkey saw the angel of the LORD, she lay down under Balaam, and he was angry and beat her with his staff. ²⁸ Then **the LORD opened the donkey's mouth**, and she said to Balaam, "What have I done to you to make you beat me these three times?" ²⁹ Balaam answered the donkey, "You have made a fool of me! If I had a sword in my hand, I would kill you right now." ³⁰ **The donkey said to Balaam**, "Am I not your own donkey, which you have always ridden, to this day? Have I been in the habit of doing this to you?" "No," he said. ³¹ Then the LORD opened Balaam's eyes, and he saw the angel of the LORD standing in the road with his sword drawn. So he bowed low and fell facedown. ³² The angel of the LORD asked him, "Why have you beaten your donkey these three times? I have come here to oppose you because your path is a reckless one before me. ³³ ^[3] ³³ The donkey saw me and turned away from me these three times. If she had not turned away, I would certainly have killed you by now, but I would have spared her." ³⁴ Balaam said to the angel of the LORD, "I have sinned. I did not realize you were standing in the road to oppose me. Now if you are displeased, I will go back." ³⁵ The angel of the LORD said to Balaam, "Go with the men, but speak only what I tell you." So Balaam went with the princes of Balak.

1.1.6 Creation

If you ever have the chance to get away from your everyday world you can hear God's voice through His creation.

Psalms 19:1 **The heavens declare the glory of God**; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. ² **Day after day they pour forth speech**; night after night they display knowledge. ³ There is no speech or language where their voice is not heard. ^[a] ⁴ **Their voice ^[b] goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world.**

Bible Study – Listen!

February 2005
Matthew Kneisler

Romans 1:20 For since the creation of the world **God's invisible qualities**—his eternal power and divine nature—**have been clearly seen**, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse.

Romans 8:19 The creation waits in eager expectation for the sons of God to be revealed. ²⁰For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹that^[i] the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God. ²²We **know that the whole creation has been groaning** as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time.

From the Radio Bible Class (RBC) website, the section on “Celebrating the Wonder of Creation”, (<http://www.gospelcom.net/rbc/ds/q1108/point3.html>) this quote captures a feeling of how God reveals himself to us and speaks to us through His creation:

Even when God is not speaking verbally, the study of the creation speaks with an eloquence that compels us to stand in silent wonder before the Creator: elements of basic matter that behave in ways unimagined, and clumps of galaxies so vast in number and expanse that even broad human categories like "light years" become almost meaningless. Smallness gets ever smaller, and bigness gets ever bigger. The attempt to bring it all into the scope of human understanding has done what it has always done: We either see God and worship Him in great awe and humility, or we "suppress the truth" (Rom. 1:18) and wander in self-imposed blindness.

1.2 Opened Eyes, Ears, Heart and Mind

When we think of the word “listen” we first consider the physical sense for our ears. However, listening often implies understanding, and understanding can come from some of our other senses or parts of our being. When we read of God opening our eyes, our ears or our mind, it allows us to better understand God and His plan.

² Kings 6:16 "Don't be afraid," the prophet answered. "Those who are with us are more than those who are with them." ¹⁷ And Elisha prayed, "O LORD, open his eyes so he may see." Then **the LORD opened the servant's eyes**, and he looked and saw the hills full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.

Isaiah 50:4 The Sovereign LORD has given me an instructed tongue, to know the word that sustains the weary. He wakens me morning by morning, wakens my ear to listen like one being taught. ⁵ **The Sovereign LORD has opened my ears**, and I have not been rebellious; I have not drawn back.

Jeremiah 9:20 Now, O women, hear the word of the LORD ; **open your ears** to the words of his mouth. Teach your daughters how to wail; teach one another a lament.

Acts 16:13 On the Sabbath we went outside the city gate to the river, where we expected to find a place of prayer. We sat down and began to speak to the women who had gathered there. ¹⁴One of those listening was a woman named Lydia, a dealer in purple cloth from the city of Thyatira, who was a worshiper of God. **The Lord opened her heart** to respond to Paul's message.

Bible Study – Listen!

February 2005
Matthew Kneisler

Luke 24:31 **Then their eyes were opened** and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight. ³²They asked each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?”

Notice the last part of Luke 24, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked...” This passion for God’s voice and His word should burn within our hearts and drive us closer to Him.

When was the last time that God’s word struck your heart and burned within you? Think about these words from Jesus:

Revelation 3:15 I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! ¹⁶So, because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth.

Revelation 3:20 Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me. ²¹To him who overcomes, I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I overcame and sat down with my Father on his throne. ²²**He who has an ear, let him hear** what the Spirit says to the churches.”

1.3 *Open the Eyes of My Heart* by Paul Baloche

Open the Eyes of My Heart

Ephesians 1:18, Psalm 119:18, Matthew 6:22,

Open the eyes of my heart, Lord

Open the eyes of my heart

I want to see You

I want to see You

Open the eyes of my heart, Lord

Open the eyes of my heart

I want to see You

I want to see You

[Chorus] To see you high and lifted up

Shining in the light of Your glory

Pour out Your power and love

As we sing holy, holy, holy Vs (x2)

[Chorus]

Holy, holy, holy

Holy, holy, holy

Holy, holy, holy

I want to see You Open the eyes of my heart, Lord Open the eyes of my heart I

want to see You I want to see You

[Chorus]

Holy, holy, holy Holy, holy, holy Holy, holy, holy I want to see You.

Bible Study – Listen!

February 2005
Matthew Kneisler

1.4 Questions

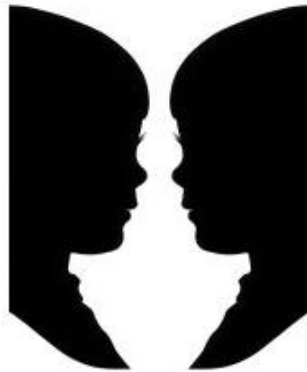
- 1 Consider the information in this chapter; is there something you learned that you did not know before regarding Listening to God?
- 2 What can you share with others about how you listen to God?
- 3 What helps you the most in hearing God's voice?
- 4 Is there someone you know who is a good listener? Why do you say this?
- 5 Why do you think certain people are good listeners?
- 6 Do you know someone who knows how to listen to God? What qualities do they have that makes this happen?
- 7 Describe spiritual listening versus physical listening.

Bible Study – Listen!

February 2005
Matthew Kneisler

2.0 A Relationship with God

When you are in a relationship with someone and you sit face-to-face, eye-to-eye and you talk one-on-one, nothing makes you feel more important or special to the other. Each one has the other's undivided attention! Communication at this level ensures that both parties are "on the same page" and are interacting in a most intimate and deep level. Each person has the other's deepest interests at heart and both are mentally connected. Because of this level of communication, this level of relationship, each one could almost finish the other's sentences!



Isaiah 43:1 But now, this is what the LORD says—he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; **I have summoned you by name; you are mine.**

Ezekiel 11:19 **I will give them an undivided heart and put a new spirit in them;** I will remove from them their heart of stone and give them a heart of flesh. ²⁰ Then they will follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws. **They will be my people, and I will be their God.** ²¹ But as for those whose hearts are devoted to their vile images and detestable idols, I will bring down on their own heads what they have done, declares the Sovereign LORD ."

Ezekiel 36:26 I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. ²⁷ And **I will put my Spirit in you** and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws. ²⁸ You will live in the land I gave your forefathers; **you will be my people, and I will be your God.** ²⁹ I will save you from all your uncleanness. I will call for the grain and make it plentiful and will not bring famine upon you. ³⁰ I will increase the fruit of the trees and the crops of the field, so that you will no longer suffer disgrace among the nations because of famine. ³¹ Then you will remember your evil ways and wicked deeds, and you will loathe yourselves for your sins and detestable practices.

Psalms 91:14 **"Because he loves me,"** says the LORD, "I will rescue him; I will protect him, for he acknowledges my name. ¹⁵ He will call upon me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble, I will deliver him and honor him.

Bible Study – Listen!

February 2005
Matthew Kneisler

Jeremiah 29:11 For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD , "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. ¹² **Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you.** ¹³ **You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.**

Proverbs 19:22 What a **man desires is unfailing love** ^[b] ;

God loves you. He wants to communicate with you! But how do we communicate with Him? Are we distracted with impatient prayers? Do we talk to God with sleepy time prayers? Are we rushed throughout the day and find that there is no time for "quiet time"? But yet we want God to immediately stand up and take notice when we are in a life emergency. We want God to listen to us NOW! We on the other hand, will listen to God later.

2.1 Exclusiveness

As a relationship matures, the two lovers might agree to not see other people. This exclusiveness gains the partner's full time and attention! If a third party enters that picture, problems develop and jealousy can set in. Similarly, God wants our full time and attention. He does not want a third party to shift our focus off of Him.

Exodus 20:4 "You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. ⁵ You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for **I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God**, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, ⁶ but showing love to a thousand {generations} of those who love me and keep my commandments.

From Sermon 502 delivered on Sunday Morning, March 29th, 1863, by the Rev. C. H. Spurgeon, at the Metropolitan Tabernacle in Newington, England, Spurgeon captures the passion of a God who wants our undivided attention and love.

Thus saith the Lord, "Ye shall destroy their altars, break their images, and cut down their groves;" the idols he shall utterly abolish. My brethren, do you marvel at this? I felt in my own soul while meditating upon this matter an intense sympathy with God. Can you put yourselves in God's place for a moment? Suppose that you had made the heavens and the earth, and all the creatures that inhabit this round globe; how would you feel if those creatures should set up an image of wood, or brass, or gold, and cry, "These are the gods that made us; these things give us life." What—a dead piece of earth set up in rivalry with real Deity! What must be the Lord's indignation against infatuated rebels when they so far despise him as to set up a leek, or an onion, or a beetle, or a frog, preferring to worship the fruit of their own gardens, or the vermin of their muddy rivers, rather than acknowledge the God in whose hand their breath is, and whose are all their ways! Oh! it is a marvel that God hath not dashed the world to pieces with thunderbolts, when we recollect that even to this day millions of men have changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds and four-footed beasts, and

Bible Study – Listen!

February 2005
Matthew Kneisler

creeping things. With what unutterable contempt must the living God look down upon those idols which are the work of man's hands—"They have mouths, but they speak not: eyes have they, but they see not: they have ears, but they hear not: noses have they, but they smell not: they have hands, but they handle not: feet have they, but they walk not: neither speak they through their throat."

Psalm 115:4 But their idols are silver and gold, made by the hands of men. ⁵ They have mouths, but cannot speak, eyes, but they cannot see; ⁶ they have ears, but cannot hear, noses, but they cannot smell; ⁷ they have hands, but cannot feel, feet, but they cannot walk; nor can they utter a sound with their throats. ⁸ Those who make them will be like them, and so will all who trust in them.

God's jealousy is righteous. His jealousy should not be confused with "envy". He is not jealous of the things that you have. God owns the world and all that is in it. He is jealous for your time, attention and your worship! He has a deep desire to keep you pure and keep you focused on Him and His plan of salvation. How easy is it for some to sleep in and miss church? How easy is it to be "too busy" to pray, attend a retreat, bible study, outreach, praise service, etc.? What idols do we have in our lives which keep us from hearing from God?

1 Corinthians 10:21 You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons too; you cannot have a part in both the Lord's table and the table of demons. ²² Are we trying to arouse the Lord's jealousy? Are we stronger than he?

Hebrews 12:2 **Let us fix our eyes on Jesus**, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

2.2 Talking VS Listening

Most of us have some kind of a prayer life. We talk to God. Some of us do this better than others. But for the most part, we talk to God through prayer. Generally, we are good at talking. We want to be heard! However, we need to consider how much we listen to God after we have prayed. It has been said that since we have two ears and only one mouth, we should "listen" twice as much as we speak!

Isaiah 29:13 The Lord says: "**These people come near to me with their mouth and honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me.** Their worship of me is made up only of rules taught by men. ^[b]

Isaiah 29:13 The Master said: "These people make a big show of saying the right thing, but their hearts aren't in it. Because they act like they're worshiping me but don't mean it, [Message]

When was the last time that you were in a relationship? Did you do all the talking? Did you listen more that you talked? How long did the relationship last?

Bible Study – Listen!

February 2005
Matthew Kneisler

Our ears “hear” noise. To listen, we must comprehend what our ears hear! Listening takes an action! Let’s see what the dictionary definition says about the word listen:

lis·ten (lĭs'ən)

1. **To make an effort** to hear something: *listen to the radio; listening for the bell.*
2. **To pay attention**; heed: “She encouraged me to listen carefully to what country people called mother wit” (Maya Angelou).

Although God desires to be in our life, **we need to make an effort** to include Him in ours by listening! Listening to God brings His message into our lives. Listening is not natural for us and it must be learned. We must learn to listen to God!



Psalms 81:13 “Oh, that My people would **listen** to Me, That Israel would walk in My ways!

A relationship with God is the answer. How is your relationship with God? Charles Stanley in his book, “How to Listen to God”, highlights a common theme: fellowship with God.

“He desires to fellowship with us just as much as He fellowshiped with them [people of the Old Testament]. If our relationship with Him is a one-way trip and there is no communication or dialogue between us and the Lord Jesus Christ, then there isn’t much

Bible Study – Listen!

February 2005
Matthew Kneisler

fellowship. **Fellowship is nil** when one person does all the talking and the other does all the listening.”

We must actively pursue time to devote to God. We must push out our “busy” world and let God in so that we can hear His voice. How do you plan to do this?

2.3 The Love Letter

When was the last time you were excited about a letter arriving in the mail for you? What if you received a letter from God Himself?! What an exceptional and exciting letter that would be.



Bob knew this would be the day. This was the day he would receive the most special of letters. He was very excited! Almost everyone he knew had already received their letters. He was still waiting. However, just as he anticipated, when the mailbox opened, there it was the letter he had dreamed about for so long.

The edges of the letter were trimmed in fine gold. A beautifully embossed seal locked the letter and it cracked as Bob broke it and the contents were revealed. He saw gold foil which lined the inside and there in the middle was the letter! Yes, the letter he had dreamed of and waited for, so patiently, was now in his hands. It had been years since he wanted the answers and here it was before him contained within this beautiful, exquisite letter.

As he unfolded the page, he knew in his heart he would keep it with him forever. He would never lose it; he would frame it; he would cherish it; he would respect it; Even though he had not read it yet, he loved the letter for it had immense value to him.

As he read the letter, it struck his heart with such deep satisfaction that it warmed his entire soul. He smiled as he read each sentence and felt the total warmth of the love that came from the author. Contained in the letter were all the answers to all his prayers and it was delicately signed at the bottom, “Love, God”.

How would you feel if you received such a letter from God? God desires a deep relationship with each one of us. We might want to receive such a letter that has everything spelled out, but God wants us to live by faith and to experience life according to His will and plan. Most people do not realize that God has already given each of us that special love letter. Through Jesus Christ, the Word of God, our love letter is recorded for us in our bibles. We must seek God with our whole

Bible Study – Listen!

February 2005
Matthew Kneisler

mind, build a relationship with Him, read His word, listen to Him and we will find our own personal answers.

Isaiah 55:6 Seek the LORD while he may be found; call on him while he is near.

Jeremiah 29:11 For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. ¹² **Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you.** ¹³ **You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.**

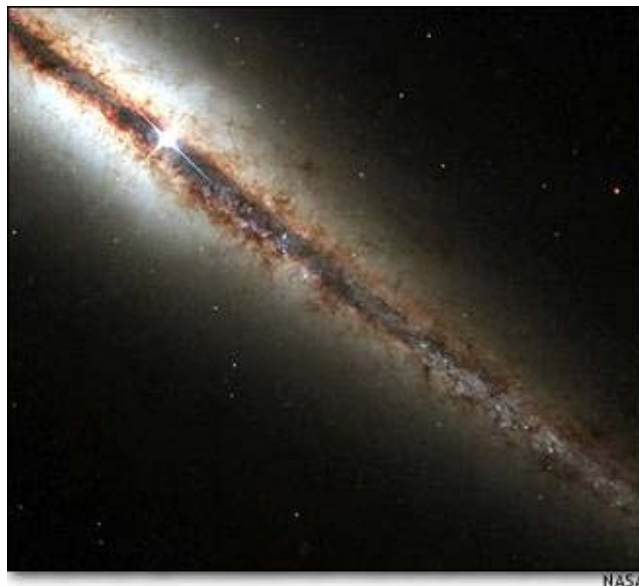
2.4 Why a relationship with God?

Why do we want to build up a relationship with God? What is it about Him that makes Him so special that I would want to put Him in my schedule?

2.4.1 An Awesome God

To begin with, God is awesome! He has done so much for us already! His power is clearly seen in His creation. He loves us and has given us everything!

Job 26:7 He spreads out the northern skies over empty space; he suspends the earth over nothing. ⁸ He wraps up the waters in his clouds, yet the clouds do not burst under their weight. ⁹ He covers the face of the full moon, spreading his clouds over it. ¹⁰ He marks out the horizon on the face of the waters for a boundary between light and darkness. ¹¹ The pillars of the heavens quake, aghast at his rebuke. ¹² By his power he churned up the sea; by his wisdom he cut Rahab to pieces. ¹³ By his breath the skies became fair; his hand pierced the gliding serpent. ¹⁴ **And these are but the outer fringe of his works; how faint the whisper we hear of him!** Who then can understand the thunder of his power?"



Bible Study – Listen!

February 2005
Matthew Kneisler

Psalm 8:3 When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, ⁴ what is man that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him? ⁵ You made him a little lower than the heavenly beings ^[c] and crowned him with glory and honor. ⁶ **You made him ruler over the works of your hands; you put everything under his feet:** ⁷ all flocks and herds, and the beasts of the field, ⁸ the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea, all that swim the paths of the seas. ⁹ O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

How many people in this world, rush to get a glimpse or a signature of a Hollywood star or a famous athlete? Yet, our great God is greater than all mankind and is right here! As Christians, He lives within us. He wants to share His awesome creation and His awesome life with us! He wants a relationship with us.

2.4.2 A Loving God

¹ John 4:8 Whoever does not love does not know God, because **God is love.**

¹ John 4:16 And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. **God is love.** Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him.

¹ John 4:19 We love because **he first loved us.**

2.4.3 A God Who Wants You



Psalm 8:3 When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, ⁴ **what is man that you are mindful of him,** the son of man that you care for him? ⁵ You made him a little lower than the heavenly beings ^[c] and crowned him with glory and honor. ⁶ You made him ruler over the works of your hands; you put everything under his feet: ⁷ all flocks and herds, and the beasts of the field, ⁸ the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea, all that swim the paths of the seas.

Ephesians 1:4 **For he chose us** in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love ⁵ he ^[c] predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will— ⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves.

Bible Study – Listen!

February 2005
Matthew Kneisler

Ephesians 1:11 In him **we were also chosen**,^[e] having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, ¹²in order that we, who were the first to hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory.

Romans 8:29 For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. ³⁰And those he predestined, **he also called**; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.

¹ Peter 2:9 **But you are a chosen people**, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, **a people belonging to God**, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. ¹⁰Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

2.5 Who Am I by Mark Hall

Lyrics by Mark Hall
Music by Casting Crowns

Who Am I

Song based on Psalms 52 and 139 and Ephesians 2

Who am I, that the Lord of all the earth
Would care to know my name
Would care to feel my hurt
Who am I, that the Bright and Morning Star
Would choose to light the way
For my ever wandering heart

Not because of who I am
But because of what You've done
Not because of what I've done
But because of who You're

Chorus:

I am a flower quickly fading
Here today and gone tomorrow
A wave tossed in the ocean
A vapor in the wind
Still You hear me when I'm calling
Lord, You catch me when I'm falling
And You've told me who I am
I am Yours, I am Yours

Who Am I, that the eyes that see my sin

Bible Study – Listen!

February 2005
Matthew Kneisler

Would look on me with love and watch me rise again
Who Am I, that the voice that calmed the sea
Would call out through the rain
And calm the storm in me

I am Yours
Whom shall I fear
Whom shall I fear
'Cause I am Yours
I am Yours

(c) 2003 Club Zoo Music / SWEC Music

2.6 Questions

- 1 Have you ever been called a good listener?
- 2 Think of someone you know who is a good listener. How did they make you feel?
- 3 Have you ever thought you needed a “relationship” with God? How about an “exclusive” relationship with God?
- 4 Who or what is that “third person” interfering with your intimate relationship with God?
- 5 Can God help you to listen to His voice?
- 6 How has God’s Holy Spirit helped you to listen to His voice?
- 7 Did Jesus read minds? If not, then how did He know what others were thinking?

Bible Study – Listen!

February 2005
Matthew Kneisler

3.0 Hindrance to God's Voice

Our lives are filled with distractions. Our Christian lives are filled with roadblocks which can keep us from a deep and intimate relationship with God. These hindrances and roadblocks can keep us from listening to Him.

It is important to know what the distractions are that keep you from hearing God's voice. If you are not aware of the distractions, they will over take you and ultimately you will not hear the message God as for you.

3.1 Satan's Voice

Satan's voice is very appealing. Our flesh is drawn to his voice because it captures our interest, our attention or it provides a "pleasant diversion" and an "easy path" from where we need to be.

² Corinthians 11:14 And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light.

Satan is our adversary; he is king of this world, demands that we listen to him and is opposed to anything that will allow us to get closer to God.

^{Mark} 4:15 Some people are like seed along the path, where the word is sown. As soon as they hear it, **Satan comes and takes away the word** that was sown in them.

¹ Timothy 5:15 For some have already turned aside after Satan.

² Corinthians 4:4 The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

¹ Thessalonians 2:18 Therefore we wanted to come to you--even I, Paul, time and again--but **Satan hindered us.**

¹ Peter 5:8 Be selfcontrolled and alert. **Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.** ⁹ Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings.

Revelation 12:9 So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and **Satan, who deceives the whole world**; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

To better understand Satan's perspective and his heart, let us see what his spirit is like.

Ezekiel 28:15 you [Satan] were blameless in your ways from the day you were created till **wickedness** was found in you.

Galatians 5:19 The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: **sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery**; ²⁰ **idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish**

Bible Study – Listen!

February 2005
Matthew Kneisler

ambition, dissensions, factions²¹ and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.

Now, if God's spirit is the following:

Galatians 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is **love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,**²³ **gentleness and self-control.** Against such things there is no law.

Then Satan's voice will be the opposite!

God's Spirit	Satan's Spirit
Love	Hate
Joy	Aversion
Peace	Conflict
Patience	Anxiety, Panic
Kindness	Coldness, Disgust
Goodness	Meanness, Intolerance
Faithfulness	Infidelity, Betrayal
Gentleness	Harshness, Mercilessness
Self-control	Indulgence, Excess, Laziness

When you have found that quiet place and are listening intently to hear God's voice, you need to check and verify the words you are hearing. And not only the words, but also the meaning! What is the intent of what you are hearing? Does it conform to God's Holy Spirit, or that of Satan? When you are in that quiet place, write down the thoughts or words that you hear. Read, pray and meditate on them and try to understand where they come from. Then compare them to the type of spirit listed above. This will help you see and discern who is speaking to you!

Know this that Jesus Christ our savior was tempted in all things, just as we are, and He had discernment and identified Satan's voice:

Hebrews 4:15 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been **tempted in every way**, just as we are--yet was without sin.

Matthew 4:3 The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread."⁴ Jesus answered, "**It is written:** 'Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'^[1]"⁵ Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple.⁶ "If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down. For **it is written:** "'He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.'^[2]"⁷ Jesus answered him, "It is also written: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'^[3]"⁸ Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor.⁹ "All this I will give you," he said, "if you will bow down and worship me."¹⁰ Jesus said to him, "Away from me, Satan! For **it is written:** 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.'^[4]"

Bible Study – Listen!

February 2005
Matthew Kneisler



Ary SCHEFFER
The Temptation of Christ (1854)

Whatever, Jesus did we are empowered and can do through the Holy Spirit! But notice that Jesus checked Satan's words with the words of scripture! Can we do the same? Yes!

3.1.1 Impatient Voice

There is a voice which is impatient, one that needs an answer right away, with no delay! When we experience this impatience, normally known as anxiety, then we should seriously consider this an answer from Satan's spirit. God will always have a spirit of peace and patience. When we feel like we have to have it now, then we need to pause, reflect and think about God and His word!

God considers eternity. When we are lead by the devil, we consider the here and now. We loose our eternal perspective and we want a solution quickly!

Consider the story of Saul where he was led by an impatient voice.

¹ **Samuel 10:8** "Go down ahead of me to Gilgal. I will surely come down to you to sacrifice burnt offerings and fellowship offerings, ¹ but you must wait seven days until I come to you and tell you what you are to do."

¹ **Samuel 13:8** He waited seven days, the time set by Samuel; but Samuel did not come to Gilgal, and Saul's **men began to scatter**. ⁹ So he said, "Bring me the burnt offering and the fellowship offerings. ¹⁰ " And Saul offered up the burnt offering. ¹⁰ Just as he finished making the offering, Samuel arrived, and Saul went out to greet him. ¹¹ "What have you done?" asked Samuel. Saul replied, "When I saw that the men were scattering, and that you did not come at the set time, and that the Philistines were assembling at Micmash, ¹² I thought, 'Now the Philistines will come down against me at Gilgal, and I have not sought the LORD's favor.' So I felt compelled to offer the burnt offering." ¹³ "You acted foolishly," Samuel said. "You have not kept the command the LORD your God gave you; if you had, he would have established your kingdom over Israel for all time. ¹⁴ But now your kingdom

Bible Study – Listen!

February 2005
Matthew Kneisler

will not endure; the LORD has sought out a man after his own heart and appointed him leader of his people, because you have not kept the LORD's command."

3.1.2 World's Perception of Satan's Voice

Most people in this world do not believe that Satan is real. The following excerpt is from Venex Crabtree (<http://www.dpjs.co.uk/thedevil.html>) 12/21/2001.

- **Satan** in popular culture, the modern media and the hollywood depiction of **Satan** has become a different animal altogether. He's been turned into the guy with the best lines; both the hard-man and a witty sarcastic buddy. Sceptical and practical, down to Earth, successful and together. He nearly always loses, becomes defeated, and before the end reverts to a more familiar angry, immature, hate filled guy with horns and bad acting skills.
- Modern Churches generally regard Satan as a symbol of evil, much the same as popular culture, but without the niceties of personification. We are returning, it seems, to the Universalism of the first century, where everyone is saved, and Satan is nothing but a threat, a symbol, and not an actual being.
- Considered powerless, Satan is making an exit from modern Christian churches, the threats of Hell and damnation have become politically incorrect, Satan is stripped of his domain, followers and strength.
- A 2001 poll revealed that in North America, 27% of adults believe in Satan as a living being. The largest non protestant group, the Roman Catholics, were even lower with 17%. I would hazard a guess that in Europe only a few percent hold a belief Satan as a being.

3.2 Spiritual Warfare

Satan would be very happy if you did not have a relationship with God. It would be his good pleasure to see you struggle, knowing the answer is as close as the next prayer to God. But he knows we are human and are of the flesh. Like a hurt child who cries on and on and is distracted with a piece of candy or a toy so are we who cry out to God for help but become "busy with life" and forget our salvation. We are easily distracted by Satan from the helping voice of God.

Romans 8:5 Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. 6The mind of sinful man^[e] is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace;

Our struggle starts in our minds. This is the battle field. This is where the war rages.

2 Corinthians 10:4 The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. 5We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.

Bible Study – Listen!

February 2005
Matthew Kneisler

Ephesians 6:12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

When we are distracted, or hindered from hearing God, we have entered the battlefield. When we enter the battlefield, and are frustrated at the lack of answer from God, we need to consider the following:



Ephesians 6:13 Therefore put **on the full armor of God**, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.
¹⁴Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, ¹⁵and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. ¹⁶In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. ¹⁸And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.

3.3 Worldly Distractions

Have you ever seen the Olympic Games? Did you see the determination and the focus of each of the athletes faces as they prepared for the event? Their sternness, total concentration and their focus was intense; it was hot; it was undisturbed and completely undistracted. Nothing could keep them from reaching their goal and nothing could side track them or allow them to get second place.

Paul tried to capture this feeling with his words:

Bible Study – Listen!

February 2005
Matthew Kneisler

¹ Corinthians 9:24 Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? **Run in such a way as to get the prize.** ²⁵ Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last; but we do it to get a crown that will last forever. ²⁶ Therefore I do not run like a man running aimlessly; I do not fight like a man beating the air. ²⁷ No, I beat my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize.

But Satan distracts us, and he hinders us from hearing the voice of God.

^{Galatians 5:7} You were running a good race. Who cut in on you and kept you from obeying the truth? **⁸ That kind of persuasion does not come from the one who calls you.**

^{Hebrews 12:1} Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, **let us throw off everything that hinders** and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. ² Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Often we hear of children having Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD). This is a condition where the child can not focus or pay attention in a learning environment. Analogously, there is a condition called Spiritual ADD. Do you have it? We must ignore spiritual distractions and give God our white hot focus.

3.3.1 Lack of Knowledge of God

Have you ever been caught in the discussion of “Evolution VS Creationism”? Those who have their minds set on the “absolute fact” of evolution turn a blind eye to the possibility of creation having a Creator!

^{Genesis 1:1} In the beginning **God created the heavens and the earth.**

^{Psalms 24:1} **The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it;** ² for he founded it upon the seas and established it upon the waters.

^{John 1:1} In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was with God in the beginning. **³ Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.** ⁴ In him was life, and that life was the light of men. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood^[a] it.

Not knowing who God is or what He has done for us greatly limits our ability to listen to His awesome voice. We will be more impressed with the things of man or the creation rather than the Creator?

3.3.2 Poor Self-Image

^{Psalms 139:13} For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. ¹⁴ I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. ¹⁵ My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place. When I was woven together in the depths of the earth, ¹⁶ your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.

Bible Study – Listen!

February 2005
Matthew Kneisler

John 3:16^[f]“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son,^[f] that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

3.3.3 False Guilt

Luke 13:4^[f]“Or those eighteen who died when the tower in Siloam fell on them - **do you think they were more guilty** than all the others living in Jerusalem? ⁵I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish.”

John 8:32^[f]“Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

John 9:1^[f]“As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. ²His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” ³“**Neither this man nor his parents sinned,**” said Jesus, “but this happened so that the work of God might be displayed in his life. ⁴As long as it is day, we must do the work of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work. ⁵While I am in the world, I am the light of the world.”

3.3.4 Busyness

Matthew 13:22^[f]“Now he who received seed among the thorns is he who hears the word, and **the cares of this world** and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful. [NKJV]

Luke 10:40^[f]“But **Martha was distracted by all the preparations** that had to be made. She came to him and asked, “Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!” ⁴¹“Martha, Martha,” the Lord answered, “you are worried and upset about many things, ⁴²but only one thing is needed.^[f] **Mary has chosen what is better,** and it will not be taken away from her.”

3.3.5 Unbelief

Matthew 13:58^[f]“And he did not do many miracles there because of their lack of faith.

Mark 9:20^[f]“So they brought him. When the spirit saw Jesus, it immediately threw the boy into a convulsion. He fell to the ground and rolled around, foaming at the mouth. ²¹Jesus asked the boy's father, “How long has he been like this?” “From childhood,” he answered. ²²“It has often thrown him into fire or water to kill him. But if you can do anything, take pity on us and help us.” ²³“If you can?” said Jesus. “Everything is possible for him who believes.” ²⁴Immediately the boy's father exclaimed, “**I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!**”

Romans 4:20^[f]“Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God,

3.3.6 Anger toward God

Do you remember the last time you were angry with someone? Were you able to “peacefully” listen, “logically” understand and “sympathetically” comprehend what

Bible Study – Listen!

February 2005
Matthew Kneisler

the other person was trying to say? Most likely, you did not! When we are angry our emotions block a clear path to our mind. And we hear what we want to hear, not what we need to hear.

If we are angry with God, we can not hear his voice no matter how “good” we are!

Ephesians 4:26^a“In your anger do not sin”^[d]: Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, ²⁷and do not give the devil a foothold.

James 1:19^aMy dear brothers, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, ²⁰for man's anger does not bring about the righteous life that God desires.

3.3.7 Concealed Sin

Job 10:13^a "But this is what you **concealed in your heart**, and I know that this was in your mind: ¹⁴ If I sinned, you would be watching me and would not let my offense go unpunished.

Proverbs 26:26^a His **malice may be concealed** by deception, but his wickedness will be exposed in the assembly.

Proverbs 28:13^a He who **conceals his sins** does not prosper, but whoever confesses and renounces them finds mercy.

Jeremiah 16:17^a My eyes are on all their ways; they are not hidden from me, nor is their **sin concealed** from my eyes.

Matthew 10:26^a“So do not be afraid of them. There is **nothing concealed** that will not be disclosed, or hidden that will not be made known.

3.3.8 Rebellious Spirit

Deuteronomy 9:22^a **You also made the LORD angry** at Taberah, at Massah and at Kibroth Hattaavah. ²³ And when the LORD sent you out from Kadesh Barnea, he said, "Go up and take possession of the land I have given you." **But you rebelled against the command of the LORD** your God. You did not trust him or obey him. ²⁴ You have been rebellious against the LORD ever since I have known you.

Psalms 25:7^a Remember not the sins of my youth and my rebellious ways; according to your love remember me, for you are good, O LORD .

Psalms 68:6^a God sets the lonely in families, ^[b] he leads forth the prisoners with singing; but **the rebellious live in a sun-scorched land.**

3.3.9 Reject God Message

Bible Study – Listen!

February 2005
Matthew Kneisler

Matthew 10:40¹“He who receives you receives me, and he who receives me receives the one who sent me.

Matthew 12:30²“He who is not with me is against me, and he who does not gather with me scatters. ³¹And so I tell you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven. ³²Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but anyone who speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven, either in this age or in the age to come.

Mark 8:38¹“If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when he comes in his Father's glory with the holy angels.”

Luke 10:16¹“He who listens to you listens to me; he who rejects you rejects me; but he who rejects me rejects him who sent me.”

3.3.10 Not Forgiving Others

Psalms 32:1¹ Blessed is he whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered. ² Blessed is the man whose sin the LORD does not count against him and in whose spirit is no deceit.

Matthew 5:23¹“Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, ²⁴leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to your brother; then come and offer your gift.

Luke 19:8¹“But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, “Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount.” ⁹Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. ¹⁰For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost.”

3.3.11 Hardened Hearts

Exodus 8:19¹ The magicians said to Pharaoh, "This is the finger of God." But **Pharaoh's heart was hard and he would not listen**, just as the LORD had said.

Hebrews 3:7¹ So, as the Holy Spirit says: “Today, if you hear his voice, ⁸**do not harden your hearts** as you did in the rebellion, during the time of testing in the desert, ⁹where your fathers tested and tried me and for forty years saw what I did. ¹⁰That is why I was angry with that generation, and I said, ‘Their hearts are always going astray, and they have not known my ways.’ ¹¹So I declared on oath in my anger, ‘They shall never enter my rest.’”
»[a]

Romans 2:5¹ But because of your stubbornness and your unrepentant heart, you are storing up wrath against yourself for the day of God's wrath, when his righteous judgment will be revealed.

3.3.12 Religious Activity

Bible Study – Listen!

February 2005
Matthew Kneisler

Matthew 23:23²³“Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You give a tenth of your spices—mint, dill and cummin. But you have neglected the more important matters of the law—justice, mercy and faithfulness. You should have practiced the latter, without neglecting the former. ²⁴You blind guides! You strain out a gnat but swallow a camel. ²⁵“Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You clean the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence. ²⁶Blind Pharisee! First clean the inside of the cup and dish, and then the outside also will be clean. ²⁷“Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You are like whitewashed tombs, which look beautiful on the outside but on the inside are full of dead men’s bones and everything unclean. ²⁸In the same way, on the outside you appear to people as righteous but on the inside you are full of hypocrisy and wickedness.

3.4 Questions

- 1 What distracts you from your time with God?
- 2 How have you noticed Satan’s effect on your life?
- 3 Can you recall times when you were being attacked and experienced spiritual warfare?
- 4 What are you doing now to prepare for your next spiritual battle which will take you away from hearing God’s voice?
- 5 Are you accountable to anyone for your quiet time?
- 6 Do any of the worldly distractions claim your time away from God? What can you do to prevent it next time?
- 7 Which worldly distractions most affect you?

Bible Study – Listen!

February 2005
Matthew Kneisler

4.0 God's Voice

Satan's voice seems so prevalent and God's voice seems so distant! Satan's voice and the things of this world are so "loud", so noisy and God's voice is so "quiet"!



^{1 Peter 5:8} Be selfcontrolled and alert. Your enemy the **devil prowls around like a roaring lion** looking for someone to devour.

^{1 Kings 19:12} and after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire; and after the fire **a still small voice**. [NKJV]

Why do we have to work so hard to hear His voice? Why doesn't He talk to me when I need Him? Hopefully, we are learning that God is not distant. Ironically, it is "us" who are distant from God. We push Him out of our life and expect to draw Him in instantly and hear Him on our demand.

Since we have begun our study, these are the things that we know:

- If we have a relationship with God, we will hear His voice.

^{John 10:27} My sheep listen to my voice; **I know them**, and they follow me.

- We have a very large spiritual world against us. It "hinders" us from becoming close to God and understanding His voice.

^{1 Thessalonians 2:18} Therefore we wanted to come to you--even I, Paul, time and again--but **Satan hindered us**.

- Our flesh is drawn is naturally drawn to the things of this world.

^{Romans 7:18} I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature.^[c] For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out.

- We must make an effort and draw near to Him.

Bible Study – Listen!

February 2005
Matthew Kneisler

Jeremiah 29:12 Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you.
13 And you will seek Me **and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.**

- God deeply desires to talk to His children.

Romans 8:14 because those who are led by the Spirit of God are **sons of God.**

But can we really hear God's voice?

Psalm 40:6 Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, but my **ears you have pierced** ^[b], ^[c],
burnt offerings and sin offerings you did not require.

Psalm 40:6 Sacrifice and offering You do not desire, nor have You delight in them; **You have given me the capacity to hear and obey** [Your law, a more valuable service than] burnt offerings and sin offerings [which] You do not require. [Amplified Bible]

Psalm 40:6 Doing something for you, bringing something to you-- that's not what you're after. Being religious, acting pious-- that's not what you're asking for. You've **opened my ears so I can listen.** [Message]

The answer is absolutely, YES! God tells us that He has pierced our ears; He has opened them so that we can both listen and obey!

4.1 In Tune with God

When you think of the words "in tune", a piano tuner come to mind. Being in tune with God enables us to be focused on Him and His word. Like two lovers who are in tune with each other, they can finish each others sentences. Likewise, when we are in tune with God, we will hear His voice, think like He does and be on the same page!

Psalm 44:1 **We have heard with our ears**, O God; our fathers have told us what you did in their days, in days long ago.

4.1.1 The Piano

In the article by Steve Schmadeke from the University of Iowa, piano tuner Steve Carver makes some interesting comments on his profession, a piano tuner:

Bible Study – Listen!

February 2005
Matthew Kneisler



Learning the job takes at least three years and another five to train the ears to listen properly, according to Carver. The tuner must be able to determine the best way to **tune each piano and this requires patience and complete focus.**

"You have to be this for the long haul," he says. ...

In addition to maintaining pianos for the School of Music, Carver, who joined the UI staff in 1983, tunes pianos for world-renowned performers before Hancher concerts. These events require a precise level of tuning on two pianos so the performer can choose the one he or she likes best. Carver invests over 20 hours in preparation because the chosen piano must be tuned three times—before being chosen, again to address the performer's concerns, and once again after the pianist has warmed up. Carver says he usually finishes the process by playing Scott Joplin's "Maple Leaf Rag" or "Gladiolus Rag" to make sure the piano "sparkles."

Another component of being "in tune" is the method of tuning. How would you tune 100 pianos?



Start with the first one, and tune it, then move to the second one. Tune the second piano to that of the first piano. The third piano is tuned to the second one and so on. Because of the subtle variations between pianos, by the time you tuned the 100th piano, it would be out of tune!

If we want to be in tune with the "master tuner", each piano must be tuned by him alone! If God is our "master tuner", will we listen to Him and be tuned by Him?

Bible Study – Listen!

February 2005
Matthew Kneisler

Whose voice are you listening to? Is it the “master tuner”, your friends, Hollywood, politics, or the “master deceiver”?

4.1.2 The Radio

Like the radios in our homes or cars, we must tune in a station to receive its signal across the airwaves. As we discussed in the previous chapter, “Hindrance to God’s Voice”, our fleshly nature is directly in tune with that of the king of this world: Satan!

Ephesians 2:2 In which at one time you walked [habitually]. You were following the course and fashion of this world [were under the sway of the tendency of this present age], following **the prince of the power of the air**. [You were obedient to and under the control of] the [demon] spirit that still constantly works in the sons of disobedience [the careless, the rebellious, and the unbelieving, who go against the purposes of God]. [Amplified Bible]

Matthew 26:41 “Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but **the body is weak.**”

4.1.3 An “in tune” Example

When we seek God and spend time in His word, we find that His word speaks to us. And if we are “in tune” with Him and His Holy Spirit, we will have new insight and grow in His knowledge. Here is an example:

John 12:23 Jesus replied, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds.



Did God design the wheat plant and its life cycle of to be a future example of Jesus’ death and ultimate spread of the Christian church?

Bible Study – Listen!

February 2005
Matthew Kneisler

If we say yes, then we see the depth of God's mind and grow in our admiration of His creation, His thoughts and His creative ways. Maybe the next time we see a stalk of wheat, we see something more than "just wheat".

As a result, we have grown in the depth of the knowledge of God and now smile when we think of what He has done for us through Christ's death: the death of the "single seed". Even though we did not hear God's voice, we came to know a new understanding of Him:

"If I do not die, you can not be a Christian; if I do not die, you will not have eternal life."

If we say no, and do not understand this analogy, then we might not be in tune with His thoughts on this point.

4.2 God's Powerful Voice

Jesus tells us of a time when all who are spiritually dead will be saved from eternal death by hearing Jesus voice.

John 5:24^u "I tell you the truth, whoever **hears** my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life. ²⁵I tell you the truth, a time is coming and **has now come** when the dead will **hear the voice of the Son of God** and those who **hear** will live. ²⁶For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son to have life in himself. ²⁷And he has given him authority to judge because he is the Son of Man.

Jesus tells us of a time in the future when all who are physically dead will be resurrected from their graves by hearing Jesus voice.

John 5:28^u "Do not be amazed at this, for a time is coming when all who are in their graves will **hear his voice** ²⁹and come out—those who have done good will rise to live, and those who have done evil will rise to be condemned. ³⁰By myself I can do nothing; **I judge only as I hear**, and my judgment is just, for I seek not to please myself but him who sent me.

A Christian is called by God, by the voice of God. This calling starts when God directs Jesus and Jesus' word brings us into a relationship with Him. This is the beginning of our time to listen to God.

Jeremiah 33:3 'Call to me and **I will answer you** and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know.'

John 6:44^u "No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him, and I will raise him up at the last day. ⁴⁵It is written in the Prophets: 'They will all be taught by God.'^[d] Everyone who listens to the Father and learns from him comes to me.

4.3 Description

The voice of God carries many descriptions.

Bible Study – Listen!

February 2005
Matthew Kneisler

4.3.1 Water



Ezekiel 43:2 and I saw the glory of the God of Israel coming from the east. **His voice was like the roar of rushing waters**, and the land was radiant with his glory.

Revelations 1:15 His feet were like bronze glowing in a furnace, and **his voice was like the sound of rushing waters**.

Revelations 14:2 And I heard **a sound from heaven like the roar of rushing waters** and like a loud peal of thunder. The sound I heard was like that of harpists playing their harps.

Revelations 19:6 Then I heard what sounded like a great multitude, **like the roar of rushing waters** and like loud peals of thunder, shouting: Hallelujah! For our Lord God Almighty reigns.

4.3.2 Thunder



Job 40:9 Do you have an arm like God's, and **can your voice thunder** like his?

Psalm 29:3 The voice of the LORD is over the waters; **the God of glory thunders**, the LORD thunders over the mighty waters.

Psalm 77:18 **Your thunder was heard** in the whirlwind, your lightning lit up the world; the earth trembled and quaked.

Psalm 104:7 But at your rebuke the waters fled, **at the sound of your thunder** they took to flight;

Bible Study – Listen!

February 2005
Matthew Kneisler

4.3.3 Harps



Isaiah 30:31 The voice of the LORD will shatter Assyria; with his scepter he will strike them down. ³² Every stroke the LORD lays on them with his punishing rod will be to the music of tambourines and harps, as he fights them in battle with the blows of his arm.

Revelations 14:2 And I heard a sound from heaven like the roar of rushing waters and like a loud peal of thunder. The sound I heard was like that of harpists playing their harps.

4.3.4 Trumpets



Exodus 19:16 On the morning of the third day there was thunder and lightning, with a thick cloud over the mountain, and **a very loud trumpet blast**. Everyone in the camp trembled.

Hebrews 12:19 **to a trumpet blast or to such a voice** speaking words that those who heard it begged that no further word be spoken to them,

Revelation 1:10 On the Lord's Day I was in the Spirit, and I heard behind me **a loud voice like a trumpet**,

Revelation 4:1 After this I looked, and there before me was a door standing open in heaven. And **the voice I had first heard speaking to me like a trumpet** said, "Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this."

4.4 Obedience

We know the story of Israel and their continual disobedience to the things of God. Continually, they were punished because they did not listen and obey. However,

Bible Study – Listen!

February 2005
Matthew Kneisler

we also know that God wanted to lavish His choicest blessings on Israel. We are required to listen obediently to His voice!

Deuteronomy 6:3 **Listen obediently**, Israel. Do what you're told so that you'll have a good life, a life of abundance and bounty, just as GOD promised, in a land abounding in milk and honey. 4 **Attention**, Israel! GOD, our God! GOD the one and only! 5 Love GOD, your God, with your whole heart: love him with all that's in you, love him with all you've got! 6 Write these commandments that I've given you today on your hearts. Get them inside of you 7 and then get them inside your children. Talk about them wherever you are, sitting at home or walking in the street; talk about them from the time you get up in the morning to when you fall into bed at night. 8 Tie them on your hands and foreheads as a reminder; 9 inscribe them on the doorposts of your homes and on your city gates. 10 When GOD, your God, ushers you into the land he promised through your ancestors Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob to give you, you're going to walk into large, bustling cities you didn't build, 11 well-furnished houses you didn't buy, come upon wells you didn't dig, vineyards and olive orchards you didn't plant. When you take it all in and settle down, pleased and content, 12 make sure you don't forget how you got there--GOD brought you out of slavery in Egypt. [Message]

As children in this world, we are immediately set against the holy ways of God.

Jeremiah 7:23 But this is what I commanded them, saying, "Obey My voice, and I will be your God, and you shall be My people. And walk in all the ways that I have commanded you, that it may be well with you." 24 Yet they did not obey **or incline their ear**, but followed the counsels and the dictates of their evil hearts, and went backward and not forward.

Isaiah 55:8 "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways," says the LORD. 9 "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts.

But we know that because we are His children, we can be obedient and we can hear His voice.

Jeremiah 29:12 Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. 13 And you will seek Me **and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.**

Romans 8:14 because those who are led by the Spirit of God are **sons of God.**

4.5 Our Helper

As Christians, being guided by the Holy Spirit, we can grow in our relationship with Him and ultimately hear His voice and guidance continually in our lives.

Proverbs 8:32 "Now therefore, **listen to me, my children**, For blessed are those who keep my ways.

Proverbs 23:26 My son, **give me your heart**, And let your eyes observe my ways.

Mark 2:6 Now some teachers of the law were sitting there, thinking to themselves, 7 "Why does this fellow talk like that? He's blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?"

Bible Study – Listen!

February 2005
Matthew Kneisler

⁸Immediately Jesus knew in his spirit that this was what they were thinking in their hearts, and he said to them, “Why are you thinking these things? ⁹Which is easier: to say to the paralytic, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Get up, take your mat and walk’? ¹⁰But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins” He said to the paralytic, ¹¹“I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home.” ¹²He got up, took his mat and walked out in full view of them all. This amazed everyone and they praised God, saying, “We have never seen anything like this!”

Our incredible helper is ready and willing to help us any time. But we can block the Holy Spirit’s helping hand. And as Christians, we should have a deep desire to not grieve our Father or His Holy spirit. It will be very difficult to hear God’s voice if we grieve the Holy Spirit.

Ephesians 4:30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. ³¹Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. ³²And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.

4.6 His Word

God’s word, His holy bible, speaks to us. It is through his word that we are directed and guided. In an article by Dr. Eugene Habecker, president of American Bible Society (ABS), he mentions the goal of the society:

“We set about our task in confidence that **God’s Word speaks** most powerfully when its message and meaning are clear in common everyday language.”

God states that His word, our bible, will serve its divine purpose and achieve what He desires!

Isaiah 55: 10 As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, ¹¹ **so is my word that goes out from my mouth:** It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.

4.7 Listen by Michelle Tumes

Artist Lyrics: Michelle Tumes
Song Lyrics: Listen

Over the fields and silently I go
Listen, listen, listen
Over the waves and into the morrow
Listen, listen, listen

Thunderous sound, oh, rocking in my footsteps
Echoes resound so all can hear

Bible Study – Listen!

February 2005
Matthew Kneisler

(chorus)
Listen, listen, listen
To the beat of the drum in you
Listen, listen, listen
To the beat of the drum in you
Pounding, sounding voice in the silence of my soul
Listen, listen, listen
Listen, listen, listen

Through all the toil and radiant pleasures
Listen, listen, listen
Onward I bound toward heavenly treasures
Listen, listen, listen

Thunderous sound, oh rising in the distance
Echoes resound for all to hear
(chorus)

Rhythm resounding for a million years
Timeless impression for all to hear
(chorus)

4.8 Questions

- 1 Why is God's voice so quiet?
- 2 Are you "in tune" with God? Why or why not and how can you tell?
- 3 When was the first time you heard God's voice?
- 4 What do you think of when you consider the power of God's voice?
- 5 Why should obedience be required after listening to God?
- 6 How has God's Holy Spirit, our helper, spoken to you?
- 7 What is the most impressive way in which God's word has spoken to you?

Bible Study – Listen!

February 2005
Matthew Kneisler

5.0 Allowing God to Talk with You

Have you ever noticed that some people are so hard to get a hold of? No matter how hard you try, you can not reach them. You try phone call after phone call, maybe email, maybe even a good old fashioned paper letter! But to no avail, after all of your attempts, you still receive no answer.

Does God feel like this with you? Yes, YOU! Does he speak to you, but you are constantly moving, on the go, or just plain busy? As Christians, we all have busy lives, but when it comes to a special time with God, we must be different. We must seek God!

Jeremiah 29:12 Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you.
13 And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.

One of the best ways we can allow God to talk to us is through “quiet time”. Quiet time is that special time for you and God to be alone. No one, nothing, no sounds, it is a special time for just you and God.

Many Christians know about quiet time, but do many of us keep a regular quiet time? This is something that should be a part of our daily lives. We should do as Jeremiah wrote, “search for Me with all your heart” and then we will hear God’s voice.

5.1 Jesus’ Example

Let us look at the example of Jesus and His quiet time.



Bible Study – Listen!

February 2005
Matthew Kneisler

Mark 1:35 **Very early in the morning, while it was still dark**, Jesus got up, left the house and **went off to a solitary place**, where he prayed. ³⁶Simon and his companions went to look for him, ³⁷and when they found him, they exclaimed: “Everyone is looking for you!”

Luke 5:16 But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed.

Luke 6:12 One of those days Jesus **went out to a mountainside to pray, and spent the night praying** to God. ¹³When morning came, he called his disciples to him and chose twelve of them, whom he also designated apostles: ¹⁴Simon (whom he named Peter), his brother Andrew, James, John, Philip, Bartholomew, ¹⁵Matthew, Thomas, James son of Alphaeus, Simon who was called the Zealot, ¹⁶Judas son of James, and Judas Iscariot, who became a traitor.

Luke 9:18 Once when Jesus was **praying in private** and his disciples were with him, he asked them, “Who do the crowds say I am?”

Luke 9:28 About eight days after Jesus said this, he took Peter, John and James with him and **went up onto a mountain** to pray. ²⁹As he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became as bright as a flash of lightning.

Luke 22:40 On reaching the place, he said to them, “Pray that you will not fall into temptation.” ⁴¹**He withdrew about a stone's throw beyond them**, knelt down and prayed,

5.2 A Story

From his book, “How You Can Be Led by the Spirit of God”, Kenneth E. Hagin reveals this story of how one learns to listen to God.

“I knew a man down in Texas. He had never worn a pair of shoes until he was 12 years old. He had only a fifth grade education. But way back when money was money, he was a millionaire.

Two different people, one from California and the other from Minnesota who had been frequent house guests in his home, told me that this man told each of them the same thing.

He said to both of them, “In all these years and in all these investments [that's how he made his money], I have never lost a dime.”

That beats my record. How about yours?

“Everything I have ever invested in, has made money,” he told each of them on different occasions. Then he told them how he did it.

“I always do this. When someone comes along with an idea, wanting me to invest in something, my first reaction is mental. Now I know when Jesus said, ‘When you pray, enter into your closet,’ that He didn't necessarily mean you have to get into a closet to pray. I know He meant for us to shut things out. But I have a large closet in my bedroom where I go to pray. I pray about it. I wait long enough – until I hear what my spirit says. Sometimes I wait three days. Now I don't mean that I stay in there 24 hours a day. I

Bible Study – Listen!

February 2005
Matthew Kneisler

might come out and eat one meal. Usually I miss a few. I come out and sleep a little bit. But the majority of the time I am waiting, just by myself, until I know inside by an inward witness what I am to do.

“Sometimes my head says, ‘Boy, you would be fool to put your money in that. You’ll lose your shirt.’ But my heart says, ‘Go ahead and invest in it.’ So I do. And in all these years, I have never lost a dime.

“Then again, someone comes along with a deal and my head says, ‘Boy, you had better get into that one.’ But I don’t pay any attention to my head. I get in that closet and wait. Sometimes all night long I wait. I’ll pray and read my bible, but a lot of time I just wait. I just get quiet until my heart says, ‘No, don’t do it,’ and my head says, ‘Yes, you’d better get in on it,’ I don’t do it.

What had this man done? He had learned to follow the inward witness and God guided him in his business, until the late 1930’s and early 1940’s he was already worth two million dollars. That doesn’t seem big now, but it was big then.”

5.3 A Test

Okay, here is a test: 30 seconds of quiet time. Write down your thoughts. Go. After 30 seconds, consider this:

- How did you feel?
- What thoughts went through your mind?
- What did you write down?
- What bible verse did you think about?
- Did you hear God’s voice?
- What leading from God did you hear?

Discuss this test. Discuss your answers to the questions. What happened with this quiet time? What does it tell you about your “next quiet time”?

5.4 Your Quiet Time

When you spend your quiet time with God, what are you trying to accomplish? Why are you having a quiet time with God?

- To enjoy fellowship with God - get to know Him better.
- To delight in God
- To discover principles to direct your life.
- To develop perspectives on life from God’s point of view

Bible Study – Listen!

February 2005
Matthew Kneisler

Jeremiah 9:23 This is what the LORD says: "Let not the wise man boast of his wisdom or the strong man boast of his strength or the rich man boast of his riches, ²⁴ but let him who boasts boast about this: that he understands and knows me, that I am the LORD, who exercises kindness, justice and righteousness on earth, for in these I delight," declares the LORD.

James 4:8 Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you doubleminded.

After her conversion, Catherine Martin found it imperative to develop a quiet time with the Lord. Her passion has taken her to new heights and it has helped others grow closer to God. Here is a quote from her website www.radicalintimacy.com :

"Remember, God is the One extending this invitation to intimacy. That is important. It is not just an acquaintance extending an invitation to meet with you. It is not your neighbor. It is not the pastor of your church. It is not even the President of the United States. It is God Himself, the Creator and CEO of the Universe, the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords."

From the Communion with God website www.cwgministries.org/Four-Keys-to-Hearing-Gods-Voice.htm

Psalms 46:10 "Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth."

Hebrews 12:2 Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

"It is very important that you become still and properly focused if you are going to receive the pure word of God. If you are not still, you will simply be receiving your own thoughts. If you are not properly focused on Jesus, you will receive an impure flow, because the intuitive flow comes out of that upon which you have fixed your eyes. Therefore, if you fix your eyes upon Jesus, the intuitive flow comes from Jesus. If you fix your gaze upon some desire of your heart, the intuitive flow comes out of that desire of your heart. To have a pure flow you must first of all become still, and secondly, you must carefully fix your eyes upon Jesus. Again I will say, this is quite easily accomplished by quietly worshiping the King, and then receiving out of the stillness that follows."

5.4.1 Stop, Drop and Listen

If you have ever been to a fire department presentation, you have heard the phrase "stop, drop and roll". This procedure will help to put out a fire which is on you or your clothes.

Bible Study – Listen!

February 2005
Matthew Kneisler



However, to hear the voice of God, we need to “stop, drop and listen”.



5.4.2 Prayer: A Prepared Mind

Before we start our quiet time, we need to go before God and ask Him for His help. We need His direction and His focus.

Philippians 4:6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, **by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.** 7 And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

5.4.3 Location: A Special Place

It is best for us to be in a solitary place. We need privacy. This is an intimate time between us and God. We want to be able to open up to Him with out fear of others listening in, commenting or distracting us from this most personal time with God.

Luke 5:16 But **Jesus often withdrew to lonely places** and prayed.

5.4.4 Bible: God’s Word

Sometimes a devotional helps us to set our minds in a proper place. An open page to God’s word helps us to gain a proper focus on where He wants us to be.

John 14:26 But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.

Bible Study – Listen!

February 2005
Matthew Kneisler

5.4.5 Time: How Long?

Quiet time should be planned daily. But as you enter your quiet time, how long do you take? The total quiet time will fluctuate, but as you saw, the time period should be longer than 30 seconds!! How long does it take you to communicate your ideas and thoughts with other people?

Luke 6:12 One of those days Jesus **went out to a mountainside to pray, and spent the night praying** to God.

5.4.6 Journal: Record Your Experience

As your quiet time matures, your thoughts will mature. To see your progress, to document your “success” and to document “answered prayer”, you will need to write down your experiences.

Colossians 4:18 I, Paul, write this greeting in my own hand. Remember my chains. Grace be with you.

5.5 Your Journal

Journaling is the key to making your quiet time pay off. Without a journal, your quiet time loses its meaning. If you journal, you will see how God answers your prayers, you will see a history of your thoughts and how they mature with time. You will see the power of God in your life.

From her website, Catherine Martin shares an example of how journaling brought her into the power of God and His word:

“One morning as I began my quiet time, I became overwhelmed with the difficulties in my life. At that very moment, the light from the sunrise glimmered with such intensity through the windows that it prompted me to write a prayer in my journal, “Lord I need a sunrise in my life.” Then, I turned to Luke 1:67-79, the prophecy of Zacharias talking about John the Baptist and the coming Messiah. My heart jumped when I read verses 78-79: “the Sunrise from on high will visit us, to shine upon those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.” I thought, “Only God, in the whole world, could cause the sun to rise in a certain way, prompt me to write a prayer for a sunrise, and then show me a new name for Jesus and reveal something new about His character to me.” That is the power of God and His Word.

The Bible has become a friend to me for it leads me to Jesus. My experience with Him can be traced through so many of the words found on its pages.”

The Lord commands several authors of the bible to write down what they see and hear!

Bible Study – Listen!

February 2005
Matthew Kneisler

Exodus 17:14 Then the LORD said to Moses, "**Write this on a scroll as something to be remembered** and make sure that Joshua hears it, because I will completely blot out the memory of Amalek from under heaven."

Ezekiel 37:15 **The word of the LORD came to me:** ¹⁶ "Son of man, **take a stick of wood and write on it**, 'Belonging to Judah and the Israelites associated with him.' Then **take another stick of wood, and write on it**, 'Ephraim's stick, belonging to Joseph and all the house of Israel associated with him.' ¹⁷ Join them together into one stick so that they will become one in your hand.

Habakkuk 2:1 I will stand at my watch and station myself on the ramparts; **I will look to see what he will say to me**, and what answer I am to give to this complaint. ^[a] ² Then the LORD replied: "**Write down the revelation** and make it plain on tablets so that a herald ^[b] may run with it.

Revelation 1:10 On the Lord's Day I was in the Spirit, and **I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet**, ¹¹ **which said: "Write on a scroll what you see** and send it to the seven churches: to Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia and Laodicea."

Revelation 21:5 He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!" Then he said, "**Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.**"

John 5:46 If you believed Moses, you would believe me, for **he wrote about me**. ⁴⁷ But since you do not believe what he wrote, how are you going to believe what I say?"

Mark 12:26 Now about the dead rising—have you not read in **the book of Moses, in the account of the bush, how God said to him**, 'I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob'^[d]?

You have a direct connection to God because His Holy Spirit resides within you. What is God trying to tell you? How is He communicating with you? How will you confirm what He says unless you write it down? Like the bible, could your writings be used by others to learn more about God? Have you considered the message God sends you to be as important the message He sent the patriarchs? You are important to God! His message to you is very important.

5.6 Quiet Time by Dave Kramer

The painting by Dave Kramer captures the essence of one seeking God. It is a desire to escape to a quiet and remote place where only you and God can share time together. As captured by Dave:

"High in one of the turrets in the old castle was to become her favorite place to escape. There she would read for hours ..."

Bible Study – Listen!

February 2005
Matthew Kneisler



5.7 Word of God Speak by Mercy Me

MERCYME

"Word Of God Speak"

I'm finding myself at a loss for words
And the funny thing is it's okay
The last thing I need is to be heard
But to hear what You would say

[CHORUS]

Word of God speak
Would You pour down like rain
Washing my eyes to see
Your majesty
To be still and know
That You're in this place
Please let me stay and rest
In Your holiness
Word of God speak

I'm finding myself in the midst of You
Beyond the music, beyond the noise
All that I need is to be with You
And in the quiet hear Your voice

[REPEAT CHORUS 2x]

I'm finding myself at a loss for words
And the funny thing is it's okay

Bible Study – Listen!

February 2005
Matthew Kneisler

5.8 Questions

- 1 How does Jesus' example of quiet time affect you?
- 2 Have you heard anyone's quiet time success stories? Does this encourage you to do the same?
- 3 When you have been quiet, what has God told you?
- 4 What is your quiet place like?
- 5 How does it help you to hear the voice of God?
- 6 How long have you been journaling?
- 7 What can you share about your journaling experiences?

Bible Study – Listen!

February 2005
Matthew Kneisler

6.0 Allowing God to Answer You

We want to hear God's voice now! However, one of the fruits of God Holy spirit is "patience". How difficult it is to be patient and wait for something. Often we rush to be satisfied only to realize that our impatience cost us a job, a marriage, a friendship, a life, a limb or a bank account.

The situation might vary, but the results are the same. As we rush to judgment and rush into action without the blessings of God's voice, we will inevitably pay a price. Sometimes the price is not seen for years, sometimes it is seen immediately.

If God's answers came immediately there would be no need for any of us to write about "waiting" or being patient. But God is shaping us into something more than what we can see. There is a reason we need to apply patience: "He is refining us, changing us and helping us to build His Holy character!"

Romans 5:3 Moreover [let us also be full of joy now!] let us exult and triumph in our troubles and rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that pressure and affliction and hardship produce **patient and unswerving endurance**. ⁴And endurance (fortitude) develops maturity of ^[c]character (approved faith and ^[d]tried integrity). And character [of this sort] produces [the habit of] ^[e]joyful and confident hope of eternal salvation. ⁵Such hope never disappoints or deludes or shames us, for God's love has been poured out in our hearts through the Holy Spirit Who has been given to us. [Amplified Bible]

To fully hear God and His voice, we must be patient and we must wait to hear from Him. We must wait on the Lord!

6.1 Wait on the Lord.

The bible is replete with examples and verses on "waiting". It is a key to success in God's ways. Remember that Satan's spirit is almost always the "opposite" to that of God's spirit. When we feel that impatient draw, we need to consider the source and cast it away.

Psalm 5:3 In the morning, O LORD, you hear my voice; in the morning I lay my requests before you and wait in expectation.

Psalm 27:14 Wait for the LORD; be strong and take heart and wait for the LORD.

Psalm 33:20 We wait in hope for the LORD; he is our help and our shield.

Psalm 37:7 Be still before the LORD and wait patiently for him; do not fret when men succeed in their ways, when they carry out their wicked schemes.

Bible Study – Listen!

February 2005
Matthew Kneisler

Psalm 37:34⁴ Wait for the LORD and keep his way. He will exalt you to inherit the land; when the wicked are cut off, you will see it.

Psalm 38:15¹⁵ I wait for you, O LORD; you will answer, O Lord my God.

Psalm 40:1¹ I waited patiently for the LORD ; he turned to me and heard my cry.

Psalm 130:5⁵ I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, And in His word I do hope. ⁶My soul waits for the Lord More than those who watch for the morning-- Yes, more than those who watch for the morning.

Isaiah 8:17¹⁷ And I will wait on the LORD, Who hides His face from the house of Jacob; And I will hope in Him.

Isaiah 40:31³¹ But those who wait on the LORD Shall renew their strength; They shall mount up with wings like eagles, They shall run and not be weary, They shall walk and not faint.

Lamentations 3:25²⁵ The LORD is good to those who wait for Him, To the soul who seeks Him. ²⁶It is good that one should hope and wait quietly For the salvation of the LORD.

Micah 7:7⁷ Therefore I will look to the LORD; I will wait for the God of my salvation; My God will hear me.

Acts 1:4⁴ On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: “Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. ⁵For John baptized with^[a] water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”

Consider this last verse: Acts 1:4. Those who listened to the voice of God and waited were the first people to receive the gift of God’s Holy Spirit on that awesome day of Pentecost. What an incredible gift for those who followed God’s leading voice!

6.2 McChristians

Like the child waiting so very patiently for dessert, we wait on the things of God with eager and often impatient anticipation of “the arrival” of our dessert. Because of our “*McDonalds drive through*”, “*give it to me now society*”, we miss the point of what God is trying to do.

Bible Study – Listen!

February 2005
Matthew Kneisler



Here is a story which captures the essence of our modern day impatience:

I sat in my seat of the Boeing 767 waiting for everyone to hurry and stow their carry-ons and grab a seat so we could start what I was sure to be a long, uneventful flight home. With the huge capacity and slow moving people taking their time to stuff luggage far too big for the overhead and never paying much attention to holding up the growing line behind them, I simply shook my head knowing that this flight was not starting out very well. ...

With everyone finally seated, we just sat there with the cabin door open and no one in any hurry to get us going although we were well past the scheduled take off time. No wonder the airline industry is in trouble I told myself. Just then, the attendant came on the intercom to inform us all that we were being delayed. The entire plane let out a collective groan.

She resumed speaking to say, *"We are holding the aircraft for some very special people who are on their way to the plane and the delay shouldn't be more than 5 minutes."* The word came after waiting six times as long as we were promised that "I" was finally going to be on my way home. Why the hoopla over "these" folks? I was expecting some celebrity or sport figure to be the reason for the hold up. Just get their butts in a seat and let's hit the gas I thought.

The attendant came back on the speaker to announce in a loud and excited voice that we were being joined by several U.S. Marines returning home from Iraq!!! Just as they walked on board, the entire plane erupted into applause. The men were a bit taken by surprise by the 340 people cheering for them as they searched for their seats. They were having their hands shook and touched by almost everyone who was within an arm's distance of them as they passed down the aisle. One elderly woman kissed the hand of one of the Marines as he passed by her. The applause whistles and cheering didn't stop for a long time.

When we were finally airborne, "I" was not the only civilian checking his conscience as to the delays in "me" getting home, finding my easy chair, a cold beverage and the remote in my hand. ...

The cheers and applause continued until the last Marine stepped off and we all rose to go about our too often taken for granted everyday freedoms. I felt proud of them. I felt it an honor and a privilege to be among the first to welcome them home and say "Thank You for a job well done."

Author Unknown

Bible Study – Listen!

February 2005
Matthew Kneisler

How often are we impatient with the voice of God and are frustrated with His apparent inconsideration of our lives?

From the www.bible.org website, Bob Deffinbaugh helps identify the “waiting” Christians go through:

“I doubt that there is anything I dislike more than waiting. It may be that you can identify with me in my annoyance with waiting, especially when it is prolonged awaiting someone’s arrival. Husbands sometimes come to church in a mental “miff” because they have sat in the car, waiting for wife and/or family to get out to the car. Wives can get upset waiting for their husband to get home from work, especially if they have dinner in the oven getting extra crispy or on the table getting cold. I was watching the news a couple of weeks ago, during the ice storm, and much was made of the thousands who were forced to spend a day or more in the airport, waiting for the weather to clear and for the airline schedules to be untangled.

Our culture is not inclined to wait, either. Think, for example, of how many “fast food” restaurants there are in our city, as compared with those which cook food the slow, old-fashioned way. TV dinners are the solution for those who wish to eat at home, quickly. Credit cards have a great appeal to us because we can buy the things we want without having to wait till we have the cash to do so. The “sexual revolution” has also given our society a convenient philosophical rationale for not “waiting” for sexual enjoyment, within marriage.

When you think of the Bible, waiting is one of the things which men and women of faith are called upon to do. All of those named in the “hall of faith” in Hebrews 11 had to wait for the promised blessings of God. Their wait was even longer than we would like to contemplate—they were still waiting when they died. They are still waiting! “

6.2.1 Patriarch Waiting

Do you realize that our patriarchs are still waiting for their promise from God? Hebrews chapter 11 is called the “faith” chapter. And it lists a series of patriarch who have been faithful to God and listened to Him, but they are still waiting for the promises of God:

Hebrews 11:13 All these people were still living by faith when they died. **They did not receive the things promised**; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance. And they admitted that they were aliens and strangers on earth.

Who has waited the longest of any of human? Could it be Noah? He waited 120 years for God to bring the flood after He promised it.

Bible Study – Listen!

February 2005
Matthew Kneisler



Genesis 5:3 Then the LORD said, "My Spirit will not contend with ^[a] man forever, for he is mortal ^[b]; his days will be a hundred and twenty years."

How long have you been waiting for your answer from God?

6.2.2 Christian Waiting

We know that the world is very impatient. However, as Christians we are required to rise above the world and with the help of God, we are to reflect Him.

Galations 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, **patience**, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³gentleness and selfcontrol.

¹ Peter 3:20 who disobeyed long ago when **God waited patiently** in the days of Noah while the ark was being built. In it only a few people, eight in all, were saved through water,

6.3 Hearing God's Answer When We Least Expected It

Often, when we least expect it, God answers our prayers. Little do we realize it at the time that our prayers have been answered!

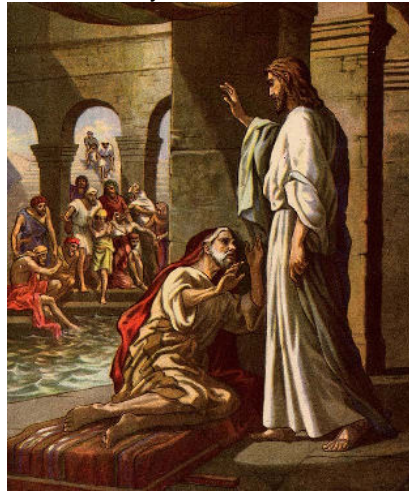
Bible Study – Listen!

February 2005
Matthew Kneisler



Painting by James C. Christensen

Luke 17:11 Now on his way to Jerusalem, Jesus traveled along the border between Samaria and Galilee. ¹²As he was going into a village, ten men who had leprosy^[a] met him. They stood at a distance ¹³and called out in a loud voice, “Jesus, Master, have pity on us!” ¹⁴When he saw them, he said, “Go, show yourselves to the priests.” And as they went, they were cleansed. ¹⁵One of them, when he saw he was healed, came back, praising God in a loud voice. ¹⁶He threw himself at Jesus’ feet and thanked him—and he was a Samaritan. ¹⁷Jesus asked, “Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other nine? ¹⁸Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?” ¹⁹Then he said to him, “Rise and go; your faith has made you well.”



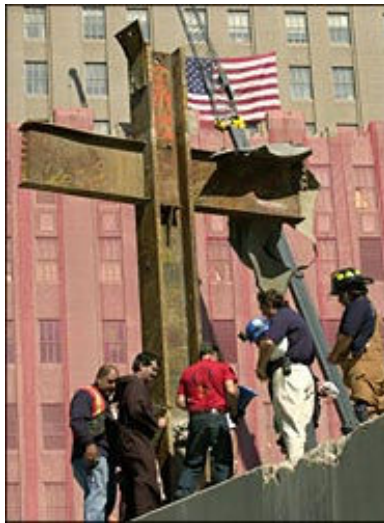
John 5:1 Some time later, Jesus went up to Jerusalem for a feast of the Jews. ²Now there is in Jerusalem near the Sheep Gate a pool, which in Aramaic is called Bethesda^[a] and which is surrounded by five covered colonnades. ³Here a great number of disabled people used to lie—the blind, the lame, the paralyzed.^[b] ⁵One who was there had been an invalid for thirtyeight years. ⁶When Jesus saw him lying there and learned that he had been in this condition for a long time, he asked him, “Do you want to get well?” ⁷“Sir,” the invalid replied, “I have no one to help me into the pool when the water is stirred. While I am trying to get in, someone else goes down ahead of me.” ⁸Then Jesus said to him, “Get up! Pick up your mat and walk.” ⁹At once the man was cured; he picked up his mat and walked.

Bible Study – Listen!

February 2005
Matthew Kneisler

How long had each of these lepers or the crippled man been in prayer to God for healing? How many of them were waiting for God's answer to their prayer? How many years had it been since they started their prayers?

Consider those who were a part of tragedy of September 11, 2001. The stories of people who were spared that fateful day are literally amazing. The terrorists were determined to destroy more than 74,000 Americans, however, less than 3,000 perished. What happened with their plans? The news agency wants you to focus on the tragedy, but the saving hand of God is revealed with these facts:



- What the terrorists saw:
 - More than 50,000 Americans worked in the World Trade Center each day.
 - More than 23,000 Americans worked in the Pentagon each day.
 - More than 1,280 Americans could have been on the four airplanes.
 - More than a total of 74,000 American casualties.
- What God did:
 - The four planes were mostly empty.
 - The Pentagon was hit at its strongest point.
 - The Pentagon was hit in a construction area which kept people away.
 - The majority of people escaped the World Trade Center before collapse.
 - The World Trade Center collapsed straight downward rather than toppling.
 - The Pennsylvania bound United Airlines flight 93 did not reach its target.
 - 47,248 lives spared (94.4%) at the World Trade Center.

Bible Study – Listen!

February 2005
Matthew Kneisler

- 22,877 lives spared (99.5%) at the Pentagon.
- 1,014 lives spared (79.2%) on the four airplanes.

Have you ever asked for God's protection? And then forgotten about it? God talks to us and makes "thing happen" around us. He speaks to us in ways that our physical ears can not hear!

WASHINGTON (BP)--In Jeremiah 29:11-13 the Lord boldly declares: "I know the plans I have for you. Plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Those verses have never been truer for me than they were on Tuesday, Sept. 11, 2001.

My office was ground zero for the jet that hit the Pentagon. My office was totally destroyed, most of my co-workers were killed or severely injured, but I was spared. On that particular day, I was at my apartment waiting to receive a baggage shipment. I checked into the Pentagon on Sept. 4 for an assignment as the public affairs officer for the Deputy Chief of Staff of the Army for Personnel. I was assigned to a newly renovated wing of the Pentagon. I was overwhelmed by the strangeness of the Pentagon -- who does what, what my role is.

I went through the process of checking in and meeting everybody I would work with and completed my processing requirements by Monday, Sept. 10. As part of my arrival requirements, I worked with the Transportation Office at a nearby military installation for delivery of my household goods from Hawaii.

They initially set up the delivery for my shipment to be on Sept. 6. **When I called back to check the confirmation of that date, the person I spoke to said that the previous clerk had dropped the ball and I would have to wait a week to get my goods delivered. I was a little angry, but I resolved to take it in stride and make another appointment.**

Little did I know that the date I chose for the delivery would be a decision that saved my life. I thought that I might have to meet my new boss, Lt. Gen. Maude on Monday, Sept. 10, so I chose to have my baggage delivered on Tuesday, Sept. 11.

I was sitting on my balcony watching and waiting for the moving company truck that was to deliver my baggage to arrive at 9:32 a.m. when I heard what I thought was a sonic boom. Then I heard fire trucks and ambulances rushing through the streets. I turned on the TV and was appalled to see that an American Airlines jet had crashed into the Pentagon. My shock continued as I watched the news come in about the World Trade Center in New York. I was watching when the twin towers came crashing down. My reaction was that I was watching the end of the world."

The terrorists saw so many American targets. But God's voice and His hand protected 71,000!

- What are the 71,000 stories of people who heard God's voice, or experienced His protection?
- Do the 71,000 people know that God protected them?
- How did God's angels intervene in the lives of the 71,000 people?

Bible Study – Listen!

February 2005
Matthew Kneisler

- What situation did God design to keep these people alive and well?

The world gives credit to “coincidence”, but as Christians with faith in God, we know that He is speaking to us. As we wait patiently for His voice, we know that we hear Him and are blessed!

6.4 Summary

We have learned from this study that God speaks to us. He literally speaks to us continually! It is up to us to listen.

6.4.1 His Creation

Psalm 19:1 **The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. ² Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they display knowledge. ³ There is no speech or language where their voice is not heard. ^[a] ⁴ Their voice ^[b] goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world.** In the heavens he has pitched a tent for the sun, ⁵ which is like a bridegroom coming forth from his pavilion, like a champion rejoicing to run his course. ⁶ It rises at one end of the heavens and makes its circuit to the other; nothing is hidden from its heat.

6.4.2 His Word

2 Timothy 3:16 **All Scripture is Godbreathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, ¹⁷so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.**

6.4.3 His Spirit

John 14:26 **But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.**

6.4.4 Understand Hindrances

If we understand our enemy and know that he is set against us, we will begin to see the hindrances which keep us from hearing God's voice.

Hebrews 12:1 **Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.**

6.4.5 Relationship and Quiet Time

If we build a relationship with God and set aside special time for Him, we invite Him to talk with us. We invite Him into our lives and we can begin to hear His voice.

Bible Study – Listen!

February 2005
Matthew Kneisler

Psalm 139:17 **How precious to ^[b] me are your thoughts, O God!** How vast is the sum of them! ¹⁸ Were I to count them, they would outnumber the grains of sand. When I awake, I am still with you.

Jeremiah 29:11 For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD , "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. ¹² Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. ¹³ You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.

¹ John 4:9 This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son^[b] into the world that we might live through him.

6.4.6 Wait on the Lord

In certain cases, God will allow us to wait for His voice. In these cases, we need to exercise patience and know that God is working a good work in our lives. He desires to bless us with His choicest blessings but it will be within His time table, not ours.

6.5 Hungry (Falling On My Knees) by Kathryn Scott

Hungry I come to You
For I know You satisfy
I am empty but I know Your love
Does not run dry
So I wait for You
So I wait for You

I'm falling on my knees
Offering all of me
Jesus You're all this heart is living for

Broken I run to You
For Your arms are open wide
I am weary but I know Your touch
Restores my life
So I wait for You
So I wait for You

6.6 Questions

- 1 Describes a situation where you waited on the Lord for an answer. How did you know you had an answer?
- 2 Describe a situation where you did not wait on the Lord for His answer. What was the outcome?
- 3 Which bible verse spoke to you regarding "wait on the Lord"?
- 4 What can help make your wait easier when you "wait on the Lord"?

Bible Study – Listen!

February 2005
Matthew Kneisler

- 5 Have you ever considered the answered prayers of our patriarchs? Why or why not?
- 6 Consider September 11, 2001. Discuss the prayers of protection of those people spared tragedy and God's voice in their lives.
- 7 How many times a day does God speak to people and guide them?
- 8 How many times a day does God speak to YOU and you are not listening?

Bible Study – Listen!

February 2005
Matthew Kneisler

Appendix A - Quiet Time Accountability Sheet

Hebrews 10:24 And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works (KJV)

Your Name _____

Partner's Name _____

Partner's Number _____

1	Monday, February 07, 2005	_____	21	Sunday, February 27, 2005	_____
2	Tuesday, February 08, 2005	_____	22	Monday, February 28, 2005	_____
3	Wednesday, February 09, 2005	_____	23	Tuesday, March 01, 2005	_____
4	Thursday, February 10, 2005	_____	24	Wednesday, March 02, 2005	_____
5	Friday, February 11, 2005	_____	25	Thursday, March 03, 2005	_____
6	Saturday, February 12, 2005	_____	26	Friday, March 04, 2005	_____
7	Sunday, February 13, 2005	_____	27	Saturday, March 05, 2005	_____
8	Monday, February 14, 2005	_____	28	Sunday, March 06, 2005	_____
9	Tuesday, February 15, 2005	_____	29	Monday, March 07, 2005	_____
10	Wednesday, February 16, 2005	_____	30	Tuesday, March 08, 2005	_____
11	Thursday, February 17, 2005	_____	31	Wednesday, March 09, 2005	_____
12	Friday, February 18, 2005	_____	32	Thursday, March 10, 2005	_____
13	Saturday, February 19, 2005	_____	33	Friday, March 11, 2005	_____
14	Sunday, February 20, 2005	_____	34	Saturday, March 12, 2005	_____
15	Monday, February 21, 2005	_____	35	Sunday, March 13, 2005	_____
16	Tuesday, February 22, 2005	_____	36	Monday, March 14, 2005	_____
17	Wednesday, February 23, 2005	_____	37	Tuesday, March 15, 2005	_____
18	Thursday, February 24, 2005	_____	38	Wednesday, March 16, 2005	_____
19	Friday, February 25, 2005	_____	39	Thursday, March 17, 2005	_____
20	Saturday, February 26, 2005	_____	40	Friday, March 18, 2005	_____

Psalms 81:13ⁿ Oh, that My people would **listen** to Me, That Israel would walk in My ways!

"Fellowship [with God] is nil when one person does all the talking and the other does all the listening." Charles Stanley

Mark 1:35 **Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed.** (NIV)