

**PSALMS FOR THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY
WEEK THREE**

LISTENING LOUDER

Over the past few weeks, we've been discussing the modern day relevance of the book of Psalms for us in the twenty-first century. The first week we discussed that the history found in the book of Psalms allows us to realize the faithfulness of God in the past, present, and future. Last week, we discussed the vulnerability found in the Psalms and how we can benefit from the practice of vulnerability in our own worship (both private and public.) This week, our final week, we will examine the conversational elements found in the Psalms.

How and when do you converse with God? Do you have a set time and place every day that you speak with God or do you sporadically speak with God when you need something from Him? Notice that the words "speak with God" are used, not "speak to God." Sometimes we can feel that we have more to say to God than He has to say to us; so we do not give Him many opportunities to speak. It takes much discipline in our lives to allow God more opportunities to speak rather than only listen.

Have you ever audibly heard God's voice? It's possible. For many of us, we hear God's voice speaking through people that are closest to us (sometimes even through people we may not know) and through the Scriptures. When we read the Psalms, we witness an intimate relationship between God and the psalmist; in other words, constant conversation. While we do not always hear God speaking in first person in the Psalms, we hear His voice in the courage and the conviction of the psalmist's voice through the assurance that God is always present and ready to listen, speak, and act.

Time and again, through conversation, the psalmists express their deepest emotions and ultimately end up praising God because of His unending faithfulness. When we converse with God, do we have the same assurance knowing He is in charge and knows what is best for us regardless of our situation? If we truly know that God has ultimate authority in our lives, then the language used in our conversations with Him will be different than we may currently use and we will allow God time to speak to us through whichever means He chooses.

What is God saying to you today? If you don't know, try listening louder.

**DAILY BIBLE STUDY
WEEK THREE – PSALMS OF NEW ORIENTATION**

Below, you will find seven Psalms readings for the next week. Each of these Psalms is considered a Psalm of New Orientation (a time of change or transformation). Examine the faithfulness of God found in each Psalm. Examine the vulnerability of the psalmist in each Psalm. Do not just read the Psalm; allow God to speak to you during your devotional time or afterward. Train yourself to wait for a response from God. Do not be in a hurry! You are also encouraged to lift up the prayer at the bottom of the page each day as you close your devotional time or compose your own prayer.

Ask yourself these questions as you read each of these Psalms:

1. How is New Orientation (change/transformation) heard in the voice of each psalmist?
2. What is God saying to me TODAY through each Psalm? How has God transformed my life and provided a time of new orientation?

Sunday: Psalm 30 (Psalm of Thanksgiving)

Monday: Psalm 138 (Psalm of Praise)

Tuesday: Psalm 66 (Psalm of Praise/Thanksgiving)

Wednesday: Psalm 29 (Psalm of Royalty/Enthronement)

Thursday: Psalm 98 (Psalm of Praise)

Friday: Psalm 47 (Psalm of Royalty/Enthronement)

Saturday: Psalm 103 (Psalm of Praise)

Prayer:

*God, I praise You for Your goodness and Your faithfulness. Reveal to me how you have been actively at work in my life and how you have redeemed me from my past and given me hope for new life in You. Teach me to be in conversation with You so that I might hear Your voice more clearly.
In Jesus name I pray. Amen.*