



RECEIVE A FRESH WORD FOR 2015

HOW TO HEAR FROM

GOD

MIKE WEBSTER

**How to Hear from God**  
*Receive a Fresh Word for 2015*

By Mike Webster

© 2015 Mike Webster

Spirit and Word Ministries  
LifeCoach Communications, Inc.

[Spirit-Word.com](http://Spirit-Word.com)

## Introduction



God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

<sup>2</sup> Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way, though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea,

<sup>3</sup> though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble at its swelling. Selah

<sup>4</sup> **There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High.**

<sup>5</sup> God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved; God will help her when morning dawns.

<sup>6</sup> The nations rage, the kingdoms totter; he utters his voice, the earth melts.

<sup>7</sup> The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress. Selah

<sup>8</sup> Come, behold the works of the LORD, how he has brought desolations on the earth.

<sup>9</sup> He makes wars cease to the end of the earth; he breaks the bow and shatters the spear; he burns the chariots with fire.

<sup>10</sup> "Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!"

<sup>11</sup> The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress. Selah (Psalm 46:1-11)

God speaks. He is speaking in the first chapter of the Bible. "And God said, 'Let there be light,'" (Genesis 1:3). He is speaking in the last chapter of the Bible. "The Spirit and the Bride say, 'Come.'" (Revelation 22:17). He is speaking everywhere between. He is still speaking today.

Why don't we hear more? When we read the Bible, often we find people in conversation with God. It seems like they are in a room together having a chat. Why can't we experience more of that special conversation?

I have found some secrets to opening my ears to God. Follow these steps and get ready for a year filled with the voice of God.

You can hear from God!

## Secret Number One

### *Remove the Blockage*



The flow of the river can be dammed up with barriers.

We were walking the fence line on our farm for Spring repairs. Even though I was very young, I could immediately see the problem. Part of the fence was under water in the stream. Over the winter, the flow became blocked. Some shifting of the banks, some animal activity, some old brush had fallen, and the blockage needed to be removed.

To release the flow of guidance, we need to remove any blockage that might hold back the wonderful river of God. As Isaiah said, “Behold, the LORD's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save, or his ear dull, that it cannot hear; but your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden his face from you so that he does not hear” (Isaiah 59:1-2).

The blockage is on our end. We need to remove it.

One type of blockage I need to remove is my personal sins. I particularly find that I need to visit my habitual sin patterns. I am not fouled up so much in a day-to-day rebellious lifestyle. I find myself entangled with old enemies. I need to break the barriers caused by ruts I fall into. I need to destroy the dams built by my typical familiar foes. Have I fallen into a pattern of shame or fear? Have I medicated my hurt with too much TV? Am I too isolated? When we repent, the flow is restored.

Another type of blockage comes from troubled relationships. We never get to perfection with family, friends, coworkers, or church folks. Nevertheless, we need to keep our hearts clear. “If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all” (Romans 12:18). The big word is forgiveness. I periodically need to check my heart to see if there is anyone I have not forgiven. When I release people who I think may have offended me, the dam breaks and the river of God begins to surge.

God often puts his finger on unfinished business. Over decades of ministry to thousands of people, this has been a constant theme of personal ministry. We want to move on, but we did not do the last thing God asked us to do. We get stuck. If it seems like there is a blockage to the next step into your future, look back to the last time you heard from the Lord. Do you have unfinished business? Taking action here will release a new tide of the river in your life.

As we take these steps to clear away the debris in our lives, we can experience a fresh gushing of the river of God. His Presence and His Voice.

### **Personal Reflection**

1. Is there any transgression or pattern I need to take to Jesus? Am I clean before my Lord? Am I walking in the grace of the cross?
2. Is there anyone I need to forgive? Have I avoided taking a step in a relationship that is weighing on my mind? Do I need to make an apology?
3. Do I remember the last thing God told me to do? Did I respond? Is there old business on my agenda with God that I need to address?

## Secret Number Two

### *Open the Gates*



We have to open the gates!

I fished in the Salmon River. I caught some fish. I had some fun. But I remember needing to be careful. This river was not just for recreation. There were dams on this river used to generate electricity. Periodically the power company would need to adjust the level. When they opened the dams, the level of the river would rise rapidly and drastically. This could be dangerous. I remember seeing signs like this:



When the gates are closed, there is no flow.

“Lift up your heads, O gates! And be lifted up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in” (Psalm 24:7).

Worship always opens the gates. Whenever you don't know what to do, worship. Worship is the welcome mat for God. When we express love for God, He visits in a special way. Sometimes I worship Him by offering a Psalm or other affirming Scripture. Sometimes I use music. I especially like simply telling Him that I love Him. This is a great time to stir up spiritual language. The Apostle Paul shares his four types of seeking. “For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays but my mind is unfruitful. What am I to do? I will pray with my spirit, but I will pray with my mind also; I will sing praise with my spirit, but I will sing with my mind also” (1 Corinthians 14:14-15). Ask Him to come. He will. Worship unleashes the stream of God speaking to us.

Stillness will open the gates. When someone asks how we are doing, our most popular response is: “busy”! Business is an enemy of hearing from God. God can't get a word in edgewise. There is always something to do. We rush through life. It can be hard to stop. However, when we are active all the time, the river of God is obstructed. Stillness allows us to listen. Meditation on Him may help break the cycle of living life in the fast lane. How often is God speaking, but we are not listening?

Quiet also helps open the gates. We are surrounded by noise. The most distracting is the sound of a human voice. If we can hear the TV, radio, singer, or someone near us, we are not likely to hear God. Why did I get some of the inspiration for this study in the shower? No noise! If you need a fresh word, find a specific time and a special place for quiet. In that rest, you will hear His still, small voice.

When our son, Andy, was a young boy, he asked one day if he could hear from God. He was brought up in an atmosphere of divine guidance. He commonly experienced others hearing from the Lord. He wanted to hear from God for himself. We told him to go to his room, be still, be quiet, and listen. In a few moments, he came out with a big smile on his face. We asked him what happened, and he said: “The Lord said, ‘I love you, Andy’”. Take these simple steps, and you will hear from God too. Just open the gates.



### **Personal Reflection**

1. How can I offer worship today? Have I told the Lord that I love Him? Am I asking Him to come?
2. Am I too busy? Have I scheduled time to seek the Lord? When do I experience an atmosphere of stillness?
3. What can I do to reduce noise in my life? Do I turn on the TV or radio just for background noise? What is my time and place for quiet?

## Secret Number Three

### *Go Deeper*



Exercise your faith to  
experience more!

I went scuba diving in the Saint Lawrence River. I didn't go very deep. I learned that to go deeper, I would need to do more work. I would need to keep my inner and outer pressure balanced. I would need different equipment. I would need more experience. Sometimes I feel limited in going deeper into the river of God.

Jesus said: "According to your faith be it done to you" (Matthew 9:29). Let's exercise our faith for more. Let's get out into the deep waters. Let's not limit what God will say to us.

We can go deeper in expecting the supernatural. This is not the time to expect what even a strong human being can deliver. God can do more. He can transform. He can change a life. He can heal. He can bring freedom. He can provide. He can nurture. He can reveal. He can save your loved ones. He can comfort. He does all things well. Let's not be satisfied with the superficial. Let's not be content with the ordinary. Jesus invites us to launch out into the deep.

We can go deeper by expanding our time frame. Sometimes we need instant relief. But we can trust for lasting impact. Believe God for a word that will endure. Hear what He wants to say about today, but go deeper and hear what He is saying about the year ahead, and the next season of your life. Stretch yourself! Go deeper!

We can go deeper by believing for more people. I can be focused on myself. I can get consumed by my own needs. However, God wants us to impact the whole world. Go deeper for your family. Go deeper for your neighborhood. Go deeper

for your church. Go deeper for your nation. Go deeper for every tribe, and tongue, and nation on earth. Pray for worldwide revival. Then listen for your part.

Ezekiel saw a prophetic vision of the river. It was full of life. It got deeper as it flowed. Follow this powerful picture. Go from standing on the bank to wading out to the ankle depth. Then do deeper to knee deep and waist deep. Then plunge into the wonderful depths of the river of God.

“Then he brought me back to the door of the temple, and behold, water was issuing from below the threshold of the temple toward the east (for the temple faced east). The water was flowing down from below the south end of the threshold of the temple, south of the altar. Then he brought me out by way of the north gate and led me around on the outside to the outer gate that faces toward the east; and behold, the water was trickling out on the south side.

“Going on eastward with a measuring line in his hand, the man measured a thousand cubits, and then led me through the water, and it was ankle-deep. Again he measured a thousand, and led me through the water, and it was knee-deep. Again he measured a thousand, and led me through the water, and it was waist-deep. Again he measured a thousand, and it was a river that I could not pass through, for the water had risen. It was deep enough to swim in, a river that could not be passed through.

“And he said to me, ‘Son of man, have you seen this?’ Then he led me back to the bank of the river. As I went back, I saw on the bank of the river very many trees on the one side and on the other. And he said to me, ‘This water flows toward the eastern region and goes down into the Arabah, and enters the sea; when the water flows into the sea, the water will become fresh. And wherever the river goes, every living creature that swarms will live, and there will be very many fish. For this water goes there, that the waters of the sea may become fresh; so everything will live where the river goes. Fishermen will stand beside the sea. From Engedi to Eneclaim it will be a place for the spreading of nets. Its fish will be of very many kinds, like the fish of the Great Sea. But its swamps and marshes will not become fresh; they are to be left for salt.

““And on the banks, on both sides of the river, there will grow all kinds of trees for food. Their leaves will not wither, nor their fruit fail, but they will bear fresh fruit every month, because the water for them flows from the sanctuary. Their fruit will be for food, and their leaves for healing.” (Ezekiel 47:1-12).

Believe God for more. Expect more. Experience more. Hear more!

### **Personal Reflection**

1. Am I in the shallow end or the deep end? What is the next miracle I can listen for? How do I limit God?
2. What can I listen for that concerns today? Can I turn to God to hear a theme for this year? Should I listen to the Lord for His word on my next season?
3. What do I need to get a fresh word for in my own life? Who are people in my life I can hear from God for? Will I listen for God's heart for others?

## Conclusion



"For this commandment that I command you today is not too hard for you, neither is it far off. It is not in heaven, that you should say, 'Who will ascend to heaven for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?' Neither is it beyond the sea, that you should say, 'Who will go over the sea for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?' But the word is very near you. It is in your mouth and in your heart, so that you can do it. (Deuteronomy 30:11-14).

The most amazing thing is that God wants to speak to us even more than we want to hear. He makes Himself available. As God declares in the passage above, it is not too hard. It is not up in heaven. It is not over the sea. It is near. It is in us.

Release the flow of God's voice. Remove the blockage. Open the gates. Go deep. You will hear from Him and you will get a fresh word for 2015.

There are many words here. Yet this can happen for you in a few minutes. Do it now!

Ready...Set...Go!



