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Rev. Ronald L. Slaughter, Senior Pastor

### **Women's Bible Study**

Rev. Janelle Y. Greene, Minister to Women  
First Lady Kyla Slaughter, Women's Ministry Advisor  
Tuesdays at 6:30 PM

September 19, 2017  
Rev. Janelle Greene, Facilitator

**Subject: Discerning the Voice of God -  
How to Recognize When God is Speaking – Chapter 1: If You're Listening**  
**Scripture: Ecclesiastes 5:1-2**

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#### **Joshua 1:8 New International Version (NIV)**

<sup>8</sup> Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.

#### **Ecclesiastes 5:1-2 NIV**

##### *Fulfill Your Vow to God*

**5** <sup>a</sup> Guard your steps when you go to the house of God. Go near to listen rather than to offer the sacrifice of fools, who do not know that they do wrong.

<sup>2</sup> Do not be quick with your mouth,  
do not be hasty in your heart  
to utter anything before God.

God is in heaven  
and you are on earth,  
so let your words be few.

#### **Psalms 46:10 NIV**

<sup>10</sup> He says, "Be still, and know that I am God;

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#### **Psalms 119:15 NIV**

<sup>15</sup> I meditate on your precepts  
and consider your ways.

#### **Isaiah 30:15 NIV**

<sup>15</sup> This is what the Sovereign LORD, the Holy One of Israel, says:

"In repentance and rest is your salvation,  
in quietness and trust is your strength,  
but you would have none of it.

#### **Isaiah 55:3 NIV**

<sup>3</sup> Give ear and come to me;  
listen, that you may live.  
I will make an everlasting covenant with you,  
my faithful love promised to David.

#### **Habakkuk 2:20 NIV**

<sup>20</sup> The LORD is in his holy temple;  
let all the earth be silent before him.

#### **Philippians 4:6 NIV**

<sup>6</sup> Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

**Hebrews 3:7-8 NIV**

<sup>7</sup>So, as the Holy Spirit says:

“Today, if you hear his voice,  
<sup>8</sup> do not harden your hearts

as you did in the rebellion,  
during the time of testing in the wilderness,

**Book Used for Women’s Bible Study this Season:**

**Discerning the Voice of God How to Recognize When God Is Speaking** by Priscilla Shirer Moody Publishers, Chicago ©2012

**Subject Consideration:**

Listening requires a filtering of internal and external noises and distractions. It is disarming ourselves to ensure that we hear to understand what the speaker is communicating with us. We listen without anticipating the subject, conclusion or to create a solution while we should be silent and focused on the subject. Listening to God necessitates that we become still; without pretense, relinquish defenses or any temptations to pursue a certain agenda. Listening is different than just hearing. It is a further step that a woman takes to remove herself from the hustle, busyness and rigor of life; personally, professionally and even in spiritual or religious activities. Listening calls for each of us to dial into God’s frequency. “Discerning the voice of God is a divine mystery because it is a supernatural work the Holy Spirit does in us. This study cannot give you a formula by which you can discern His voice with 100 percent accuracy. As you practice discerning, know God graciously allows our errors to be the best teacher in hearing correctly in the future.” - Priscilla Shirer

God desires to commune with us and to speak with us. It requires us to engage with God, read, meditate on the Word, list the things that are in our heart and share them with God. It involves silent listening and “praying without words”, as Priscilla Shirer states. This divine exchange calls for our listening, resting, trusting the quiet place within our hearts to hear from God who is everything. We can anticipate that the Holy One will commune with our inner-being/spirit.

**Questions:**

1. What is on your list of questions for God right now?

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2. “Have you seriously taken time to hear, to see, to wait, to watch – *to allow for the margins* that would give God an opportunity to offer you that which you claim to desire so earnestly?” (p.20) \_\_\_\_\_

3. Are you aware of your posture of waiting? Listening? What it means to give room in the margins for God? Explain.

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4. Have you been listening to God? Do you have to be away in solitude to listen to God? Can you listen to God in your everyday life?

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5. What is *passive* listening? (p. 28)

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6. According to the author, what kind of listening does God require? (p.28)

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7. How is worship incorporated into your time with God? Is it similar in your personal time and in your corporate worship?

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8. In what ways will you authoritatively handle distractions so you can concentrate on listening?

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9. Can you practice relaxing in different mediums? Think of the many ways while in action and in state of physical rest.

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10. Can you write down current issues in your life where you need to discern God's will? Keep this list as reference throughout your journey. I encourage you to write a journal or notebook for your personal time with God.

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### Fill in the Quotes:

1. "In the stillness of the morning, I begin to \_\_\_\_\_ my time – to those moments I purposefully set \_\_\_\_\_ for Bible \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ - and I lean my elbow on heaven's windowsill, eager to commune with the Lord. (p.23)
2. If we want to hear Him speak, however we must also learn to \_\_\_\_\_ without words. To listen for His voice. To seek the simplicity of \_\_\_\_\_ with Him rather than consuming all the time and \_\_\_\_\_ ourselves. We can't allow what we're saying to \_\_\_\_\_ us from \_\_\_\_\_ to what \_\_\_\_\_ . (p.25)
3. "...worship with others is only an overflow of our \_\_\_\_\_ experience." (p.29)
4. Meditation is the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_. (p. 31)
5. "I deal \_\_\_\_\_ with distraction by making a \_\_\_\_\_ of the stray \_\_\_\_\_, errands, or issues that keep \_\_\_\_\_ themselves...." (p.33)
6. "My \_\_\_\_\_, know my \_\_\_\_\_; I know \_\_\_\_\_, and they follow \_\_\_\_." John 10:27 NIV
7. Remember, \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ God's \_\_\_\_\_ is a process, a \_\_\_\_\_ experience, a discipline that involves \_\_\_\_\_ elements like prayer, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_." (pp.34-35)

“Lord, heighten my spiritual senses to

see that which is not visible

hear that which is not audible

sense that which is not tangible

believe that which is unbelievable.

Teach me to sort through

the noises of this world to

hear and discern Your powerful,

wonderful, pure, precious voice.”

*-Priscilla Shirer Discerning the Voice of God –p6. ©2006*