
Text: numerous

Republic, June 29, 2025

Title: "Bible Summary About Living Right for God" Pt 3

Review:

1. How do I know if I am seeing clearly on how God wants me to live in life?

We looked at some things like:

What does God want to do with me? Is my goal in life to do what He wants from me?

2. How do I know if I am "spiritually off" right now? ([Jeremiah 49:16](#))

When I am spiritually off:

1.) My attitudes will change. I am bothered more than usual about people, or things.

2.) When we are spiritually off, our pride will usually increase.

3.) At that point, we will not be thinking enough about trying to find God's will in various areas of our life. We will mainly be thinking of ourselves.

3. How do I know if I'm in denial in certain areas of my life? ([Romans 12:3](#))

Most people probably have at least one area of their lives that they are in denial about.

4. How would I know if I am over my anger (or, we can say, not over my anger) toward someone?

We looked at 10 things, but here are **just 5** of the things that were mentioned:

2) I quit nit-picking them, and quit constantly finding fault with most things they do.

3) I do NOT try to avoid them when they are around.

4) If I am telling myself "We all have difficulties. I'm not perfect either."

So, if you are NOT doing that, you are probably not over your anger.

5) If I am thinking about how I do not want to offend God by my own attitude this is a good indicator I may be over my anger.

6) I do not feel the need to keep complaining to someone else about the person I got angry at.

5. What causes me to struggle with judging others more than many other people?

Here are a couple of things that were mentioned:

1) I'm very opinionated, and I use that on what I think others should do, or should not do. You have a choice, change from being very opinionated, or fight judging people your whole life.

2) I do not watch for my own pride to see if it is involved in my thinking or actions.

6. *How can I get better at loving others?*

We looked at many things, but this was one of the very important ones:

4) *When you are having difficulty trying to love others, would others see God coming through you? Or, would they see the ugly side of you? Does your body language show disapproval and lack of love? Again, do you live by [Col. 3:3](#) "You died and your life is now hidden with Christ?"*

Today, we will wrap this short series up by looking at #7 -10.

7. *Do I realize that even as a professing Christian, I can bring darkness in my life whereby I cannot see what God wants from me, and it can hinder me from hearing God?*

It doesn't matter one bit that you have had God show you incredible things, or tell you incredible things, in the past. What is important is "*Can you hear Him and see Him today because you are purposely not allowing anything to hinder your ability to hear God?"*

People's pride can cause them to think that because they heard God in the past, they now are an expert in hearing God in any situation.

Your ability to hear God, or see what He wants to do, will depend on your ability to receive light, and not live in darkness.

There are 2 bible terms that are used in regards to God talking to us. They are hearing, and seeing. We can be deaf spiritually, where we are not hearing all God wants to say to us. And we can be blind spiritually, where we do not see the things God wants to show us. Either one shows God is not getting through to us.

Here are just 4 examples of things that bring darkness in our lives:

1) **You are currently not living 100% right for God.** We may do many things well, but ignore other things God wants us to change on. For those areas we refuse to change in, that is sin. And, sin brings darkness.

[Isaiah 59:2](#) (AMP)

But your wickedness has separated you from your God. **And your sins have hidden His face from you so that He does not hear.** (your prayers)

2) **The fact that we are violating anything we in scripture, and if we have, we have not asked forgiveness for it.**

[Isaiah 8:20](#) b (NLT)

... people who contradict his word (*basically on anything*) are completely in the dark ...

- 3) The fact that we have bitterness in our heart for someone. If so, it will bring darkness in our lives.

1 John 2:9-11 (NIV)

- ⁹ Anyone **who claims** to be in the light but hates his brother is still in the darkness.
¹⁰ Whoever loves his brother lives in the light, and there is nothing in him to make him stumble.
¹¹ But whoever hates his brother is in the darkness and walks around in the darkness; **he does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded him.**

You might say "I don't hate anyone." Yet, you are still talking bad about someone, avoiding them when you see them, nit-picking everything they do, your body language says you do not like them, etc. Go back to the sermon from 2 weeks ago and review:
4. How would I know if I am over my anger (or not over my anger) toward someone?

We are here on earth to look at everyone like God looks at them. Even when we get frustrated. We are still here on earth to help everyone, by allowing God to work through our lives.

A 4th area that brings darkness in our lives is:

- 4) The fact that you are **NOT** trying hard to stay humble by checking your attitudes whether they are prideful, or humble.

James 4:6 (NIV)

- ⁶ ... **"God opposes the proud** but gives grace (*extra favor*) to the humble."

Let me tell you this point, you cannot judge others and be humble at the same time. You will be living in pride instead of humility.

Violating any of those 4 things can hinder our ability to hear God, and keep Him from showing us what He wants to show us. (hearing and seeing) Those 4 will bring darkness. And when you are living in darkness, you do not even realize you are doing it.

8. How can I hear the Holy Spirit better?

One of the most dangerous professing Christians is a person who has heard God before, been used by God before, but still is living too much of their life in the flesh. (self)

Why is this dangerous? Because people start trusting them, & yet too much of their flesh is coming out of them. So, immature Christians, or even the unsaved, start thinking what they see in them must be okay. In other words, the dangerous Christian becomes

an example to the immature that it is okay to live in the flesh.

And, Christians can get to where they do not trust that person's ability to hear God. *"Are they speaking this time from God, or they speaking from their flesh?"*

1) God tends to most use those He can trust, those whom He has complete control over their thinking, their attitudes, their mouth, and their actions. If God doesn't have that with us, we are not going to consistently hear the Holy Spirit.

2) The Holy Spirit speaks most to people who constantly check their pride level, people who are constantly asking themselves *"Is this attitude from God? Are these words I just said from God? Is this action I did from God? Have I heard from God on this, or is this me?"*

If people could hear your thoughts, would they conclude that is God is in those thoughts, or would they conclude that it is you in those thoughts?

In other words, **God speaks most to those who walk in humility.**

Deuteronomy 8:2-3 (NIV)

² **Remember how the LORD your God led you** all the way in the desert these forty years, **to humble you and to test you** in order to know what was in your heart, whether or not you would keep his commands.

³ **He humbled you**, causing you to hunger and then feeding you with manna, which neither you nor your fathers had known, **to teach you that man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD.**

He humbled those people. God allowed things to happen to them that they did not like. In their case it was hunger. It was a test to see what would come out of them. *Would complaining come out of them? Would bad attitudes come out of them?*

That frustration you have is, many times, God testing you to show you what is still in you that is not acceptable to God.

You might think "Wait a minute, I thought God doesn't test us." NOT TRUE. He doesn't TEMPT us. But, He does allow things to happen that expose areas of our life we still need to grow in. Stop blaming other people. Start looking at everything about how you think that you are meant to grow in.

Ultimately, He hopes you finally "get it" and you grow from all situations. And, you go to Him for everything. Your prayer life, when you get mad at someone, will change from "God get them," to "God help them to grow and see what you need them to see. And, oh, by the way, God, help me to do the same. Whatever you are trying to teach me, help me to get it."

Look at what [Psalm 25:9](#) tells us about who God guides:

[Psalm 25:9](#) (NIV)

⁹ **He guides the humble in what is right and teaches them his way.**

You want to be guided and led by God through His Holy Spirit? You best be learning what is humble and what is prideful.

I harp a lot on humility vs pride, and it just seems like people just blow me off. I'm telling you, the average person has no clue how prideful they are. They have no clue of all their prideful thoughts, prideful attitudes, prideful comments, & prideful actions. God is not going to work powerfully through anyone who is prideful. It got Satan thrown out of heaven, and it is what he uses to constantly go after you. And, if you do not see it, Satan will win.

People who are truly humble will be the ones who hear the Holy Spirit the most.

3) The Holy Spirit WILL change us if we are listening to Him.

If we are not changing, we are not listening to the Holy Spirit. When we have bad attitudes, when we do not see life and people like God sees them, when we are not trying to find ways to help others get stronger, we are the problem. The chances we hear the Holy Spirit are very slim. **Our own changing is an indicator we hear God.**

The fruit that the Spirit produces in us are LOVE toward others, JOY, PEACE instead of being upset, LONG-SUFFERING (patience with people and situations), we will be KIND to people, we will be a GOOD PERSON, in other words, goodness will flow from you - others will know that you truly want the best for everyone, FAITHFULNESS to God first, and as much as we can with others, GENTLENESS, and SELF-CONTROL. ([Gal 5:22-23](#))

If we do NOT listen to the Holy Spirit, we will NOT have those fruits flowing out of us. GOD should be coming through your life, NOT you. There are way, way, way too many christians that we see them flowing out of their lives, not God. THEY are in the way of God.

Until Christians get over themselves, they are not going to see the Holy Spirit working as powerfully through them. It will be a "on and off" thing: when they are trying hard to hear God, they will hear Him. Other times when they allow their self, their opinions, to come out, the Holy Spirit will not come through. It will be an "on and off" thing. We need to get rid of the "off" things, and get to where we are constantly "on" with hearing God.

For the Christian, life is not about who we think is DOING right or wrong things. It is about God and praying for people, helping people, keeping ourselves out of the mix.

You have a choice: Be a Pharisee or be what God wants you to be. Pharisees made everything about what they thought people should be doing, or what people should not be doing. The Pharisee life was about their own rules for other people.

True Christians make everything about hearing from God and having good relationships with others whereby others see God coming through us, and rarely see our own fleshly side.

4) Since the bible is the "Sword of the Spirit" ([Ephesians 6:17](#)) we need to be reading it. It is a big part of hearing from the Holy Spirit.

A sword can be a defensive weapon, in other words, it can block attacks. But, it's mostly an offensive weapon. [Ephesians 6:17](#) tells us we are supposed to "take" it, in other words, use it. Failure to regularly read the bible will result in failing to hear the Holy Spirit, at least a big portion of the time. He wants to have you stand on the Word of God to do battle. *How can we do that if we do not read it?*

So, ask yourself: *"When is my designated time to read the bible?"*

PRAY bible verses as part of your prayers. "Father, Your Word says _____. I stand on that and believe you in this situation."

Isaiah quotes God saying 3 things He esteems in people:

[Isaiah 66:2](#) (NIV)

... **This is the one I esteem:** *(Think about that. God is saying "Let me tell you about the one I esteem)* **he who is humble** and **contrite in spirit**, *(contrite in spirit means a willingness to acknowledge fault and seek forgiveness, which is also a part of being humble) and (he who) trembles at my word. (values it, uses it to live by)*

Reading the bible is one of those 3 things. It is included in being humble, being contrite in spirit. It is a time of B.P.Q. (Bible, prayer, & quiet time to hear God)

Many people read the bible to find out fascinating things. That's fine, but we also need to read the bible to let God speak to us about us. David regularly asked God to show him things about himself. The bible is a way for us to do that.

When you have your BPQ time, quieting your mind is vital so you can hear God better:

[1 Kings 19:12](#) (NKJV) ... a still small voice. *(which means if he wasn't quiet and listening really well, he would have missed it)*

God speaks to us through at least 3 ways:

1. His Word, (the bible)
2. Sometimes God speaks through circumstances we are going through to show us things

about ourselves,

3. but He speaks the most to us more quietly, in that still small voice. So, we have to be listening. We have to care to get quiet.

5) I truly believe we are going to have a hard time being led by the Holy Spirit if we have not learned to see people like God sees them.

God showed me this many years ago. He showed me that even with the ones I get frustrated with, or the ones I do not respect very much, that He loves them as much as He loves me, and that I best look at them that way. When He showed me that it really helped me. I treat everyone like I know that God loves them as much as me.

Jesus said in:

John 12:47 (NIV)

⁴⁷ " ... I did not come to judge the world, but to save it.

The Christians who are still judging people do not see that they are in this world to save it, to help people, not to condemn.

Jesus was always working to help people understand God's view on things, to help people become better, to help people come to salvation. So, our seeing people from God's eyes is another way of hearing the Holy Spirit better.

6) If we are going to hear the Holy Spirit we have to make sure we do not have any sin in our life that we have not corrected, and asked forgiveness of. Make sure if we have offended others, or had an attitude with others, that we have asked forgiveness for it.

7) If we are trying to have a one-sided relationship with God, whereby we want Him to mainly do things for me we are not going to hear from God like we should.

The life of a Christian is one whereby God is first. It is a self-less life. We are here for God.

Again, God speaks most to those He can trust. If you are trying to have a one-side relationship with God, whereby you mainly want things from God, you will hear very little from Him. You are too self-centered, too full of yourself.

8) *Do I realize church is God's plan? Am I active in being at church, being around other Christians, and financially supportive of God's work?*

These are all things that show God you care about what He cares about.

Hebrews 10:25 (NIV)

²⁵ Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us

encourage one another--and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

David said this in:

1 Chronicles 29:14 (NIV)

¹⁴ "But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to give as generously as this? Everything comes from you, and **we have given you only what comes from your hand**. (*You gave it to us to begin with*)

9) Am I capable of being busy in life, and still pray and "look" as I do so?

Can I go to the store with a list of what I need, and still look for opportunities to do, or say, or pray, what God wants from me?

We looked at 9 things that will dramatically improve our ability to hear from God, and to see what He wants us to see. Jesus said "My sheep hear my voice." If you are not hearing from God, it is because you are living in a way that is keeping you from doing so.

Living life with the Holy Spirit is so much better than regular life. God will show you things. HE will bless your life more through certain songs you hear. He will point out what you should, or should not do. You will start feeling HIS presence more. You will start seeing HIM working through your life more. You will feel God more in every way. MAKE SURE you are not doing anything that hinders the Holy Spirit from talking to you.

9. How can I get more effective at witnessing?

- 1) Pray for lost people.** It not only helps reach them, but it constantly reminds us of the lost.
- 2) LOOK for unsaved people whom God is connecting you to. Find ways to spend time with them.**
- 3) Start training your mind to do 2 things at the same time:**
 - a) DO what you need to do that day, while being constantly connected to God to witness.
 - b) Talk to God as you go about the day. "Thank you God for ____."Lots of those type of prayers will help keep you connected to God and improve your hearing during the course of the day.
- 4) Witness to others as God opens the door for you.**

Col. 4:3-4 (NIV)

³ And **pray** for us, too, **that God may open a door** for our message, **so that** we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains.

⁴ **Pray that I may proclaim it clearly**, (*baasically with God's words*) as I should. (*as God expects me to do it*)

Say what God wants you to say, and when He gives you the opportunity.

John 12:49-50 (NIV)

⁴⁹ For **I did not speak of my own accord, but the Father who sent me commanded me what to say and how to say it.**

⁵⁰ I know that his command leads to eternal life. So **whatever I say is just what the Father has told me to say.**"

10. How should I look at myself, as far as my value as a person?

Many secular writers or counselors will emphasize increasing your own self-esteem. A lot of what they teach is learning to talk to yourself better, telling yourself you are a good person, and removing any negative thinking about yourself (They call it "self-talk"). Organizations like A.A. call it getting rid of "stinking thinking."

For the Christian, if you are truly following God, correcting things He shows you, trying to hear God and do His will, you **will** feel better and better about yourself. **I call it "God-Esteem."** You will get your self-esteem from truly walking with God.

As you live for God, you will know that God values you. You will know God loves you. You see the way He answers your prayers, and the ways He helps you in life. Part of feeling better about yourself happens as you see the many ways He takes care of you as you first live for Him, and do His will.

Here is the point, you will increase in how you see yourself when God is your main goal. That is why I call it God-esteem.

I saw a sticker in a store in Branson one time that had a similar way of wording it. It used the word "God-fidence." I like that one, too. Follow God, make His will your priority, and your God-fidence and God-esteem will make you feel better about yourself.

Summary -

Today we looked at 4 more summary things in the bible that wraps up this short 3 part series:

7. Do I realize what brings darkness in my life whereby I cannot see God, or hear God?

8. How can I hear the Holy Spirit better? ("My sheep, the ones who truly belong to me, hear my voice ..." **John 10:27**. Are you regularly hearing His voice?) We looked at things that are hindering us from hearing Him better.

9. How can I get more effective at witnessing?

10. How should I look at myself, as far as my value as a person? (basically, I am a great person when I am completely looking at life and others like God wants me to, and I'm doing His will)

In this series I tried to take the most important things to God, mention what they were, and then give us specific ways we can change our thinking so that we are doing what God wants us to do.

If you asked me what I believe God feels are some of the most important things for how we should live I would tell you that it is two major things:

1. It mostly has to do with the 2nd greatest commandment, and that is to truly love people. To do that we have to not be: judging, not holding grudges, not having anger issues, never learning when we get angry, and not looking at ourselves will ALL interfere with the 2nd greatest commandment. People need to always see God coming through me as I fulfill the 2nd greatest commandment.
2. Then, hearing God is VITAL to the Christian life. *How can we do what God wants us to do on earth if we do not know how to hear God?* Trying to hear the Holy Spirit is part of Loving God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength.

I have met many professing Christians who seem like they have no ability to hear God. I have always wondered why this is the case. There HAS to be something that is interfering with their ability, because again, "MY sheep, the ones who belong to me, hear my voice."

Is it pride? Is it attitude? Is it disobedience? Is it not asking forgiveness of God, or someone else we did wrong to?

WE HAVE TO HEAR GOD, or we are going to make lots of bad decisions in our life.

More often than not, though, I have seen many Christians who occasionally hear God, but most of the time they do not hear Him. Again, I ask myself "*Why are they not always able to hear God, or to hear Him more consistently? What is wrong?*"

Relationships with others, and hearing God are crucial to living right. If you look at this 3 part series, that is pretty much what was said, with lots of details.

LEE CONNER CLOSING PRAYER