Elephant in the Room
How do I Know When God Speaks to Me?
April 22 & 26, 2020

Getting Started:

- If you could talk to any one person now living, who would it be and why?
- When you first meet someone, do you tend to be a talker or a listener?
- Describe the BEST conversation you have ever had/most awkward conversation you’ve ever had. What made it great/awkward?

(The aim is NOT to cover all the questions below but to use one or two from each section to help us think about what we actually believe.)

Section One: What Stands Out to You in these Statements from the Sermon?

No. 1. “God communicates to us through The Holy Spirit, His Word, and Prayer.”

Of these three primary ways GOD speaks:
- Which is most familiar to you?
- Which is most challenging for you to understand?
- If you could adjust these primary ways, what would you change? (Prefer a different way? (I wish God would speak to me through ____________).
- OR ... Name another way you wish GOD would speak?

No. 2 “If there’s not a lot of God’s Word in your life and not a lot of prayer, don’t expect much connection or communication from God.”

- Do you think that statement is true? Why or why not?
- How do you feel about this statement?
- How would you like to change this statement?
- Describe a time when this was evident in your life.

Section Two: What are you noticing about your actual experience of The Holy Spirit, The Bible and Prayer?

Essential Ingredient number one: The Holy Spirit

- Ask someone to read aloud Acts 2:38, NIV
- When does someone receive the Holy Spirit? (Answer: When they are baptized.)
- How long will the Spirit be with that person? (Answer: The Spirit comes to abide permanently.)
- Do you notice or experience the guidance/nearness of the Holy Spirit?
Essential Ingredient number two: The Bible, God’s Word.

- Ask someone to read aloud 2 Timothy 3:16 - 17.
- What questions does the Bible answer? (God’s Word is where God has revealed to us His full will, how He wants us to live, how we can be saved, why we are here, why we exist, and how we are to live in union with HIM. This is where we get all that information).
- The scriptures are the full and complete revelation of God to humanity. But, God also speaks to us personally. Describe a time when GOD has spoken to you from Scripture.

Essential Ingredient number three: Prayer.

- Dave Allgire described prayer as turning our attention to God and addressing Him. How do you describe prayer?
- What are the kinds of things that help you turn your attention to God?
- If you could talk directly to Jesus about one thing, what would the main topic of that conversation be?
- Let’s take time right now to sit with that and offer that one thing to GOD right now, in prayer. (Take time for some quiet prayer.)

Do you believe that God will communicate to you and lead you every day if you sincerely seek to listen to Him?

Suggested Spiritual Practices:

A. Listening Prayer — take one hour, alone with GOD. Tell GOD you are committing this time to listening. Settle in, get comfortable and see what surfaces. At the end of the hour write down what is on your mind, then share with a trusted friend.

B. Join the New Testament Challenge of Scripture reading, or some other Bible reading plan. Commit to doing it daily. Listen for God to speak as you read. Write down what you notice as you reflect on the reading.

C. Practicing the Presence of the Spirit — throughout the day, pay attention to the nearness of the Spirit. Listen for promptings, ideas, thoughts, feelings, interactions with others that seem to be “not of yourself.” Make some notes in your journal. Keep observing throughout the week and see if “noticing” the Spirit helps you connect with GOD and invite His company.