DO YOU HEAR GOD EVERY TIME HE SPEAKS TO YOU?

Psalms 81:8-14

Introduction: In this text God is pleading for Israel to stop what they were doing and listen to Him. How many times do you think God has tried to speak to us and we didn't hear Him? How many times has God had something specific we needed to hear but were too busy doing something else to pay attention? What could be more important than hearing God when He wants to tell us something? Nothing can be more urgent or more necessary or more rewarding than hearing what God has to say. In other words, **"God wants to be heard!"**

I. WHY DOES GOD WANT TO SPEAK TO US TODAY?

1. God loves us as much as He loved His people, Israel, of the Bible.

2. We, too, need God's direction for our lives as much as did Abraham, Moses, Joshua, Jacob or Noah.

3. God knows what is best for us and we need His comfort and reassurance as much as did all the believers in the Bible.

4. The most important thing God wants us to know today is...HIM.

II. HOW DOES GOD SPEAK TO US TODAY?

1. God uses His Bible. The printed Word. Within the pages of His Book we find guidance, instruction, warnings, challenges, comfort, assurances and God's thoughts.

2. God uses His Holy Spirit and by our daily walking, surrendered to His power, we will hear from the Holy Spirit by way of thoughts, impressions, impulses, and other means.

3. God uses other people. Those whom we are around daily or in a passing conversation or in a deliberate conversation, especially if that person is a Godly person are often used by God to get a message to us.

4. God allows circumstances in our lives to get our attention such as failure, tragedy, success, disappointment and surprises. Through things such as these our minds are often opened to God's voice.

III. WHAT METHODS DOES GOD USE TO GET OUR ATTENTION?

1. Sometimes God causes us to have a restless spirit. There's an uneasiness, not quite sure, a questioning, just can't make up the mind about something at work, church, home, school.
    - When that happens, stop and ask God what is it He is trying to say.

2. Sometimes God sends somebody to talk to us. God sent Nathan to David about David's sinful affair with Bathsheba.
   - When we talk with friends, we need to listen as well as talk and be willing to take advice.
   - Talk to God about the advice given by that friend, see if it was from God.

3. Sometimes God sends blessings. There may be unusual, abundant blessings in financial or spiritual ways happening at work or at home. It may seem that God is just piling blessing upon blessing. He's wanting us to talk to Him about why all the blessings.

4. Then sometimes God doesn't answer our prayers. Answered prayers indicate that all is well between the one praying and God, but sometimes God doesn't answer the prayer because He has something to tell us and we've not been listening, so unanswered prayer drives us back to God to see what is wrong.

5. Then God may allow disappointments to get us back to Him. He may allow failure, financial collapse, unusual circumstances, sickness, affliction, even tragedy. All these and more will cause one to go to God to see what is wrong and then God can talk to us.

CONCLUSION:

1. Some people think God is being cruel and doesn't love us when "negative" things happen, but we need to remember that God is trying to get our attention as He has something to tell us.

2. Think back over this year. Do you see anything that might indicate that God has been trying to get your attention and you've not been listening?

3. When things seem out of place, stop what you are doing and go to God as see what it is He is wanting you to know.
   - Get into His Word.
   - Check your thoughts, impulses and impressions, what do you see?
   - Listen carefully to what those around you are telling you, God may be in the conversation.
   - Look closely at unusual events you have been witness to. Was God trying to talk to you?

4. Everyday walk as the Holy Spirit guides you and listen, stay in God's Word, talk with God but also LISTEN to God. Learn God's voice.