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CHURCH

Your story matters.

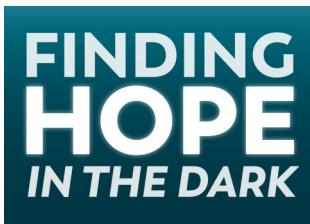


**HOPE IN THE DARK**

# **LISTENING IN THE DARK**

**PASTOR TOM LUNDEEN SEPT. 27, 2020**

**MYRC.CHURCH**



# “Listening in the Dark”

*Tom Lundeen, Senior Pastor*

## MESSAGE NOTES

The past 6 months have been filled with a lot of darkness and a \_\_\_\_\_ of hope.

Unlike most prophets who speak for God to His people, Habakkuk is speaking to God on behalf of His people, and his \_\_\_\_\_ and questions to God \_\_\_\_\_ this tension of wanting to embrace God, but because what he sees doesn't reflect what he believes, he's wrestling with God (note [Habakkuk 1:2-3](#)).

Habakkuk 1 = *don't \_\_\_\_\_ away from God (even when life isn't good).*

Habakkuk 2 begins a new \_\_\_\_\_ that's very hard to do when life is difficult, challenging, painful, and dark (note [Habakkuk 2:1](#)).

To struggle and wonder in the dark is \_\_\_\_\_; but to listen in the dark is even harder (when life isn't good, all we usually hear is what our \_\_\_\_\_, discouragements, frustrations, doubts, and fears say to us).

### 1. Why is Listening \_\_\_\_\_ So Challenging?

When we're hurting and life is tough, we're not very \_\_\_\_\_ to listen to God.

We want God to \_\_\_\_\_

We want God to drop everything He's up to and fix our problems and \_\_\_\_\_ our pain.

Note [Matthew 4:18-20](#); [14:24-31](#); [15:15-16a](#); [16:13-17, 21-23](#); [17:1-5, 24-27](#); [19:27](#); [Luke 22:31-33, 54-62](#)

When God seemingly isn't \_\_\_\_\_ up to what we think He should be saying/doing, we, like Peter, have trouble listening to what God is trying to tell us...

## 2. When We \_\_\_\_\_ to Listen in the Dark...

...God is able to work in us and through us in \_\_\_\_\_ ways.

Note [John 21:15-22](#); [Acts 4:1-3, 18-20](#); [5:29, 41](#); [1 Peter 4:12-16](#); [5:6-7](#); [2 Peter 1:12-19](#)

*Finding hope in the dark:*

- In our fast-paced, super-connected, and \_\_\_\_\_ divided world, listening isn't something most of us are good at.
- But listening to God...through the \_\_\_\_\_ of our lives, problems, challenges, pain, and disappointments is critically important.
- It is never \_\_\_\_\_ for us to genuinely listen as God speaks to us...
- Whatever the darkness is in your life today, start really listening to what God is trying to tell you, and He will change your story, too.

Tell someone about the next step you took today in your spiritual journey! Let us know, too, and fill out our connect card (digital or in person).

*Find all of our Bible reading tools including the  
"5 Minute a Day" reading plan here:  
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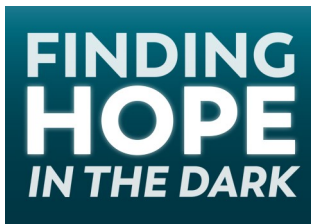


*Icebreaker:* What's the weirdest thing you've seen on a back to school list?

1. Have you ever had someone hear you but not listen to you? How did you receive this?
2. Pastor Tom outlined 3 reasons why it is often challenging to listen to God. Which one stood out as most challenging to you?
3. Pastor Tom showed us how Peter was often hearing but not listening. What part of Peter's journey do you resonate with most right now? (note: [Matthew 4:18-20](#); [14:24-31](#); [15:15-16a](#); [16:13-17, 21-23](#); [17:1-5, 24-27](#); [19:27](#); [Luke 22:31-33, 54-62](#))
4. Read [John 21:15-22](#) and [Acts 4:1-3](#). What changed for Peter and how did this change effect his actions?
5. In [2 Peter 1:12-19](#) Peter is in a dark place, he knows he is going to die. Yet, he is reminding his readers to listen. How has he grown from the moment he hears from God the Father ([Matthew 17:1-5](#)) to the moment he is looking back on in [2 Peter 1:12-19](#) ?
6. Re-read [2 Peter 1:12-19](#). How has God been speaking to you lately? Have you been hearing or listening? How might you grow in listening to God today?

### ***Hope in the Dark—Week of September 27:***

- Read *2.1 Listen through 2.2 Write* (pages 69-92)
- Questions for Reflection: *2.1-2.2* (pages 163-165)



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