

The heart refers to the central part of a person. The heart is the nature of a person, and to know the heart of someone is to know that person's innermost character, feelings, or inclinations. The heart of God is the essence of who He is, what He desires, His will, and His purposes. By reading the Bible, knowing Jesus, and spending time in prayer, a person can know the heart of God.

Spending time with the Lord in prayer assists in knowing His heart. Just as a child must spend time with his father to know him personally, so we also must spend time with God in prayer to know Him more deeply. The first part of James 4:8 says, "Come near to God and He will come near to you." Spending time alone with God in prayer will encourage a deeper relationship and create a greater intimacy between us and God, in which our desires will become more aligned with His.

Seeking to know the heart of God is a serious endeavour, as knowing Him will change a person's entire life. The more a person learns and knows about the Lord, the more he or she will long for Him and declare with the psalmist, "As the deer longs for streams of water, so I long for you, O God"

### **Read Psalm 103**

*Have you ever used self talk in the same sense that David does in Psalm 103? Did you use it to talk to yourself, to talk to God, or to listen to God as you speak to Him? Would you be willing to share the conversation?*

1. The Psalmist begins by saying "Bless YHWH, O my soul ..." (v1). What mood do we hear in the Psalmist's words? (e.g. exuberant? Happy?). What difference does it make how we hear these emotions?
2. V3 - What do we see as our iniquity? Our diseases? Does verse 3 sound to us like a statement of fact, that we can attest to? Or like a promise? Or some other way?

3. How does remembering what God has done in history – not just your own life, but in the lives of those who have walked faithfully with Him—encourage you?
4. V6 & 19 are paralleled. What do these verses reveal about God's nature and God's heart? Read also Exodus 6:6-9. How do we understand these verses to be true in relation to what we know of the world we read about in the newspaper, or perhaps experience daily?
5. Read aloud v8, Exodus 34:6 and Lamentations 3:21-23. How do these verses help us to know God's heart?
6. From v9-18 list the characteristics of God mentioned. What stands out most and encourages you?
7. When listening to God's voice, why is it vital for us to know God's heart? How does knowing God's heart help us to discern what is being said? How does knowing God's heart help us to be ready to listen, especially when God speaks through other people?
8. Knowing God and hearing His voice should move us to praise, just like David in v20-22. How does that happen? When you're talking to yourself, are you reminding yourself of what God has done for you in Christ Jesus? Do you have specific texts with which you exhort your soul? Do you pause in the day and worship? Spend some time as a group in worship, perhaps use the last 6 words (NIV) as a starting point.

## Prayer Points

Please continue to pray for the ongoing relief effort in Syria, Turkey and New Zealand.

Pray for the those going amongst the leadership team from Beulah, to a conference this week.

People on the Move Team Leader, Sarah Mhamdi, is a member of the European Baptist Federation's Migration Commission Core Group. Pray for Sarah and the Commission as they support refugees across Europe and beyond.

## Sermon Notes

God as F \_\_\_\_\_

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- h \_\_\_\_\_

K \_\_\_\_\_ and L \_\_\_\_\_



# BIBLE STUDY

February 26<sup>th</sup> 2023

## Hearing God:

Hearing God's heart:  
**Psalm 103**

'God spoke to me.' 'The Spirit spoke to my heart.' 'God revealed the idea to me.' Being close to God means communicating with Him, telling Him what is on our hearts in prayer and hearing and understanding what He is saying to us. It is this second half of our conversation with God that is so important but that can also be so difficult. How do we hear His voice? How can we be sure that what we think we hear is not our own subconscious? What role does the Bible play? What does the Bible teach in how the Lord speaks to us? These are some of the areas we will be covering over this next series, as we seek to grow in our relationship with Jesus.

If you would like to join a Connect Group, please contact the church office 01424 730001