



Has God abandoned Us?

Revelation: a letter of hope to God's people in peril

Part II: In Peril? Listen for God's Spirit

Guiding Principles

Blessed are those who hear and who keep what is written in the prophecy.

Revelation 1:3

- While these letters are to specific churches that existed a long time ago, they are also for us today. The 7 churches – Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia and Laodicea are representative of all churches

Let anyone who has an ear listen to what the Spirit is saying... Revelation 2:7

- We have a tough time listening, especially when there is other noise. But God is always speaking, if we will only stop and listen.

Each letter to the churches

- Begins with a reminder of the vision of Jesus in chapter 1.
- Includes an "I know" section. i.e. Jesus is aware of what is going on in the churches – both the good, the bad, and the ugly.
- Includes the "Listen" phrase.
- Includes a link to the end of the book – a connection to the hopeful future God has waiting for those who keep on going.

Gathering. Open with this prayer ([or sing along to it here](#)),

- Open our Eyes Lord by Bob Cull
Open our eyes, Lord, we want to see Jesus, to reach out and touch him, and say that we love him. Open our ears, Lord, and help us to listen. Open our eyes, Lord, we want to see Jesus.

Listening. Watch or listen to the teaching.

Wondering. Spend some time in silence and consider the following.

- I wonder what you liked about the presentation.
- I wonder what challenged you about the presentation.
- Of all the letters to the churches, I wonder if you have a favourite.
- I wonder how you can practice listening to God's Spirit.
- I wonder what encouraging thing Jesus would write to your church community.
- I wonder what challenging thing Jesus would write.

Sharing. Choose a question to share with the group or journal.

Praying. Practice the Examination of the Day together.

- For what today are you most grateful?
- For what today do you need healing?
- Where did you see Christ today?
- Where do you pray for Christ's presence today?

Commissioning. Take what you experienced today into your week.

- This week I want to pray the Examination of the Day every day.
- This week, I want to write a letter to my church.
- This week, I want to pray for Christians who are in peril.
- This week, I want to go to confession.

Preparing. Read Revelation, chapters 4 & 5 and consider what it means that God is the one who was, who is and who is to come.

