Listening to God

Read Psalm 46:1-10

LESSON 2
WHY GOD SPEAKS TO US

The Truth About God

The Lord desires that we know the truth about Him.

First, He is our Creator. God fashioned us as unique creatures. He made the entire natural world for us to rule and enjoy. He has provided all that we need.

Second, He is our life. God breathed into us His breath. We are spirit because God imparted His Spirit to us. We cannot exist apart from God.

Third, He loves us. He is continually reaching out to us with affection, calling to us individually by name.

What the Word Says

Genesis 1:27-28 (NASB)
27 God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.
28 God blessed them; and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

Genesis 1:31 (NASB)
31 God saw all that He had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

Genesis 2:7 (NASB)
7 Then the LORD God formed man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.

1 John 4:19 (NASB)
19 We love, because He first loved us.

What the Word Says to Me

The Truth About Ourselves

The truth about ourselves is twofold.

First, the Holy Spirit convicts us that we are sinners. We are born apart from God. The primary message of the Holy Spirit to us as long as we are apart from God is that we need God.

Second, once we have accepted Jesus Christ as our Savior, the Holy Spirit becomes our Comforter and Counselor. He speaks hope to us in times of turmoil. He strengthens our faith to trust God for our total sustenance. He gives us the assurance not only of our salvation but also of God's faithfulness and total provision toward us. He reveals to us our nature as God's saints on the earth and challenges us to grow more like Jesus.

What the Word Says **What the Word Says to Me**

John 3:16 (NASB)
16 "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.

1 John 4:15 (NASB)
15 Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God.

2 Corinthians 5:17 (NASB)
17 Therefore if anyone is in Christ, *he is* a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.

As we discover more about ourselves, we usually begin to see others in a new light. We see our fellow believers as people whom God is also fashioning, forming, and transforming. We see that all people are loved by God, are in need of God, and can have access to God. We become much more inclined to love others unconditionally.

I have experienced this in my life from a friend who walked through a very painful time of suffering with me. God was sifting me, sanding me, and pruning me until I thought there wouldn't be anything left of me. Sometimes I spoke harshly to my friend, but he always said to me, "I understand. What can I do to help?" He never rejected me or showed disappointment in me. No matter what I shared, he just loved me. He wept with me, prayed with me, laughed with me, and patiently listened to me. How I hope you have a friend like that in your life! How I hope you can become such a friend!

God's truth to us is that we are to love one another.

What the Word Says

John 15:17 (NASB)
17 "This I command you, that you love one another.

1 John 4:7 (NASB)
7 Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.

1 John 4:20 (NASB)
20 If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for the one who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God whom he has not seen.

What the Word Says to Me