

God invites us to call to Him - He wants to answer us



“This is what YHWH says, He who made the earth, YHWH who formed it to create it, He whose name is YHWH: ‘Call to Me and I will answer you, and I will tell you great and mighty things, which you do not know.’ Jeremiah 33:2-3

Call to Me

In preparation for teaching a recent class for our youth, I've been focusing more on the truth of YHWH being a personal God who wants to have relationship with us. For our last couple of classes I've been sharing some of my "success stories" as well as sharing a number of times that I missed it related to effectively interpreting what I felt God was saying to me.

Do you know that if you're a Believer that the Holy Spirit indwells you and has a desire to communicate with you? Often times the God of the universe waits for us to respond to Him. To the Laodicean congregation in Revelation 3, Yeshua stated that He was calling out and knocking at the door and promised fellowship if they

opened the door (Rev 3:20). If He promised that to the most messed-up congregation in Revelation, know that this promise will be good for us too. But often times we are dull of hearing, and we can grow in our relationship with Him by calling out to Him and listening for His voice.

One practical outworking of this is for us to set apart time to draw near to Him and then as a part of that time, to ask Him questions. I believe as we ask questions that He will respond and interact with us. One of the ways that we've been talking about this with the youth is to encourage them to have a spiritual notebook or journal where they can write out their questions to God and then ask Him to speak to them and share with them His perspective. I believe the activity of writing out our questions activates faith on our part and raises expectancy. We have been encouraging the youth to use two colors of ink: one for their thoughts/questions and then another color to record what they believe they're hearing from God.

So here's a challenge for anyone who is up for it. I encourage you sometime tonight or on the Sabbath tomorrow to take at least ten minutes to quiet your heart (with no external noise) and to focus on drawing near to Yeshua. At some point during this time, verbalize a question to Him and write down that question. If you don't have a specific question, you can use, "God is there anything that You would want to share with me?" Then pause and write down all the thoughts that come to your mind. Don't pre-filter or edit them; write down everything. After the time is over, if there were any things that you wrote down, then take time to assess them. I usually rate the clarity/strength of each thought and then ask God for wisdom to ascertain what thoughts are from Him and then ask for His help in the interpretation and then with the subsequent application. It is also wise to have a trusted Christian friend who you can share what you are discovering to get their perspective. And, if you don't hear anything right away, don't be discouraged--often times I get silence too, but an answer sometimes comes later in an unexpected way. So know that asking the question does activate something even if the answers don't come right at that time.

In closing, for anyone who wants to join the youth on this journey of discovery, feel free to order Seth Barnes' book *The Art of Listening Prayer* which can be purchased here: <https://www.amazon.com/Art-Listening-Prayer-Finding->

[Amidst/dp/0975430564/ref=tmm_pap_swatch_0?encoding=UTF8&qid=&sr=](https://www.amidst.org/dp/0975430564/ref=tmm_pap_swatch_0?encoding=UTF8&qid=&sr=). There are many good resources about hearing the voice of God and this is one that I've found to be simple and helpful with practical exercises.