

LORD, CAN YOU HEAR US?

► There are certain _____ required for a request to be listened to, taken seriously and granted.

► Have we taken our relationship with the Lord for granted?
> Are we always entitled to an answer?

SERIES QUESTION: Why the Church?

SERIES THEME and TEXT: To restore our confidence in and commitment to being the people of God -- I Peter 2:9,10

TODAY'S TEXT: I Peter 3:7, 12; 4:7 & 5:5b

TODAY'S THEME: The Lord hears us when we respect each other, listen carefully and stay humble

TODAY'S QUESTION: Lord, can you hear us?

I. I HEAR YOU WHEN YOU _____ EACH OTHER

A. GOD IS SERIOUS ABOUT RESPECTFUL RELATIONSHIPS

> He calls us to right relationships.

> He calls us to respect _____ people.
2:17

> He calls for respect in the _____ place even when it's hard.
2:18ff

> He _____ respect in marriage and the home.
3:1-7

> He expects respect in all of our relationships.
3:8ff

► Our _____ only have meaning when we respect Christ as our Lord and show respect to our unsaved friends
3:15

TODAY'S QUESTION: Lord, can you hear us?

B. GOD HEARS THOSE WHO RESPECT RELATIONSHIPS

► God is not committed to hear and answer the prayers of those who are _____ others.

> Jesus made this very clear!

Matthew 5:23,24

Matthew 6:9-15

Psalm 66:18

> Peter is emphasizing this point.

Question: Who does the Lord see and hear? Who does He turn his face away from?

I Peter 3:10-12 (Psalm 34:16)

Question: Am I nursing a grudge against someone? Do I have unforgiveness in my heart? Have I got issues with someone?

> Peter especially points his finger at _____!
3:7 (see also Malachi 2:13-15)

► Guys, a disrespectful attitude to our wives and women in general destroys our prayer lives!

> GOD RESPECTS WOMEN!! DO YOU???

During this week of prayer and fasting, I will begin to show more respect to:

TODAY'S QUESTION: Lord, can you hear us?

II. I HEAR YOU WHEN YOU HEAR ME

A. GOD CARES ABOUT WHAT WE ARE _____

► Hearing is about what goes on in our _____.

> Peter calls us to be alert and sober of mind.

I Peter 1:13; 4:7; 5:8

► The voices of our world are enticing, _____, inebriating, consuming and controlling.

> They're constantly calling us and seducing us.

- > If we listen and drink them in:
 - We become _____ and addicted to the world.
 -
 -

In this week of prayer and fasting, I will humble myself and _____.

Question: What are we listening to? What voices dominate our thoughts?

B. GOD HEARS THOSE WHO HEAR HIM

Our first question should be: _____ ?

- ▶ He isn't committed to hear those who won't hear Him.
 - Isaiah 59:1,2
 - Zechariah 7:13
 - (also see Micah 3:4; Deut. 1:45; Prov. 1:28ff; 21:13; 28:9; Isa. 1:15; Matthew 23:37)

During this week of prayer and fasting I will turn off _____ and listen to the Lord.

TODAY'S QUESTION: Lord, can you hear us?

III. I HEAR YOU WHEN YOU STAY _____

A. GOD LISTENS AND _____ FOR THE HUMBLE
5:6,7 (James 4:10)

- > This is a clear and consistent message in the Bible.
 - II Chronicles 7:15
 - Isaiah 58:9; 66:2b
- > Our humble Jesus _____ our humble of hearts.
 - Luke 18:9-17
 - Philippians 2:9

B. TO PRAY IS TO _____ WHAT GOD _____

- ▶ To humble ourselves is to resist ourselves.
 - >
 - >
- ▶ Prayer is opposing my _____ and resisting of myself!

- I Peter 5:8,9a
- ▶ The Devil's power over our lives is destroyed when we _____ our pride and _____ in the powerful humility of Christ!

IN CONCLUSION OUR QUESTION IS: Lord, can you hear us?

BUT HIS QUESTIONS ARE: How are your relationships? Are you listening to me? Are you resisting your selfish pride?