

“The God Who Hears You”

Discussion Guide: Inspired By Pastor Willie Joe Lightfoot Sr.

Summary

Pastor Lightfoot delivered a powerful message about God being the God who hears us, building on previous sermons about God seeing us and keeping His promises. Using Exodus 2:24 as the foundation, he emphasized that God not only sees our struggles but actively listens to our cries, groans, and prayers. Pastor Lightfoot explained that feeling unheard is one of life's deepest pains, but God hears every whisper, sigh, and groan - even when we don't have words. He highlighted three key points: God hears us because we belong to Him, God responds to our prayers (sometimes quickly, sometimes slowly, but always according to His will), and God remembers His covenant promises. The message concluded with encouragement that this is a year of reaping harvest, emphasizing that God's silence doesn't mean absence but preparation, and that His promises may look buried but are actually developing.

Intro Prayer

Heavenly Father, we come before You with grateful hearts, knowing that You are the God who sees us and hears us. As we gather together in this small group, we ask that You would open our hearts and minds to receive what You want to teach us today. Help us to be vulnerable and honest with one another, and give us ears to hear not just each other's words, but Your voice speaking through our discussion. Lord, prepare our hearts to be transformed by Your truth and draw us closer to You and to one another. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Ice Breaker

What's one sound that immediately gets your attention no matter where you are or what you're doing?

Key Verses

- Exodus 2:24
- Psalms 34:17
- 1 John 5:14
- Psalms 18:6
- Jeremiah 33:3
- Matthew 7:7
- Isaiah 65:24

Questions

- 🎬 Pastor Lightfoot mentioned that sometimes in relationships, people don't feel seen or heard. Can you share about a time when you felt truly heard by someone? What made that experience meaningful?
- 🎬 The sermon emphasized that God heard Israel's groaning in Egypt. What are some ways people 'groan' or cry out today when they feel oppressed or exhausted?
- 🎬 According to 1 John 5:14, we should ask according to God's will. How can we discern what God's will is when we pray?
- 🎬 The pastor said 'relationship sharpens recognition' - that the better our relationship with God, the more He recognizes our distinct cry. How can we strengthen our relationship with God?
- 🎬 Isaiah 65:24 says God answers before we call and hears while we're still speaking. How does this truth change the way you approach prayer?
- 🎬 Pastor Lightfoot mentioned paying attention to God's open and closed doors. Share about a time when you tried to force open a door God had closed, or when you recognized God closing a door for your protection.
- 🎬 The message stated that 'God's silence is never absence, it's a strategy.' How can we maintain faith and hope during seasons when God seems silent?

► The pastor concluded by saying this is a year to 'reap the harvest.' What seeds has God been developing in your life that you're hoping to see come to fruition?

Life Application

This week, commit to spending intentional time in prayer, not just asking God for things, but also listening for His voice. Set aside 10-15 minutes each day to pray according to His will, pay attention to His peace, timing, and the doors He's opening or closing in your life. Practice being still and knowing that He hears you, even when you don't have words.

Key Takeaways

- God not only sees us but actively hears every cry, groan, whisper, and prayer we make
- We belong to God, which is why He hears us - we are His property, bought with the price of Christ's sacrifice
- God responds to our prayers according to His will and timing, sometimes before we even call
- Relationship with God sharpens His recognition of our distinct voice and needs
- God's silence doesn't mean absence but preparation - He's developing something in us during waiting seasons

Ending Prayer

Father God, we thank You for being the God who truly hears us. Thank You that no cry goes unnoticed, no prayer goes unheard, and no groan is ignored by You. Help us to trust in Your timing and Your ways, even when we can't see what You're doing. Strengthen our relationship with You so that we can recognize Your voice more clearly. As we leave this time together, help us to be people who not only cry out to You but also listen for Your response. May we pay attention to Your peace, Your timing, and the doors You open and close in our lives. We believe that You are preparing us for harvest and that our best days are ahead. In Jesus' precious name we pray, Amen.