

Introduction

his manual is from personal notes, and my daily listening to God. I am still learning. What I have walked, I can teach you. All that I have received comes from God, through the Word, by the Holy Spirt, and dear friends.

Loren & Darlene Cunningham, Paul Hawkins, Joy Dawson, Jean Darnall, Dean Sherman, Dr. Bruce Thompson, David Mohsen Demian, and Dan Sneed have all had tremendous impact on my life in teaching me the ways of listening to God - they have modeled it for me. *Dialogue With God* by Mark Virkler has confirmed many things for me, and has been a big help. I am also thankful for the editing work of Rebekah Lee.

This manual and the video series were produced at different times. They complement each other or may be used separately.

As a wife, there is no greater earthly security than having a husband who also listens to God and seeks Him with me. I am so grateful for my husband, Peter, who has not been threatened by my `listening,' and who hears from God with me. There are many occasions in life where we need to hear from God as a couple.

As a mother and grandmother, I believe it is so important to teach your children, and your children's children, the ways of God, and how to listen to Him. (See Psalm 78:1-7) I am blessed to be a mother to three daughters who listen to God, and who teach their children how to hear from God.

Please *listen* to what the Holy Spirit is saying to you, by asking ...

- Does it go according to God's word?
- Does it glorify Jesus and bring you closer to Him?
- Is there a 'witness in your spirit'? Do you have peace in your spirit about this?
- Is there a `witness' in the other person's spirit who listens?
 ... the peace of God, which transcends all understanding ... Phil 4:7 The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit ... Rom 8:16 Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts ... Col 3:15

If the answer is `Yes' to each question, apply it. Application of truth helps us grow and we become more like Jesus.

Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it—not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it—they will be blessed in what they do. James 1:22-25

Do it! Apply what the Word says.

Not everyone who says to me, `Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven. Many will say to Me on that day, `Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?' Then I will tell them plainly, `I never knew you. Away from Me, you evildoers!' Matt 7:21-23

Relationship with God is the purpose of Christianity - *to know God and to make Him known* - to have intimate relationship with Him.

I do not know all the answers, but I know the One who does. I am *listening, to learn* from Him.

Unless otherwise indicated, I have used the New International Version of the Bible. Please look up the Scriptures for the references I have included. The Spirit of God will give you more revelation as you listen to Him. I pray that the *eyes of your heart* will be opened, and that *your spiritual ears* will discern what the Spirit is saying to you.

I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way. Eph 1:17-23 Open my eyes that I may see wonderful things in your law. Psalm 119: 18 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says . . . Rev 2:7 (See also Matt 11:15; Matt 13:9, 43; Mark 4:23; Luke 14:35; Rev 2:11, 17 & 29; Rev 3:6 & 22) My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. John 10:27 The Sovereign Lord has given me a well-instructed tongue, to know the word that sustains the weary. He wakens me morning by morning, wakens my ear to listen like one being instructed. The Sovereign Lord has opened my ears; I have not been rebellious, I have not turned away. Is 50:4-5 . . . whoever listens to Me will live in safety and be at ease without fear of harm. Prov 1:33

Every morning before I get out of bed, I try to remember to say, "Jesus, I love you, fill me with Your Holy Spirit for today. I need You." Most times I will put on worship music and wait in His presence quietly so I can hear what is on His heart, and what His goals are for the day. He speaks through His Word and by His Spirit. It is good to see and hear things from His perspective - *what a friend we have in Jesus!*

Love and Blessings,

Dona

God is Preparing His Bride ... You and Me

od is preparing His bride - you and me - for His Son, Jesus, and He wants a personal relationship with each of us. He wants us to know Him, to *really* know Him, and have an intimate relationship with Him.

Every groom wants their bride to be their *best friend*, with the same vision and purpose. God is looking for friends with whom He can confide (John 15:9-17).

The Lord confides in those who fear him; he makes his covenant known to them. Psalm 25:14 Now this is eternal life: that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom You have sent. John 17:3 I will give them a heart to know Me, that I am the Lord. They will be My people, and I will be their God, for they will return to Me with all their heart. Jer 24:7 What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ. Phil 3:8

This is eternal life - to be intimately involved in a growing relationship with the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Our relationship is for eternity - God gives us eternal life so we can continue our intimate relationship with Him forever.

The climax of history is a wedding. We, the church, are engaged to be married. How is our covenant commitment?

Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory!

For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready....Rev 19: 5-8

The true treasure of a bride is not the things the Bridegroom gives her, but the very heart of the Bridegroom Himself. Our hearts will be divided if we treasure experience, ministry or material things more than God. We will find it hard to receive from God. It has nothing to do with our gifts, or the manifestation of the gifts, but everything to do with our relationship with Him.

Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles?' Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you . . . Matt 7:21-23 Teach me Your way, O Lord, and I will walk in Your truth; give me an undivided heart, that I may fear Your name. Psalm 86:11 If you are pleased with me, teach me your ways so I may know you and continue to find favor with you . . . Exodus 33:13 These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. They worship me in vain; their teachings are merely human rules. Matt 15: 8-9; See also Isaiah 29:13

For many years, I've been crying out, "God, teach me Your ways! I'm so tired of man's ways!"

We must set our hearts on things above, not on earthly things (Col 3:1-2). Let us lift up our hearts - an uplifted heart is one that is simply abandoned to Him, silent and resting in the love of God.

I will give them singleness of heart and action, so that they will always fear Me for their own good and the good of their children after them. Jer 32:39 Let us examine our ways and test them, and let us return to the Lord. Let us lift up our hearts and our hands to God in heaven. Lam 3:40-41

Those who knew God in Bible times admitted that they were aliens and strangers on earth . . . they were longing for a better country - a heavenly one. They knew their citizenship was in heaven. God is calling us to live for eternity (Phil 3:20; Heb 11:13-16).

I was very close to my earthly father; I'm the third daughter of four. I loved what my father loved sports, cars, and gardening. He wasn't the type of father to hold me in his arms. However, when I did something that pleased him, he ruffled my hair and said, "You did a good job!" I was by my father's bedside when he was very ill in Ontario, Canada. He knew that I'd be going to a place on the border of North and South Korea to teach. When I was leaving, my father put his hand over the bedside railing, and said, "You're doing a good job!"

I shared the story about leaving my father and how he showed affection to a large group of young people. Many of them have been put out of their homes because they were from Buddhist backgrounds and had become Christians.

While sharing with them, I had a vision -- When I get to heaven, it will be a beautiful, beautiful garden with animals, birds and flowers. I was by myself walking along a path, and Jesus came along from the other way, and He put His arms around me, and said, "You did a good job!"

And that's what I live for today; for Jesus to say that "You've done a good job!"

That night, my earthly father went home to be with Jesus. I knew I was where my heavenly Father wanted me to be. It is so important that we live for eternity when we will see Jesus face to face.

APPLICATION

What do you want Him to say to you?

How are you getting prepared to be His Bride? (Matt 25: 1-12)