

The Grapevine

NEWSLETTER OF THE VINEYARD HERITAGE CENTER YOUTH MINISTRY



“Lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone;
The flowers appear on the earth; the time of the singing of birds is come, and the voice of the turtle is heard

in our land...”

Song of Solomon 2:11-12

Spring is in the air! Although the weather is still kind of chilly, and there are more cloudy days than sunny ones, we know that the season is changing. With spring, we can look forward to the bulbs coming out of the ground and new blooms on the trees. Butterflies, and the cooing of morning doves are among some of my favorite indicators that spring is close by. I'm sure that everyone has some part of the new season that he looks forward to...something exciting that marks that change is on the way.

Well, just like the seasons in nature change, and brings about new things, so it is with our Heavenly Father, working in our lives. Each of us has seasons in our lives that are dark and cold, like the winter. These time are allowed by God and if we embrace the

difficulties with the right perspective, we are able to see how God uses these times to stretch us, mature us, and make us more like Christ. You may be going through a rough time in school, or a rough time with your family and it may feel like things won't get better. Like the changing of the season, from winter to spring, the Word of God tells us that the difficult times don't last forever....things are going to get better...the sun will shine...and better days are ahead. God promises in His Word that in no way will He let us down or let us go. He says that He uses everything in our lives - good and bad - to give us a prosperous end.

So, as we walk through the spring season, think on all that you have been through, be sure to thank God that He has kept you, but also rejoice because you know that sunny days are on the way!

God Bless!

WALK IN THE WORD!

Volume 1, Issue 1



Can You Hear God's Voice?

In this final installment of this teaching, we'll look at another way that we can hear God's voice, and some reasons why we may be hindered in hearing Him.

GOD SPEAKS TO US IN DIFFERENT WAYS

Another way that we may hear from God is through a gentle tug. Sometimes you actually hear God's voice, but other times you may just sense a little tug. Something inside of you senses that a particular decision is the right way to go. It's not necessarily logical, or what you would normally decide. But, for some reason, you sense a certain peace about it. This peace comes from the Holy Spirit. When you follow this peace, you can never go wrong!

But, you must be sure that it is really the peace of God, and not just your emotions. Just because you are happy about something doesn't mean it is God's will for your life. Pray and ask God to confirm that what you are sensing is really His will for you, and not just your own will at work.

While on the topic of Hearing God's Voice, here are some reasons why you may not be able to hear Him. I once heard a wise Christian man say, God is always broadcasting. It is just that, sometimes, we aren't tuned in to the right channel.

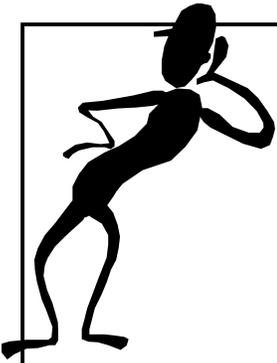
THINGS THAT BLOCK OUR HEARING:

Here are 3 reasons why Christians don't hear God's voice, even though He is trying to speak (you may identify some more):

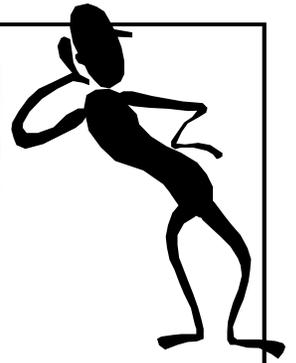
#3. They think that prayer is a one-sided conversation. Many Christians talk to God, but they never stop to hear God's voice after they are done. They simply say what is on their mind, and then go on with the rest of their day without ever stopping to listen for a reply.

#2. Their lives are too loud. Often times the reason that we cannot hear God's voice is because we have allowed our lives to become too hectic. We have picked up too many responsibilities that God has not called us to pick up, and we have crowded Him out. We have to remember Martha and Mary. Jesus said that while Martha was "worried and upset over all these details...there is only one thing worth being concerned about...Mary had discovered it (Luke 10:38-42)".

#1. They doubt that what they are hearing is really the Lord, so they ignore it. This is something that most Christians are guilty of, and they don't even realize it! Sometimes stepping out and following the still small voice of God can be a test of faith. Faith is what it takes to follow the gentle leading of the Holy Spirit.



INQUIRING MINDS WANT TO KNOW!



What's Been Happening In Youth Bible Study?

"We've just finished a study about Daniel (Daniel 6:10) and how our prayer time with God can be most **effective** when it is **consistent**. We discussed how Daniel's relationship with God led him to live a life of **integrity** that other people envied and feared. We also learned that Daniel refused to let others hinder his relationship with God. As a result, he was persecuted for his faith. Interestingly, God did not keep him from trouble, but delivered him **through** it. Through this trouble, Daniel stood firm and God was glorified. We saw this again with Jesus after He prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane. Jesus prayed to the Father when He knew that time of His betrayal and crucifixion were near. He, too, had to endure the full trial set before Him and in the end, God was glorified. We learned that being consistent in our prayer life helps to build our relationship with God, increases our **faith** and **strengthens** our confidence that He can deliver us."

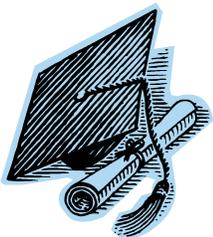
- Minister Rufus

MAY BIRTHDAYS!

Grace Chabak	5-1
Nicole Bair	5-14
Emilio Mendez	5-26

Courtney Mimidis graduates from Temple University, May 14th!

God Bless You Courtney - We love you!



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE GRADUATE!

I heard it through the Grapevine - The Newsletter needs your help!
Have an idea or contribution for the newsletter? See Min. Tawana

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!
All events take place at VHC, unless otherwise indicated.

May 2009

Youth Choir Practice @ 6:00pm. All youth 14 years and younger are invited to join. See Mrs. Alicia for dates.

Blue Toolbox Workshop@ 7:00pm....contact Ms. Krista for more information.

A Yielded Heart - Youth Intervention Center Outreach. Thursdays, 7:00-8:00pm @ YIC. See Minister Tawana for more information.

5/22/09 Young Ladies' Rap Night! See Ms. Dana or Mrs. Alicia for more information.



NOTES FROM GOD

- 1) Let's Meet At My House Sunday Before the Game - God
 - 2) C'mon Over And Bring The Kids - God
 - 3) What Part of "Thou Shalt Not..." Didn't You Understand? - God
 - 4) We Need To Talk - God
 - 5) Keep Using My Name in Vain And I'll Make Rush Hour Longer! - God
 - 6) Loved The Wedding, Invite Me To The Marriage - God
 - 7) That "Love Thy Neighbor" Thing, I Meant It. - God
 - 8) I Love You...I Love You...I Love You... - God
 - 9) Will The Road You're On Get You To My Place? - God
 - 10) Follow Me. - God
 - 11) Big Bang Theory? You've Got To Be Kidding. - God
 - 12) My Way Is The Highway. - God
 - 13) Need Directions? - God
 - 14) You Think It's Hot Here? - God
 - 15) Tell The Kids I Love Them. - God
 - 16) Need a Marriage Counselor? I'm Available. - God
 - 17) Have You Read My #1 Best Seller? There Will Be A Test! - God
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