

# LISTENING TO GOD

HOLY  
BIBLE

PEACE LIKE A RIVER

RIGHTEOUSNESS LIKE THE WAVES OF THE SEA

1

**FIVE** sinful tendencies we need to confess before we will be able to hear the voice of God, 48:1-11.

**WE NEED TO UNDERSTAND AND CONFESS ...**

- 1. Our sinful tendency to profess loyalty and faithfulness to the LORD falsely and insincerely, 48:1.**
  - (Isaiah 48:1 ESV) Hear this, O house of Jacob, who are called by the name of Israel, and who came from the waters of Judah, who swear by the name of the LORD and confess the God of Israel, but not in truth or right.
- 2. Our sinful tendency to stubbornly refuse to allow the words of God to change our ideas of holiness and of God, 48:2-5.**
  - (Isaiah 48:2-5 ESV) For they call themselves after the holy city, and stay themselves on the God of Israel; the LORD of hosts is his name. 3 The former things I declared of old; they went out from my mouth, and I announced them; then suddenly I did them, and they came to pass. 4 Because I know that you are obstinate, and your neck is an iron sinew and your forehead brass, 5 I declared them to you from of old, before they came to pass I announced them to you, lest you should say, "My idol did them, my carved image and my metal image commanded them."
- 3. Our sinful tendency toward pride in our spiritual knowledge, 48:6-7.**
  - (Isaiah 48:6-7 ESV) You have heard; now see all this; and will you not declare it? From this time forth I announce to you new things, hidden things that you have not known. 7 They are created now, not

long ago; before today you have never heard of them, lest you should say, "Behold, I knew them."

**4. Our sinful tendency toward treachery and rebellion, 48:8.**

- (Isaiah 48:8 ESV) You have never heard, you have never known, from of old your ear has not been opened. For I knew that you would surely deal treacherously, and that from before birth you were called a rebel.

**5. Our sinful tendency to profane [make common, pollute] the name—the character and nature of God—of the LORD by self-righteous attempts to share the spiritual limelight with the God of glory, 48:9-11.**

- (Isaiah 48:9-11 ESV) For my name's sake I defer my anger; for the sake of my praise I restrain it for you, that I may not cut you off. 10 Behold, I have refined you, but not as silver; I have tried you in the furnace of affliction. 11 For my own sake, for my own sake, I do it, for how should my name be profaned? My glory I will not give to another.

2

**FOUR** things God wants us to know when he calls us to listen to him, 48:11-17.

**1. God is God, and he will not allow humans—religious or otherwise—to pollute his name, 48:11-13.**

God is the one who called Israel, God is God, God is the first and the last, God is Creator and Sustainer of all.

- (Isaiah 48:11-13 ESV) For my own sake, for my own sake, I do it, for how should my name be profaned? My glory I will not give to another. 12 Listen to me, O Jacob,

and Israel, whom I called! I am he; I am the first, and I am the last. 13 My hand laid the foundation of the earth, and my right hand spread out the heavens; when I call to them, they stand forth together.

**2. God is Sovereign LORD who rules providentially in performing his purpose over the affairs of humanity, 48:14-15.**

- (Isaiah 48:14–15 ESV) Assemble, all of you, and listen! Who among them has declared these things? The LORD loves him; he shall perform his purpose on Babylon, and his arm shall be against the Chaldeans. 15 I, even I, have spoken and called him; I have brought him, and he will prosper in his way.

**3. God is transcendent and transparent in his dealings with his people, 48:16.**

- (Isaiah 48:16 ESV) Draw near to me, hear this: from the beginning I have not spoken in secret, from the time it came to be I have been there. And now the Lord GOD has sent me, and his Spirit.

**4. God is the LORD our God who alone teaches us to profit and leads us in the way we should go, 48:17.**

- (Isaiah 48:17 ESV) Thus says the LORD, your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel: “I am the LORD your God, who teaches you to profit, who leads you in the way you should go.

**3**

**Two things, even FOUR, that happen when we actually listen to God as God, 48:18-21.**

1. We will have peace like a river, 48:18-19.
2. We will have righteousness like the waves of the sea, 48:18-19.
3. We will have a strong, joyful message of assurance and redemption, 48:20.
4. We will have a powerful, steadfast trust in the provision and leading of the LORD, 48:21.

- (Isaiah 48:18–21 ESV) Oh that you had paid attention to my commandments! Then your peace would have been like a river, and your righteousness like the waves of the sea; 19 your offspring would have been like the sand, and your descendants like its grains; their name would never be cut off or destroyed from before me.” 20 Go out from Babylon, flee from Chaldea, declare this with a shout of joy, proclaim it, send it out to the end of the earth; say, “The LORD has redeemed his servant Jacob!” 21 They did not thirst when he led them through the deserts; he made water flow for them from the rock; he split the rock and the water gushed out.

**4**

**ONE thing that the unsaved—the wicked—will never have, 48:22.**

**No PEACE**

- (Isaiah 48:22 ESV) “There is no peace,” says the LORD, “for the wicked.”

**RIGHTEOUSNESS ...**

- (Deuteronomy 6:25 ESV) And it will be righteousness for us, if we are careful to do all this commandment before the LORD our God, as he has commanded us.
- (Psalm 85:10 ESV) Steadfast love and faithfulness meet; righteousness and peace kiss each other.
- (Proverbs 11:30 ESV) The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, and whoever captures souls is wise.
- (Proverbs 12:12 ESV) Whoever is wicked covets the spoil of evildoers, but the root of the righteous bears fruit.
- (Isaiah 32:17 ESV) And the effect of righteousness will be peace, and the result of righteousness, quietness and trust forever.
- (Matthew 6:33 ESV) But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and

all these things will be added to you.

- (Romans 14:17 ESV) For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.
- (Philippians 1:9–11 ESV) And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, 10 so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, 11 filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.
- (Hebrews 12:10–11 ESV) For they disciplined us for a short time as it seemed best to

them, but he disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness. 11 For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

- (James 3:17–18 ESV) But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere. 18 And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

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**OH THAT YOU HAD PAID ATTENTION TO MY COMMANDMENTS!  
THEN YOUR PEACE WOULD HAVE BEEN LIKE A RIVER,  
AND YOUR RIGHTEOUSNESS LIKE THE WAVES OF THE SEA.**

[ISAIAH 48:18 ESV]

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**WHOEVER BELIEVES IN ME, AS THE SCRIPTURE HAS SAID,  
“OUT OF HIS HEART WILL FLOW RIVERS OF LIVING WATER.”**

[JOHN 7:38 ESV]

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**MY SHEEP HEAR MY VOICE,  
AND I KNOW THEM, AND THEY FOLLOW ME.**

[JOHN 10:27 ESV]

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