

Listening to God

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

LESSON 2

WHY GOD SPEAKS TO US

Conformed to the Truth

It is not enough that we comprehend the truth. We must be conformed to the truth.

God calls us to present ourselves to Him as if we are a “**living sacrifice.**” In the Old Testament days, God consumed sacrifices with His holy fire as a sign of His presence among the people. In our time, God burns out of us with His holy presence everything that is not like Jesus, and then He causes us to burn and to shine brightly with a zeal for living the life Jesus would live if He was walking in our shoes.

As we read and hear God’s Word, we come face-to-face with ourselves, our deficiencies, our errors, our faults. We say again and again, “I’m not like Jesus. But I want to be like Him.” At these times we know that God is truly speaking to us because God always calls us to become more and more like Jesus.

How do you do this? You say to the Father, “Help me to change. Help me to be more like Jesus.” God has promised that He will show you how to be like Jesus, and He will help you become more like Him.

Every time you realize that your life doesn’t line up perfectly with the truth of God’s Word, you have a choice to make—to accept or reject God’s way. When you accept God’s way and openly say to the Lord, “I’m not like that, but I want to be like that,” He begins to do something inside you. You may find that your tastes are changing. You may become uncomfortable in situations in which you used to feel comfortable. You may have new desires for things that are good, healthful, and wholesome. That’s the transforming power of God at work!

What the Word Says

What the Word Says to Me

Romans 12:2 (NASB)

² And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

Romans 8:29 (NASB)

²⁹ For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined *to become* conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren;

James 1:23-25 (NASB)

²³ For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks at his natural face in a mirror;

²⁴ for *once* he has looked at himself and gone away, he has immediately forgotten what kind of person he was.

²⁵ But one who looks intently at the perfect law, the *law* of liberty, and abides by it, not having become a forgetful hearer but an effectual doer, this man will be blessed in what he does.

Consider these questions:

- ***Is there something about your life today that you know is not like Jesus? (What is the first thing that comes to mind?)***

- ***Do you feel challenged to be conformed to the truth?***

Communicate the Truth

Finally, God desires that we communicate His truth to others. God does not give us His truth so that we might hoard it, but that we might share it. He does not impart blessings to us so that we might store them up, but that we might give them away to others and grow in our capacity to receive even more from God. He does not love us so that we might merely bask in His love, but that we might extend His love to others and, in so doing, draw them closer to the Lord. Jesus' commandment was this: **“Go therefore and make disciples”** ([Matthew 28:19](#)).

You communicate your relationship with God whether you intend to do so or not. Your actions, your demeanor, and your spontaneous words reflect your heart. But there is something beyond **“simply being”** that the Lord calls you to do. He desires that you actively and intentionally share what you know about God with others.

Why? So that others might come to know Him, and so that those who know Him might continue to grow in Him. But there is yet another reason—and that is so that you might have more brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus, and that your relationship with these brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus might be deeper and richer.

You see, God wants us to have a loving relationship with Him as our heavenly Father, and He desires that we have loving relationships with others so that our lives might be more joyful, meaningful, and fulfilling. We aren't called to a relationship with God in isolation. Rather, He desires that we become a family of God here on this earth—with a sense of belonging, identity, unconditional love, and great value as individuals.

When we openly and freely share the truth of God with others, we build community. We forge eternal relationships. We connect with people who also are seeking to know God's truth and be conformed to it. And in that, we find strength and comfort and mutual assistance. We become **“fitted together”** with others in a bond that brings us individually and collectively toward greater wholeness.

The greater your witness, the more others will begin to hear His voice and the more enriching and loving your relationships with others will become.

God speaks to you for your benefit and for His delight in establishing a relationship with you.

Consider these questions:

- *What new insights have you gained from this lesson about God's desire to communicate with you?*

- *How do you feel today about God's desire to communicate with you?*

- *What in your background may affect that feeling?*

- *What are you challenged to do?*
