

# Listening to God

Read [Psalm 46:1-10](#)

## LESSON 2

### WHY GOD SPEAKS TO US

God speaks to us for reasons that are purely His own; He loves us, and He desires to have a relationship with us. [Psalm 81](#) is a deeply moving plea from God to His people:

[Psalm 81:8-16 \(NASB\)](#)

<sup>8</sup>“Hear, O My people, and I will admonish you; O Israel, if you would listen to Me!

<sup>9</sup>Let there be no strange god among you; Nor shall you worship any foreign god.

<sup>10</sup>I, the LORD, am your God, Who brought you up from the land of Egypt;  
Open your mouth wide and I will fill it.

<sup>11</sup>But My people did not listen to My voice, And Israel did not obey Me.

<sup>12</sup>So I gave them over to the stubbornness of their heart, To walk in their own devices.

<sup>13</sup>Oh that My people would listen to Me, That Israel would walk in My ways!

<sup>14</sup>I would quickly subdue their enemies And turn My hand against their adversaries.

<sup>15</sup>Those who hate the LORD would pretend obedience to Him, And their time of *punishment* would be forever.

<sup>16</sup>But I would feed you with the finest of the wheat, And with honey from the rock I would satisfy you.”

Can you hear the sorrow in God’s voice as He pleads with His people to listen to Him? And for what purpose?

So that He might bless them! God desires only good for His people.

- *After reading [Psalm 81:8–16](#), what new insight do you have about how God desires to relate to you?*

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- *What do you believe He wants to do for you in your life right now?*

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### God’s Desire Toward Us

God created us for fellowship that we might be in relationship with Him. He desires to walk and talk with us, just as He did with Adam and Eve.

He loves us and desires for us to love Him in return.

He gives to us and desires that we give back to Him.

He shields us and protects us from evil and desires that we trust Him.

He provides all that we need and desires that we rely on Him as the source of our total supply.

He is our Father. We are His children. He desires that our relationship as Father and children be healthy, joyful, loving, and fulfilling.

Very specifically, God desires in His love that we might ***comprehend*** His truth about who He is, who we are, and the relationship He desires to have with us; be ***conformed*** to His truth, applying His truth to our lives in a way that transforms us ever more closely into the image of Christ Jesus; and ***communicate*** His truth to others.

## **Comprehend the Truth**

God has given to all believers a divine person—the Holy Spirit—who lives within us to help us receive and understand the truth. The Holy Spirit knows perfectly the mind of God, and the Holy Spirit communicates to our spirits the truth God wants us to hear.

### **What the Word says**

### **What the Word says to me**

John 14:26 (NASB)  
 26, "But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you."

1 Corinthians 2:9-10 (NASB)  
 9 but just as it is written, "THINGS WHICH EYE HAS NOT SEEN AND EAR HAS NOT HEARD, AND *which* HAVE NOT ENTERED THE HEART OF MAN, ALL THAT GOD HAS PREPARED FOR THOSE WHO LOVE HIM."

10 For to us God revealed *them* through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God.

1 Corinthians 2:12 (NASB)  
 12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the things freely given to us by God.

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God desires that we know the mind of God. We can never know the mind of God fully because we are finite creatures and He is infinite. But we can grow in our understanding about who God is, how He operates in our world, and why He does the things He does.

For many reasons, we may be limited in our understanding of God's motives and methods. We may not have read all the Bible. To understand the true and full context of any passage of God's Word, we need to understand the true and full context of all God's Word. Also, we may have cultural differences that keep us from understanding fully what certain things in the Bible mean. We may not have the maturity in Christ Jesus that we need to understand deeper layers of meaning. We may be trying to understand the Bible solely with our minds, which is always futile. The Bible is a spiritual book. It speaks to and is applied to the spirit. None of these reasons, however, are a fixed wall for us. We can grow in our understanding by reading more of God's Word, studying the cultural background of the Bible, gaining more maturity in Christ Jesus, and learning how to read the Bible with spiritual understanding.

- ***In your own life experience, what do you know now about the Lord and about His Word that you didn't know last year? Five years ago? Ten years ago? In what ways are you growing?***

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