

Learning to Look and Listen
An Exercise in Setting the Lord Always Before Me
By Davalynn Spencer

A companion piece to the book
Always Before Me
By Davalynn Spencer

*I have set the Lord always before me.
Because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved.
—Psalm 16:8*

How can we learn to recognize the finger and voice of God as He underscores His word in our lives?

First, we choose to make Him the focus of our attention, just as the psalm-writer David did. Because God was as near as his right hand, he could not be moved, shaken, forced off course, or made to waver.

Next, we ask.

Jesus said if we ask He will answer (Luke 11:9). Do you really want to hear and see the lessons God has for you? If so, then:

- ask Him to open your spiritual eyes and ears and get ready for Him to answer.
- Pay close attention to ideas or concepts that are repeated in your life. The Lord will confirm His word to you by reinforcing it through different sources.
- And remember that God has already set in order His plan to speak to your heart. For “Since the creation of the world, His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made” (Rom. 1:20).

You can learn to see the words of God unfold before your eyes in your surroundings or in everyday situations. Begin by following these simple steps.

In nature:

Find an aspect of your natural surroundings that echoes a principal from God’s word. Look first for the obvious—the way your flowers respond to deep watering, or night bugs swarming your porch light in the darkness. Write out what you see or hear or feel:

Using a concordance or the back of a study Bible, look up a key word from what you wrote—a word like water or light, something relating to the principle you have chosen. For example, my Bible has twenty-seven entries in the back under the word “water;” a large concordance will have many more. Don’t be overwhelmed by the number of options.

Start by reading through a few of the verses listed in Psalms or Proverbs until you find one that describes the principle you are looking for.

Now write your selected word, and the scripture verse.

Your word: _____

Your verse: _____

- What do you think God is saying to you through His creation?

- Do you see a parallel in His written word? Write out the verse you have chosen and explain how it applies.

- Now pen a brief prayer asking God to help you apply His truth to your life, or thanking Him for blessing you in a specific way.

In circumstances or relationships:

- Is there a confrontation you are dreading, something like your least favorite relative coming for dinner? Maybe your work environment isn't all you would like it to be. Write out the situation.

- Decide on a key word or phrase that addresses your situation—a word like fear, worry, sickness, or anger. Look for it in a concordance or reference Bible and choose one of the verses listed under the word that could relate to your situation. If you can't find the exact word you want, try using a synonym—a word that means almost the same as the one you first thought of.

Your word: _____

Your verse: _____

- What could God be saying to you through these circumstances? Write out the scripture verse and your thoughts on the subject.

- Do you see a parallel between His written word and your circumstances? Write out what you are thinking.

- Conclude with a brief prayer for help in this and similar situations and for courage to do the right thing.

- Finally, be patient. Wait on the Lord. Be still before Him. Let Him know that you really want to see His Word unfold before you. And praise Him for His faithfulness in revealing His heart to you!

“The unfolding of your words gives light” (Psalm 119:130 NIV).

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You may be interested in following my devotional blog at:
www.davalynspencer.blogspot.com

I pray this study has been a blessing to you, and I would love to hear from you.
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