

An invitation to Abundant Life - Isaiah 55

1. “Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat. Yes, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. 2. Why do you spend money for what is not bread, and your wages for what does not satisfy? Listen carefully to Me, and eat what is good, and let your soul delight itself in abundance. 3. Incline your ear, and come to Me. Hear, and your soul shall live; and I will make an everlasting covenant with you - the sure mercies of David.

Isaiah 55 continued

4. Indeed I have given him as a witness to the people, a leader and commander for the people.
5. Surely you shall call a nation you do not know, and nations who do not know you shall run to you, because of the Lord your God, and the Holy One of Israel; for He has glorified you.”
6. Seek the Lord while He may be found, call upon Him while He is near. 7. Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the Lord, and He will have mercy on him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon.

Isaiah 55 continued

8. “For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways,” says the Lord. 9. “For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts. 10. “For as the rain comes down, and snow from heaven, and do not return there, but water the earth, and make it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower and bread to the eater,

Isaiah 55 continued

11. So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; it shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it. 12. “For you shall go out with joy, and be led out with peace; the mountains and the hills shall break forth into singing before you, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. 13. Instead of thorn shall come up the cypress tree, and instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle tree; and it shall be to the Lord for a name, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.”

Listening for God, hearing Jesus speak, or being sensitive to the Holy Spirit (Isaiah 55:2,3)

How do we hear/ listen/ sense?

How do we prepare ourselves?

- Believe - God wants to speak even more than we want to hear
- Seek Him, a hungry heart (Isa. 55:6, Matt.5:6,8, Rev. 3:20)
- Believe, you're His child with a regenerated spirit and renewed mind (Isa. 55:8,9 is true, but also 1st Corinthians. 2:10-16)
- Make it a commitment, a lifestyle (example/ testimony - David and Moses - Ex. 24:9-18)
- Humility (Moses - Num.12:3, David - 2 Sam. 7:18, James 4:6, 1st Pet 5:5)

“Can you hear me now” be slow and fast

- Slow - as in a Sabbath rest. Be still, take a break, be silent. Turn off distractions; TV, Radio, music, cell phone, internet,
- Fast - as in fasting from food. It decreases doubt and increases faith and removes one major distraction - food. Something always moves when you fast beginning with you.

How do we know it is Him what does it look like

- Believe God is good. He doesn't throw stones He gives bread (Matthew 7:9)
- “Don't doubt in the darkness what you heard in the light” - Gary Ham
- God is never contrary to His Word/ Bible
- “God told me to marry you” really! “I didn't get that memo” If it's that important it should be personal.

Practical examples then and now

- Audible (1st Sam. 3)
- “still small voice” (1st Kings 19:11-13)
Spirit to spirit (Romans 8)
- Dreams and visions (Joel 2:28, Acts 10:1-16, 16:6-10) Muslims and personal
- His Word/ Bible, parables, nature
- People, including through prophecy

This “Wraps” it up

Remember, God desires to relate to us even more than we to Him and that has never changed. He has demonstrated His passion for this by coming in person and restoring the human relationship to Himself on the cross and resurrection. We are the ones that must change. We must desire, seek, and develop a listening and sensing ability.