



The Baptist Bridge

By the grace of God, the Philippi Baptist Church shall **Embrace, Model, and Share** the love of God through Jesus Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit.

August 2015

Philippi Baptist Church ♦ 69 Church St. ♦ Philippi, WV 26416 ♦ (304) 457-3206



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So how do you receive guidance from God? How do you hear the voice of God? Before we get into the model of how to hear the voice of God, Let me start you with three truths.

Number One - God is concerned with the details of your life.

Number Two- God loves me and love pays attention. Because the Bible says “*God is love.*” It doesn’t say God has love. It says God is love. It’s the essence of his nature. It is his character. It is who God is. Everything in the universe was created for God to love. God is a God of love. If you weren’t created in God’s image and if God was not a God of love there would be no love in your life. The only reason you have the ability to receive love and give love is because you have a creator who loves.

God thought up love. And you were created to be loved by God. You want to know why your heart is beating right now? You want to know why you’re breathing the next breath? God made you to love you. He made you to love you.

And God’s love is not like anybody else’s love because it’s unconditional. Because it’s not based on what you do. It’s based on who he is. It’s not based on your conduct. It is based on his character. God will never love you any more than he does at this very moment, right now. God will never love you any less than he does at this moment right now. God loves you on your good days and your bad days. He loves you when you think you deserve it and when you don’t think you deserve it. He loves you when you feel it. And he loves you when you don’t feel it.

You can’t make God stop loving you. You can try but you will fail. Because God’s love is not based on your behavior. It’s based on who he is.

Number Three – God wants to answer your prayers.

So with those truths in mind, let’s look at the model, at least one of the models, in a little known book at the end of the Old Testament. It’s called the book of Habakkuk.

It is always good to teach these little books because when you get to heaven I don’t want you to be embarrassed. I don’t want Habakkuk to come up to you and say, How did you like my book? And you say, Mr. Habakkuk I didn’t even know you were in the Bible. That would be embarrassing.

There are major truths in the minor prophets and you need to study those.

In Habakkuk we find the model for hearing the voice of God. In chapter 1 of Habakkuk, Habakkuk asks God six questions, very specific questions. And in chapter 2 he gets a very specific answer. Let me read it to you. Habakkuk 2:1-2 these are the five things you do to hear the voice of God. “*I will climb up in my watchtower and I will wait and I will look to see what the Lord will say. Then the Lord gave me this answer, ‘Write down what I’ve revealed to you so that you can read it at a glance.’*”

Habakkuk models the five steps of hearing the voice of God. Speak Lord, I’m listening. Write these down.

Step number one. If you want to hear the voice of God in your life. These will become second nature to you when you get to be as old as I do if you practice it all your life.



A Word from the Pastor

In other words I pull back. I get alone with God in a quiet place. Habakkuk says “*I will climb in to my watchtower.*” That’s a Hebrew expression that means just getting alone.

You can’t hear God’s voice if you’ve got your earbuds in. If you’re always listening to something else. If you’re always surrounded by noise.

The Bible tells us that Jesus often withdrew to a lonely place and prayed. Often means it’s a habit.

Do you have that habit? Some of you can’t stand to be alone. It scares you. It freaks you out. It makes you nervous. You can last in silence about three seconds and then you’ve got to turn on your MP3 player or whatever.

What you’ve got to do is withdraw. You’ve got to remove every distraction as possible. I withdraw, get alone with the Bible, I will climb my watch tower.

Number two, You wait. You withdraw and then you wait.

He says I will wait. What does that mean? It means I calm my thoughts and I calm my emotions. The NIV translation says “I will station myself.” What does it mean “station myself.” It means you don’t move. You be still. You calm down.

Hurry is the death of prayer. “God I need to talk to you but I need something really quick because I’m in a hurry. I’m going to Starbucks.” Then you’re not going to hear God. God speaks to those who wait on him. You’ve got to withdraw and you’ve got to wait.

God speaks to those who take the time to listen. And in that waiting period what you do is you calm your body and you calm your mind and you calm your emotions.

How do you do that? You do it the way David did. David shows us how to do this in Scripture. The first thing you do is you relax your body.

Psalms 46, David says “*Be still and know that I am God.*” Modern translation – Rick Warren translation: Sit down and shut up. Be still.

Everybody right now just take a deep breath and let it out. Then you just kind of move your muscles a little bit and kind of shake it out and just relax. You just be quiet and you let go of tension and you get comfortable. The Bible says David sat before the Lord.

I’ll be honest with you. I don’t kneel in prayer very much. Why? It hurts. And when I’m in pain I can’t hear the voice of God. I hear God much easier in my Lazy Boy chair or prone which is my favorite position.

So you relax your body and then you just sit in silence. Psalms 62:5 says “*My soul waits in silence for God.*” Until you get comfortable with silence you will never, never, never hear the voice of God. Until you get comfortable with silence.

You just be quiet. I say it like this: Inner calm gives me the intercom to God. Inner calm creates the intercom, the channel to hearing the voice of God. And if you don’t hear the voice of God you’re just hoping for the best in life. As I’ve said almost everything I’ve done in life I just move when God says move. And I just wait when God says wait. And I go slow when God says slow. And I run when God says run. And I just listen to the voice of God. It’s not that hard once you learn how to do it.



A Word from the Pastor

You withdraw and you wait. And you relax your body and you sit in silence. You cannot force this. It takes time.

Number three. The third thing Habakkuk does is he says *“I will look to see what the Lord will say.”* Here’s the third thing he does: Read the Word of God.

I will look to see what the Lord will say. That doesn’t even sound right does it? Why does it say look to see what God says; it makes more sense to say listen to hear what God says. But it does not say listen to hear what God says; it says Look to see what God says.

God’s will is found in God’s Word. It’s found right here in the Word of God. It’s all right there.

God will never contradict his Word. I want you to write this down.

Stop waiting for a voice and start looking for a verse. That was worth the price of the conference. You can go home now.

Stop waiting for a voice – some sign in the sky – and start looking for a verse. God has already said an awful lot right here. And you look for it.

But I want to add to this also. When he says I will look to see what God will say. Because God often speaks to us in mental pictures. He does this hundreds of times in Scripture. And he speaks to us in a visual that you get in your mind.

So a lot of times as I’m just sitting outside in the mornings, alone with God. And I’ll say Jesus, is there anything you want to say to me. And I’ll just wait and I’ll worship and I’ll read and I’ll wait some more and I’ll be quiet. And sometimes he’ll say, No. Everything’s fine. And sometimes he’ll go, You need to work on this. But about eighty percent of what God says to me is just encouragement.

Step four I withdraw to a secret place. I wait and calm my thoughts and emotions. Then I read. I will look to see what the Lord will say.

Then step four. I write. I write down the insights I receive.

Habakkuk says. *“Then the Lord gave me the answer. Write down what I reveal to you.”* In chapter 1, Habakkuk writes down what he said to God. And in chapter 2 he writes down what God says back to him.

Is it okay to write down your prayers and read them to God? *Duh!* They’re called the book of Psalms. So that’s how we got a lot of the Bible.

Finally the fifth thing is review. I review regularly what God has taught me. He says write down what I reveal to you so you can read it at a glance.

Special Thanks to Pastor Rick Warren on his thoughts about hearing the voice of God.

Shalom – Pastor Jon – cell – 304.531.2918



AB University, President Creehan,
 Faculty, staff, and students
 Barbour County Homeless
 Stephanie Bassel
 Lee & Sue Beuckman
 Barbara Bluebell
 Debbie Buntrock
 Camp Cowen
 Celebrate Recovery
 Church van
 Code Blue
 Perry Collins
 Ruby Cozad
 Jimmy Finley Family
 Hinkle Family
 Andrew Kerr Family
 George Kratsas
 Robert Linger Family
 Local ministries
 David Mace
 Helen Mellquist
 Men's Step Studies
 Debbie Mulneix
 Myers missionary family in Mexico
 Betty Newlon
 Michael Perry
 Michael Perry's uncle Kirby
 Michelle Phenix
 Margaret Salimi
 Chuck Scheick
 Elody Shrader
 George Sommer
 Sonya Stahl
 Liam Varghese
 Women's Step Studies
 Vivian Yeager Family
 PBC Youth

Unspoken requests for family members, unsaved people, community concerns, job and home loss, financial difficulties.

Also, in need of prayer: Our nation, state, and country leaders and officials. Please pray for victims of crime, war and violence throughout our country.



Pray for protection for military personnel and their families throughout the world and those serving our country:

Captain Aaron Cross
 Tim Jenkins,
 Brian Lundell
 Corporal Anthony Perry, Sr.
 Major Kris Wood



Blair & Pearl Marks, Dr. Shearer, Mary Tamulitis
 Vangie Shaffer (Mansfield Place), Germaine &
 Austin Whitman



Lee & Sue Beuckman
 Roconda Daugherty
 Hannah Dixon
 Mark Morgan
 Jennifer & Cody Ratliff
 Ashley & Brandon Rinehart
 Jack Dimitri Shirak
 VBS
 Jennifer Weyandt



5- Jeff & Christie Allen
 9-Derek & Chelsea (Long) McDowell
 7- Chuck & Dawn Scheick
 11- Gerald Fogg & Beth Longo
 15- Hayden & Heather Cottrill
 28- Skip & Carol Ervin



While Right Next Door—

As reported in last month's newsletter, Janet Stephens lives at Angel Band Farm in Arden. The neighbor who invited her to attend Philippi Baptist Church—Marsha Smith—lives right next door. Over the several years since Janet moved to West Virginia and while Marsha and Herb were putting the finishing touches on their retirement home, the two women became good friends. They still are, and can be seen sitting together in one of the front pews on Sunday mornings at the church.

Actually, Marsha has been attending services here ever since her older son, Taylor, was in Sunday School. At the time, the Smiths lived next door to Chuck and Dawn Scheick in the Maplewood Addition of Philippi. The two couples had sons the same age, so the Scheicks began transporting the boys to church, and it wasn't long before Marsha joined the party. One of the Smiths two sons now lives in Raeford, North Carolina, the other here in Philippi.

Born and raised in Pittsburgh, Marsha moved with her family to Fairmont while she was in high school. After graduating, she attended WVU, majoring in biology. She and Herb met on a blind date and have been together ever since—forty-eight years. When Herb was offered a teaching position in Business and Economics at Alderson-Broaddus, they moved to Philippi and Marsha entered the nursing program at AB. She began her professional career at Broaddus Hospital, then spent a number of years in the Barbour County Health Department. In the role of a home health nurse, she cared for number of patients in the Arden area. "I just loved the people out here," she smiles, "and, of course, the beauty of the area. I told Herb we should live on the river after we retired, and, seventeen years later, here we are." Marsha finally retired in 2014, having completed her career as a driver for Here & There Transportation. She looks out from her flower-bedecked porch and points to a yellow streak painted on a nearby tree. "That's how high the water was in 1985, higher than we ever want it to be again. However," she says, "this past March the water came up over almost all of the rocks that are visible now, and the current got really fast. The water changes almost every day, sometimes muddy and brown and other times so clear you can see every rock at the bottom. It's fascinating."

As for her visions for Philippi Baptist Church, she comments first on the friendliness of the congregation but then notes that having grown up as a Presbyterian, she misses the dignity and formality of traditional worship services. "I appreciate the contemporary tone of the current style," she says, "but I do miss the older and more formal hymnal songs and the liturgy. I sometimes wonder what has happened to the original intent for a church to be—or to at least include—a sanctuary." Then she smiles and nods. "See you next Sunday."

Weekly Events

Sundays	Men's Step Studies Sunday School AM Worship	7:30am 9:15am 10:30am
Mondays	Celebrate Recovery Praise Team Practice Celebrate Recovery	4:45pm 6:30pm
Tuesdays	Women's Bible Study (@ Sarah Cobb's house)	12:45pm
Wednesdays	Women's Step Studies Midweek Service	5:30pm 6pm
Fridays	Code Blue (ages 13-17)	6pm-9pm

Children's Volunteer Watch and Teach Calendar for August

	August 2	August 9	August 16	August 23	August 30
Nursery	Wanda & Jim Steele	Janet Baughman	Zvezdana Vlasic	Cheryl Wolfe & Bobby Villers	
Wee Church	Rebekah Hicks & Chandler Poling	Hayden & Heather Cottrill	Koreen Villers & Sam Ferguson	Wes & Crystal Gray	
Junior Church	Kelly Bracey & Gage Poling	Sara & Eddy Poling	Pete & Sarah Ferguson	Angel McCullough & Thomas Villers	

Happy Birthday!

4- Debbie Mulneix	12- Carol Yount	22- Dawn Scheick
4- Michele Moore	14- John Cain	22- Germaine Whitman
8- Jennifer Kines	14- April Gochenour	22- Katie Meader
9- Filip Vlasic	17- Shirley Jacobs	24- Dean Mulneix
11- James Steele	19- Clarence Wright	25- David Daugherty
12- Caitlin Davis	21- Judy Marsh	30- Stephanie Hinkle



Suggested Heart & Hand donation for August:
Breakfast Food



Heart & Hand Christmas box donation suggestions:
Cake mix & icing

Upcoming Events

Friday, July 31st– Monday, August 3rd– Family Camp at Camp Cowen
Sunday, August 2nd– 10:30am– Communion & Deacon Relief Offering
11:30am– Pastoral Relations Committee meeting
4:30pm– Diaconate meeting
6:00pm– Union Association Cluster Service at First Baptist Church of Grafton
Monday, August 3rd– 6:30pm– Heart & Hand Volunteer Night
Friday, August 7th– Sunday, August 9th– American Baptist Men’s Camp at Camp Cowen
Friday, August 7th– 7:00pm– Barbour County Relay For Life at Barbour County Fairgrounds
Sunday, August 9th– 5:00pm– Board of Trustees meeting
6:00pm– Board of Christian Education meeting
7:30pm– Church Council meeting
Tuesday, August 11th– Saturday, August 15th– Celebrate Recovery West Coast Summit in California
Friday, August 14th– 6:00pm– Family Game Night
Sunday, August 16th– 10:30am– Promotion Sunday
3:00pm– Church Reserved
6:00pm– Board of Missions & Outreach meeting
Saturday, August 22nd– 9:00pm– One King Mud Run at Barbour County Fair Grounds
2:00pm– Battler Fair at ABU



Heart & Hand Volunteer Night
August 3rd @ 6PM





"...Serve one another
in love."

Galatians 5:13

Ways to serve Barbour County in August!

Heart and Hand House, Inc., is a non-profit mission project affiliated with the United Methodist Church and is located in north central West Virginia. It exists because of the clear Christian mandate to minister to the physical, mental, spiritual and emotional needs of in-crisis, low-income people of Barbour County, WV.

Our ministry programs include a food pantry; a home repair and construction program; assistance with utilities, rent, and certain medical expenses; providing layettes for newborn babies; and a backpack feeding program for local school children. We also operate two thrift stores and The Market Place, home of our Community Garden Market. **PBC Volunteer Night August 3rd 6:00PM @ Heart & Hand**



The American Cancer Society **Relay For Life** is the world's largest and most impactful fundraising event to end cancer. It unites communities across the globe to celebrate people who have battled cancer, remember loved ones lost, and take action to finish the fight once and for all. Today, with the support of thousands of volunteers like you, the [American Cancer Society](http://www.americancancer.org) is helping save more than 400 lives a day. And we won't stop until we finish the fight against cancer! Please join us! Barbour County has 16 teams and 300 participants. They have raised over \$21,000. **August 7th 7:00PM @ Barbour County Fairgrounds**
http://main.acsevents.org/site/TR/RelayForLife/RFLCY15SA?pg=entry&fr_id=65459

Battler Fair is an opportunity for local businesses and churches to set up a display and talk to incoming new students and their families to see what our local community has to offer. **August 22nd 2-4PM @ ABU**



One King Sports is a registered 501(c) (3) organization, established to challenge and change the status quo of organized youth sports. One King Sports is focused on the fundamentals of sports and on the character of those participating. One King Sports' mission is to instill biblical values, leadership skills, and teamwork principles that impact participants throughout their lives. **Mud Run August 22nd 9:00AM @ Barbour County Fairgrounds**
<http://www.onekingsports.org/>



Philippi Baptist Church
69 Church Street
Philippi, WV 26416

Celebrate Recovery

Barbour County

A Christ-Centered Recovery Program

MONDAY NIGHTS
6:30-8:30PM

The Landing (6th– 12th grade)
Celebration Place (K-5th grade)
Nursery Provided

Philippi Baptist Church

