

# LEARNING HOW TO TRUST GOD

## LEARNING HOW TO TRUST GOD Part 5 – How Does God Speak To Me? Hebrews 11:11, 13

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*Hebrews 11:11,13 “By faith Abraham, even though he was past age--and Sarah herself was barren--was enabled to become a father because he considered him faithful who had made the promise. <sup>13</sup> All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised (yet); they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance. And they admitted that they were aliens and strangers on earth.” (NIV)*

Faith is the trusting obedience to the **revealed** will of God. God communicates to us through promises, commands and principles.

- I. THE KEY THAT UNLOCKS THE LIFE OF FAITH IS GETTING A **WORD** FROM GOD.
- II. TO GET A WORD FROM GOD, WE NEED TO GET OUR HEART READY TO **HEAR** HIM.
  1. Get our lives **cleaned** up.

*Isaiah 59:1-2 “Listen! The LORD’s arm is not too weak to save you, nor is His ear too deaf to hear you call. <sup>2</sup> It’s your sins that have cut you off from God. Because of your sins, He has turned away and will not listen anymore.” (NLT)*

2. Realize God cares about the **details** of your life.

*Matthew 6:31-32 "Don't worry about what you eat or drink or wear. Your heavenly father knows you need these things."*

3. Come to God in **neutral**. Be patient and don't manufacture something you want God to say.

*Habakkuk 2:1-2 "I will stand on my guard post and station myself on the rampart. I will keep watch to see what God will speak to me, and how I may reply when I am reproved. <sup>2</sup> Then the LORD answered me and said, "Record the vision and inscribe it on tablets..." (NASB)*

Come to God in neutral. Be patient. Stand at your "guard post" and **wait** for Him. In the right time, God will speak to your heart.

### III. HOW DOES GOD SPEAK TO US?

- A. God speaks through the **Bible**.

*2 Timothy 3:16 "The whole Bible was given to us by inspiration from God and is useful to teach us what is true and make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It is God's way of making us well prepared at every point."*

- B. God speaks through the **Holy Spirit**.

1. The most common way that God speaks is through a "Rhema", a word from Him. The Bible uses the Greek word, "Rhema" to refer to a specific scripture that the **Holy Spirit** gives to us in a time of need.

*John 14:26 "The Holy Spirit will be your teacher and will bring to your mind all that I have said to you."*

2. The Holy Spirit will tie specific passages in the Bible to your **moment** and need.
3. There are two **extremes** you need avoid when thinking about impressions: one is the rationalist, the other is the mystic.
  - a. The **rationalist** denies that God ever speaks to us through impressions in our heart.
  - b. The **mystic** thinks that every impression they get is from God.

4. *James 3:17-18* “***But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure. It is also peace loving, gentle at all times, and willing to yield to others. It is full of mercy and good deeds. It shows no partiality and is always sincere. [18] And those who are peacemakers will plant seeds of peace and reap a harvest of goodness.*”**
  
5. If you follow this checklist as you test whether something is of God or not, it will give you guidance:
  1. Is what you are hearing “pure” or righteous in God’s eyes? Is it accurate and does its line up with Biblical principles?
  2. Does it produce **peace**?
  3. Is it gentle?
  4. Is it willing to give others the **benefit** of the doubt?
  5. Is it full of mercy?
  6. Is it designed to produce good in others?
  7. Is it demonstrating **fairness**?
  8. Is it sincere and honest?
  9. Does it violate a clear **command** of God’s Word?

**D. God speaks through Godly **common sense**.**

1. When you are faced with a decision in which the Bible is silent, then allow Godly **wisdom** to direct you. Wisdom is Godly common sense.

*James 1:5* “***But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all men generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him.*”**

2. Leith Anderson, Praying to the God You Can Trust, “***When God doesn’t make His will known to us, and what He wants can’t be deduced from other Biblical principles, it may be that He allows us to choose either way. You might pray along these lines: Lord, I haven’t been able to figure out Your will in this matter. I’m assuming that I have the freedom to choose for myself between leasing the apartment on the fourth floor and leasing the apartment on the seventh floor. So, I’m asking You to help me get the seventh floor apartment. I ask for Your help to meet the right neighbors and to use this***

*apartment in a way that will glorify You. If I'm misunderstanding our mind on this, please make that clear to me."*

E. When we can't discover God's will we can trust the Holy Spirit to **pray** for us.

*Romans 8:26-27 "In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. [27] And He who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God's will."*

*CDs and DVDs of today's sermon or previous sermons are available for purchase after the service at our Water's Edge Resource Center.*

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