

Deepening The Walk

Faith Answers

(If you have questions, please feel free to contact Kelly Dixon by email kelly@ladiesforJesus.com)

There is one fact about the great invention of Alexander Graham Bell – you do not know to answer the phone unless you hear it ring. God's messages to us are always important and timely. He calls us on many occasions and for many reasons. However, many times we are not alert to His voice and miss His calls altogether. As Christians, it is our responsibility to be wise adventurers of this earth and to be alert to our Master's voice as we journey through life. When we tune into the voice of God He is delighted because we begin to be conformed to the image of His Son and express His love to this world. There are four primary ways that God speaks to us - through His Word, through His Holy Spirit, through another person, and through the circumstances in our life. We should be so attuned to His voice that we hear it as soon as He speaks. Unfortunately, we are not always spiritually alert. Let's look at a number of ways God helps us take notice.

A Restless Spirit:

One of the ways God gets our attention is through a restless spirit. Read Esther 6 & 7 and explain how God used the restless spirit of the king to further His purpose for Mordecai? _____

When we experience a restlessness deep within, the wise thing to do is stop and pray. Ask the Lord if He is trying to say something to you. Many times He gives us a restlessness to show us that we need a change of direction. This is a very gentle method God uses to correct our course.

A Spoken Word:

While there are not many of us that will verbally hear God call our names, we can be alert to the fact that God speaks to us through others. When God wanted to send Eli a message He woke Samuel by calling his name. According to 1 Samuel 3:4-9, how did Eli, as priest, assist Samuel in recognizing God's voice? _____

This experience of God calling Samuel got Eli's attention also. According to 1 Samuel 3:11-18, how did Eli express his curiosity of God's message to Samuel? _____

The Answer of “No” to Our Prayers

Sometimes God will answer a “No” to a prayer we desperately want an answer of “Yes.” Many times God will refuse to give us a prayer request because He wants us to examine ourselves. This is what happened in regards to David in the loss of his son. Looking at this story we see how David's response to God's answer should also be our response.

According to 2 Samuel 12:17-23, how did David respond to God's answer of “No” in regards to his son?

Defeat of Our Own Strength

When we are acting on our own strength, God may cause defeat in our lives so we will tune more to Him and pull from His wisdom and strength. Joshua experienced this right after the great victory of Jericho.

According to Joshua 7, how did God get Joshua and the Israelites attention through their defeat at Ai? What was their response?_____

Financial Difficulties

Many times when it comes to our finances we do as the people did during the times of Judges, “every man did what was right in his own eyes.” As a result, our finances end up in the same state as the nation of Israel did during the time of Judges and that is fallen into idolatry and disobedience (Judges 17:6). God will use financial difficulties to get our attention as to how we are not consulting Him as to how we should spend our money.

According to Judges 6:1-10, how did the Midianites prevail over the Israelites? How did God use this difficulty to get Israel's attention?

(Continue reading in Judges to see how God used Gideon to deliver Israel from their oppression and bless them.)

Final Reflections: Since God is a personal God, He uses not only the methods addressed in this study but many other methods to get our attention. He is constantly wanting to communicate with us and at any given moment He knows exactly where we are in our journey. So, be alert. Notice if any of God's methods are occurring in your life. Ask Him what He wants to tell you. Then, listen—not only to hear, but to answer with obedience.

- Kelly Dixon