

Experiencing God

UNIT 6: God Speaks PART 2

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Memory Verse: *“Jesus replied, “Truly I tell you, the Son is not able to do anything on his own, but only what he sees the Father doing For whatever the Father does, the Son likewise does these things.”* **John 5:19**

Day One:

I. What Happens When You Pray? (p114)

A. When we ask God for something and he gives you something else, most of us respond to what we want rather than what he actually gave us.

1. Paul wrote, *“Now unto Him who is able to do above and beyond all that that I can even ask or think according to the power that is at work in us— to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen!”;***(Eph. 3:20)**

2. God Will Act (he’s able)

B. He can accomplish what we never could.

1. Whatever he sets his mind to do, he can do it...(he set his mind to creation ..., he set his mind to restoring us)
2. To put it crudely, if God puts an item on his to-do list, or agenda, it’s as good as done...;
3. Be willing to let God give you all He wants to bestow;
4. This passage emphasized that God is eternal.

II. Spiritual Concentration (114)

A. Our Problem is that when we pray, we usually don’t relate our prayers to anything that subsequently happens.

1. After you pray, practice spiritual concentration;
2. **(How do we do this);**
3. Paul reminds us in Romans 12:2 that as Christians we are called to *“not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may discern what is the good, pleasing, and perfect will of God.”;*
4. **(2) Create Boundaries and Constraints:** We need to set up constraints and boundaries in our lives to protect ourselves from ourselves.
5. **(3) Set Your Mind on Things Above:** If we go back to Romans 12:2, we see that Paul tells us to *“not be conformed to this age.”;*

6. Paul reinforces this idea when he wrote to the Colossians saying, *“If you have been raised with Christ, seek the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.”*;
7. The way we battle distraction is to become enamored by the things of heaven—to begin to crave spending time with God...;
8. Praying and forgetting about what you prayed for can cause you to see unusual things that we see as distractions. (115)

III. The Silences of God (115)

A. Many struggle with the silences of God.

1. Some think that because of Sin God isn't answering their prayers.
2. Job had an issue of unanswered Prayer also.
3. Job didn't know what all God was doing in that time of his life but his counselors were wrong.
4. **He suffered immensely... and yet God was silent!**
5. In response to his suffering and loss, Job's wife suggested he curse God and die.
6. Accepting God's authority also means actively trusting God, realizing He is in control and can be trusted.
7. Like us, Job faced the choice of **acknowledging** — or **rejecting** — the authority of God.

B. God had another reason for his silence.

1. John 11:1-45 share the death and resurrection of Lazarus. (115-116)
2. When Jesus arrives at the home Lazarus had been dead for four days.
3. Martha said, *“Jesus, if you had only been here my brother would not have died.”* (v32)
4. What are two possible reasons for God's Silence when you Pray?
5. **(1) Sometimes its unconfessed Sin!**
6. **(2) Sometimes God is silent to bring you to a deeper understanding of Him.**

Day Two:

IV. God Speaks Through Circumstances (117)

A. The Holy Spirit uses the Bible, prayer, circumstances, and God's people to speak to us— to show us the Father's will.

1. This third means— circumstances— is illustrated in the way Jesus knew what the Father wanted Him to do.
2. Jesus describes the process in John 5:17, 91-20.
3. In v19 Jesus said, He did not take the initiative in doing anything for the Father.
4. Only the Father has the right to initiate a divine work.

5. The Father has been working right up until Jesus' time on earth, and He was still working (v17).
6. The Father would let the Son Know what He was doing (v20);
7. Jesus always looked for where the Father was at work; then He joined him. (118)
8. This is exactly what Jesus wants us to do through His Lordship in our lives.

B. God's Perspective is Vital(118)

1. Jesus' example is a positive way God speaks through circumstances.
2. Many of us have found ourselves in difficult situations and asked God "Why is this happening to me?" You are not alone!
3. Job had an experience like that as well!
4. He didn't know what was happening to him from God's perspective.
5. **Read Job 42:12-17:**
6. God used Job's life as a message and demonstration of Faithfulness and a Godly Perspective on Trials.
7. **To understand your painful or difficult circumstances, God's perspective Is vital.**
8. When you look at God in the middle of your circumstances you will always have a distorted understanding of Him!
9. **How should you respond:**
10. Go to God in prayer and ask Him to show you His perspective on your circumstances.

Day Three:

V. The Truth of Your Circumstances (121)

A. You cannot know the truth of your circumstances until you have heard from God.

1. In Exodus 5-6 Moses did as God instructed and asked Pharaoh to set the Israelites free.
2. Moses blamed God and accused him of not doing what he promised;
3. God is patient and took the time to reveal his perspective to Moses.
4. Learn from Moses' example!

B. Hearing from Truth

1. Luke 7:11-17 records the story of the widow of **Nain**;
2. When the truth reached out and touched her son and restored him everything changed.
3. Don't evaluate your situation no matter how dead it looks until you heard from Jesus.

Day Four:

VI. Spiritual Markers (123)

A. In decision making time your greatest difficulty may not be choosing between good and evenly but rather between good and best.

1. When God gets ready for you to take a new step or direction in His activity, it will always be in sequence with what He has already been doing in your life.
2. God is not the author of confusion so he won't Affirm what he hasn't already confirmed.

B. Physical Markers of Spiritual Encounters (123)

1. When Israel crossed the Jordan River into the promised land, God gave Joshua the following instructions: *“Choose twelve men from the people, one man for each tribe, and command them: Take twelve stones from this place in the middle of the Jordan where the priests are standing, carry them with you, and set them down at the place where you spend the night.”* (Joshua 4:2-3);
2. The stones were to remind the people of God's almighty act on their behalf.

C. Seeing God's Perspective (124)

1. God works in sequence to accomplish His divine purposes.
2. Throughout Deuteronomy Moses reviewed all God had done for Israel.

3. God wants to involve you in His purposes.(126)

4. When God is ready for you to take a new step or direction in His activity, it will always be in sequence with what He has already been doing in your life.

D. Spiritual Inventory (126)

1. A spiritual marker identifies a time of transition, decision, or direction when we clearly know God has guided you.
2. When you face a decision about God's direction, it would be good to review those spiritual markers.