

# Listening to God

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

## LESSON 5

# HOW GOD GETS OUR ATTENTION

When we walk in the Spirit, our spiritual antennae alert to God, we hear what He is saying to us as a natural part of our spiritual walk. This is the Christian life, living keenly responsive to the voice of God in whatever fashion He may choose to speak to us. We can have our attention focused on a person, a chore, or an idea, but at the same time, we are so tuned to God's voice that if He speaks to us, we immediately turn our attention to Him.

Unfortunately, there are times when we choose to do things our own way. As a result, we are headed in a direction that will bring us to disaster or disappointment. God is speaking, but we aren't listening. We aren't tuned in to Him.

In these times, God often uses unusual means to get our attention. Prominent among them, from my experience and understanding of God's Word, are these four means:

1. **A restless spirit**
2. **An unsolicited word from another person**
3. **Unusual circumstances—both bad and good**
4. **Unanswered prayers**

## **Circumstances**

Circumstances can set us up to open our hearts to God and turn our attention fully toward Him.

I have seen numerous examples in my ministry of illness, accidents, bankruptcies, failures, divorces, disappointments, and other times of trouble bringing people to their knees and to a total reliance on Christ—sometimes for the first time in their lives, sometimes for a renewal of surrender and commitment. These situations are not necessarily caused by God. They may not be the result of our own error or sin. But they are circumstances in which we question life and seek answers, and very often, that search for meaning turns us toward our heavenly Father and gives Him a greater opportunity to speak to us.

When trouble strikes, your first response should never be, **“Why, God?”** or **“Why me, God?”** There is no good answer to such questions in most cases. Your first response should be, **“What do You have to say to me in the midst of this, God?”** He will speak.

