

If You Want To Hear From God 4341

I. Six Month Sabbatical

- A. After 5-1/2 months direction received
 - 1. Intercessory ministry
 - 2. Based in Jerusalem
- B. Why did we have to wait?
 - 1. God is sovereign
 - 2. God dealt with barriers in us through:
 - a. Confession
 - b. Repentance
 - c. Self-humbling: the key
Humility is something you *do*
 - 3. The great barrier is pride

II. Ways To Remove The Barrier Of Pride

- A. Confess our sins (1 John 1:9; Prov. 28:13)
 - 1. God only forgives what we confess
 - a. If we do not confess our sins, they continue to be reckoned against us
 - b. Anything not straight is crooked; anything not righteous is sin (1 John 5:17)
 - c. Satan brings guilt, but the Holy Spirit *conviction*
 - 2. Unconfessed sins become barriers
- B. Confess to one another (James 5:16)
Especially husband and wife
- C. Submit to God's dealings (1 Peter 5:6)
 - 1. Humble yourself
 - 2. Don't complain or murmur
 - 3. Israel in the desert failed this test (Deut. 8:2-3)
 - 4. God visits us every morning and tests us every moment (Job 7:17-18)
- D. Serve and wait (1 Thess. 1:9-10)
Waiting is:
 - 1. A mark of faith
 - 2. An acknowledgment of dependence
- E. Preparing a way for God's glory (Is. 40:3-5)
 - 1. Valleys be exalted
Valleys: modesty, chastity, self-effacement, willingness to serve, to be in background
 - 2. Mountains made low
Mountains: self-glorification, self-exaltation, self-promotion
 - 3. Crooked made straight
Crooked: dishonest dealings with money, e.g. income tax returns
 - 4. Rough made smooth
Rough: egoism, anger, argumentativeness, self-justification