

HOW TO RECOGNIZE GOD'S VOICE - 4

Receiving Guidance From God
North Lake Presbyterian Church
February 5, 2012

"I will climb my watchtower and wait to see what the Lord will tell me to say and what answer He will give to my complaint. The Lord gave me this answer: 'Write down clearly on tablets what I reveal to you, so that it can be read at a glance.'" (Habakkuk 2.1-2 TEV)

HOW TO RECEIVE GUIDANCE FROM GOD

1. WITHDRAW: Get alone in a quiet place.

I will climb my watchtower. . . (Habakkuk 2.1 TEV)

But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed.
(Luke 5.16 NIV)

2. WAIT: Calm your thoughts and emotions.

. . . and wait to see what the Lord will tell me. . . (Habakkuk 2.1)

Be still and know that I am God (Psalm 46.10)

LORD. . . Every morning I tell you what I need, and I wait for you to answer. (Psalm 5.3 NCV)

3. WATCH: Let God give you a mental picture.

I will look to see what he will say to me. (Habakkuk 2.1)

4. WRITE: Record the ideas you receive.

The Lord gave me this answer, 'Write down clearly. . . what I reveal to you. (Habakkuk 2.2)

5. WORSHIP: Thank God for speaking to you.

O Lord, now I have heard your report, and I worship you in awe. . .
(Habakkuk 3.2 Living Bible)

DUSCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR CLASSES AND GROUPS

(read aloud James 1:1-18)

1. Are you more likely to write a letter, text or call?
2. When the mail arrives what do you open and read first.?
3. As you look back on the "good old days" of your life, were they more likely to be the hard times or the easy times?
4. What three themes are introduced here? How are they related to each other?
5. Does James view hardships as an idealist or realist? Why?
6. What wisdom is needed in those times?
7. Who are these poor and rich? What is there to take pride in?
8. What is low" about a rich person's position?
9. What is the difference between trials and temptations? How would you illustrate the process in verses 14-15? How is this related to the gifts from God in verses 16-18?
10. Concerning a trial you have experienced, what pressure did it bring on your faith? What wisdom did you gain through it?
11. With so much wealth in society, what do verses 9-11 mean to you? What then should we take pride in?
12. What are the warning signs that you are being enticed by your evil desires? What helps you break the spell?
13. What is a "good and perfect gift" for which you are thankful?

BEGINNING NEXT WEEK: "Out Live Your Life" Introduction

This six week study of the Book of Acts will inspire you to do much more with you life than just get to the end. What if you lived your life in such a way that the world was glad you did.

- (1) Enjoy messages each Sunday in worship. . .(2) read the book...
- (3) be involved in one of the small discussion groups for six weeks.

REGISTER in the lobby at the "Out Live Your Life" tables.
