

leading women.

ARE YOUR ***SPIRITUAL ANTENNAE*** UP?

Lessons in listening to God

Ordained pastor, ***Tania Harris***, suggests that hearing from God may be as easy as tuning your 'spiritual antennae'. . .



“Why isn’t God speaking to me? I wish he would write across the sky in neon lights!”

I hear it often. You may have even said it yourself. You’re facing a problem with a work colleague or you need clarity for a difficult decision. You know God gives wisdom to those who ask, but *how* do you hear him speak?

Here is a surprising answer for you. The problem is not that God isn’t *speaking*. The problem is we are *not listening*: “Why do you complain to him, that he answers none of man’s words? *For God does speak*—now one way, now another—though man may not perceive it.” (Job 33:13-14, emphasis added).

To hear from God, we need to learn to listen. It begins not so much with our ears as with our hearts.

EARS TO HEAR

When Jesus was on earth he would regularly speak in parables. He told of common things—a worn piece of clothing, a prosperous vineyard or a lost sheep. Yet his stories were confusing to many. Jesus seemed to miss the punch line, often finishing with, “He who has ears, let him hear.” Many walked away scratching their heads. All of them had ears. But not all could hear.

That’s because hearing from God is not a head matter; it’s a heart matter. We receive knowledge through our minds and revelation through our spirits. Jesus’ message was lost on those who were not *seeking* him. Hearing from him is not about perfecting a technique: ‘spend 15 minutes a day’; ‘take these three steps’

or ‘use this formula’. God is not a coin-slot machine. Communication happens in the context of *relationship*. The more you get to know someone, the more you recognise their voice. The more you seek God above all else, the easier it will be to hear him.

A FUZZY SCREEN

A few years ago I moved in with a new flatmate. Unfortunately her television was broken and we could only watch two channels clearly. Greatly disturbed that I was about to lose track of my favourite shows, we tried to get it fixed—without success. Applying all the powers of my sophisticated technological prowess, I reasoned it was because we were at the bottom of the hill where the reception was poor and I resigned myself to bad TV for a while.

Six months later, we moved house. *Joy of joys* we were now living on top of a hill! Finally I could resume my shows where I left off. But my enthusiasm was quashed the instant we pressed the ‘on’ button—the dreaded fuzzy screen had followed us even to the top of the hill.

I am not sure why in a flash of genius the solution hit me one day. *Yes I confess*. We missed out on six months of great entertainment because we did not have the antennae plugged into the TV.

Television programs are always transmitting regardless of whether we are tuning in or not. God’s voice is a little like that. When we seek him, we

are setting our hearts to receive. Our spiritual ears become alert. Ask God to speak and then tune in to listen. Put up your spiritual antennae. Stand at your watch and look to see what he will say to you (Hab 2:1). When I greet the morning, “God are you there?” When I drive to the store, “God what are you saying?” When I stand in church, “Holy Spirit speak!” Keep your antennae up every day, all day. Those who have ears to hear will hear.

NOW ONE WAY, NOW ANOTHER...

Sometimes we miss God’s voice because we limit the ways he speaks. The verse in Job says he speaks but we don’t *perceive it*. God can use anything to speak to you. All creation is at his disposal (Ps 19:1-2).

In biblical history God used a donkey to speak to Balaam, a frustrated potter to convey a message to Jeremiah and a vision of a feast to Peter while he was dozing off waiting for dinner. He gave Ezekiel a macabre picture of a graveyard and Paul a dream of a man giving travel directions. Like an artist, God speaks creatively using a surprising variety of methods. He is a masterful communicator.

Whatever method God uses, hearing from him will transform your life. His words are stunningly powerful. God is longing to speak to you. Are you listening? CW

www.awakenyourdreams.com.au

Bethel Funerals
Australian Owned

24Hr 7 Day Service

Servicing the Melbourne Metro, Mornington Peninsula & Country Areas, SE Queensland, Gold Coast and Sunshine Coast

Head Office

2d Cochrane Street, Mitcham, VIC

03 9873 8866

Branches

35 Dava Drive, Mornington, VIC

03 5975 1955

134 Hertford Street, Upper Mt Gravatt, QLD

07 3343 8444

www.bethelfunerals.com.au



An **Australian Christian** Alternative...

Providing Christ like care for grieving families

Personalised care & support

Pre-paid Funeral Planning

All profits support the work of missions