

#12 "Struggling To Find Purpose" – Part 2

Isaiah 44:2 (CEV) I am your Creator. You were in my care even before you were born

1. _____

There are 6 specific ways God speaks:

- Through His Word precepts, principles, and promises.
- Through your personality, gifting, and passions.
- Through evidence of effectiveness and fruitfulness.
- Through divine circumstances clearly bearing God's "fingerprints."
- Through the inner working of the Holy Spirit in your heart.
- Through the confirmations and affirmations of spiritually mature, godly people.

Isaiah 30:21 (NLT) Your own ears will hear him. Right behind you a voice will say, "This is the way you should go," whether to the right or to the left.

John 10:27 (NLT) My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.

How do we listen well:

- Be open to God's voice.
- Recognize the tendency to self-confirm your wants and will.
- Live in good spiritual community.
- Slow down and wait for clarity.
- Don't let favorable or desirable circumstances be your primary life guide.

Acts 16:6-10 (NIV) Paul and his companions traveled throughout the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been kept by the Holy Spirit from preaching the word in the province of Asia. When they came to the border of Mysia, they tried to enter Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus would not allow them to. So they passed by Mysia and went down to Troas. During the night Paul had a vision of a man of Macedonia standing and begging him, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." After Paul had seen the vision, we got ready at once to leave for Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.

James 1:19 (NIV) My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry.

Matthew 11:15 (NIV) Whoever has ears, let them hear.

Luke 8:18 (NLT) So pay attention to how you hear. To those who listen to my teaching, more understanding will be given. But for those who are not listening, even what they think they understand will be taken away from them.

2. _____ with God.

Mark 1:35-38 (NIV) Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed. Simon and his companions went to look for him, and when they found him, they exclaimed: "Everyone is looking for you!" Jesus replied, "Let us go somewhere else-to the nearby villages-so I can preach there also. That is why I have come."

Proverbs 8:34-35 (TPT) If you wait at wisdom's doorway, longing to hear a word for every day, joy will break forth within you as you listen for what I'll say. For the fountain of life pours into you every time that you find me, and this is the secret of growing in the delight and the favor of the Lord.

Psalm 119:11 (NLT) I have hidden your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you.