

*"But I tell you, in this you are not right, for God is greater than man. Why do you complain to him that he answers none of man's words? For God does speak--now one way, now another-- though man may not perceive it. In a dream, in a vision of the night, when deep sleep falls on men as they slumber in their beds, he may speak in their ears and terrify them with warnings, to turn man from wrongdoing and keep him from pride, to preserve his soul from the pit, his life from perishing by the sword.*

*Job 33:12-18 (NIV)*

## **Speak**

**I do speak. I am speaking. I will speak to you in many ways. I will speak to you at various times in different seasons. The crucial question is not "Do I speak?" or "Will I speak?" What is the crucial question? The crucial question is, "Will you listen?" Will you make yourself attentive to my words? Will you be listening when I am speaking to you? Will you recognize my voice? Will you notice my activity all around you?** I'm not sure how to answer your questions. **You can answer my questions by asking me your own questions.** Is that some sort of hint? **Yes, it is.**

How can I make myself attentive to your words? How can I make myself receptive to all that you have to say to me? How can I notice your activity all around me? **Those are the questions that I wanted you to ask me. Now, I will let you answer those questions.** Really? **Yes, really. I wouldn't ask you to answer those questions if I did not know that you already know the answer to them. So, let me hear your answers.**

I can make myself attentive to your words, receptive to what you want to say to me and aware of your activity all around me when I seek you with all my heart. If my heart and mind and life are focused on you I will not miss a word of what you want to say to me. If I give you my full attention, I will not fail to notice your active all around me. There is one thing that is absolutely certain. **What's that?** I will find you when I seek you with all my heart and mind and soul and strength. You will certainly draw near to me when I draw near to you. **You are right. You have asked good questions that you have answered well. Will you seek me with all your heart? You will focus your heart and mind and life on me? Will you draw near to me?** Yes Lord, I will. **That will be very good. Then you will hear from me. Then you will notice my activity all around you.**

*Lord, thank you for speaking to me in so many various ways. Help me to be attentive to your voice so I am ready to listen to all that you have to say to me. When I hear you speaking to me, I will joyfully respond to you with a thankful and obedient heart. Amen*

**Guidance** *For God Does Speak*

"But I tell you, in this you are not right, for God is greater than man. Why do you complain to him that he answers none of man's words? For God does speak--now one way, now another-- though man may not perceive it. In a dream, in a vision of the night, when deep sleep falls on men as they slumber in their beds, he may speak in their ears and terrify them with warnings, to turn man from wrongdoing and keep him from pride, to preserve his soul from the pit, his life from perishing by the sword.

NIV Job 33:12-18

**Guidance** *For God Speaks Again And Again*

"But you are wrong, and I will show you why. For God is greater than any human being. So why are you bringing a charge against him? Why say he does not respond to people's complaints? For God speaks again and again, though people do not recognize it. He speaks in dreams, in visions of the night, when deep sleep falls on people as they lie in their beds. He whispers in their ears and terrifies them with warnings. He makes them turn from doing wrong; he keeps them from pride. He protects them from the grave, from crossing over the river of death.

NLT Job 33:12-18

**Guidance** *For God Speaks*

"But in this you are not right. I will answer you: God is greater than any mortal. Why do you contend against him, saying, 'He will answer none of my words'? For God speaks in one way, and in two, though people do not perceive it. In a dream, in a vision of the night, when deep sleep falls on mortals, while they slumber on their beds, then he opens their ears, and terrifies them with warnings, that he may turn them aside from their deeds, and keep them from pride, to spare their souls from the Pit, their lives from traversing the River.

NRSV Job 33:12-18

**Guidance** *For God Speaks*

I reply to you, Behold, in this you are not just; God is superior to man. Why do you contend against Him? For He does not give account of any of His actions. [Sufficient for us it should be to know that it is He Who does them.] For God [does reveal His will; He] speaks not only once, but more than once, even though men do not regard it [including you, Job]. [One may hear God's voice] in a dream, in a vision of the night, when deep sleep falls on men while slumbering upon the bed, Then He opens the ears of men and seals their instruction [terrifying them with warnings]. That He may withdraw man from his purpose and cut off pride from him [disgusting him with his own disappointing self-sufficiency]. He holds him back from the pit [of destruction], and his life from perishing by the sword [of God's destructive judgments].

AMP Job 33:12-18

**Guidance** *Indeed God Speaks*

"Behold, let me tell you, you are not right in this, For God is greater than man. "Why do you complain against Him That He does not give an account of all His doings? "Indeed God speaks once, Or twice, yet no one notices it. "In a dream, a vision of the night, When sound sleep falls on men, While they slumber in their beds, Then He opens the ears of men, And seals their instruction, That He may turn man aside from his conduct, And keep man from pride; He keeps back his soul from the pit, And his life from passing over into Sheol.

NASB Job 33:12-18

**Guidance** *For God Speaks*

"Behold, in this you are not right. I will answer you, for God is greater than man. Why do you contend against him, saying, 'He will answer none of man's words'? For God speaks in one way, and in two, though man does not perceive it. In a dream, in a vision of the night, when deep sleep falls on men, while they slumber on their beds, then he opens the ears of men and terrifies them with warnings, that he may turn man aside from his deed and conceal pride from a man; he keeps back his soul from the pit, his life from perishing by the sword.

ESV Job 33:12-18

**Guidance** *For God May Speak*

"Look, in this you are not righteous. I will answer you, For God is greater than man. Why do you contend with Him? For He does not give an accounting of any of His words. For God may speak in one way, or in another, Yet man does not perceive it. In a dream, in a vision of the night, When deep sleep falls upon men, While slumbering on their beds, Then He opens the ears of men, And seals their instruction. In order to turn man from his deed, And conceal pride from man, He keeps back his soul from the Pit, And his life from perishing by the sword.

NKJV Job 33:12-18

**Guidance** *God Always Answers*

"But let me tell you, Job, you're wrong, dead wrong! God is far greater than any human. So how dare you haul him into court, and then complain that he won't answer your charges? God always answers, one way or another, even when people don't recognize his presence. "In a dream, for instance, a vision at night, when men and women are deep in sleep, fast asleep in their beds— God opens their ears and impresses them with warnings To turn them back from something bad they're planning, from some reckless choice, And keep them from an early grave, from the river of no return.

MSG Job 33:12-18

**Guidance** *For God Speaks*

"All right, here is my reply: In this very thing, you have sinned by speaking of God that way. For God is greater than man. Why should you fight against him just because he does not give account to you of what he does? "For God speaks again and again, in dreams, in visions of the night when deep sleep falls on men as they lie on their beds. He opens their ears in times like that and gives them wisdom and instruction, causing them to change their minds, and keeping them from pride, and warning them of the penalties of sin, and keeping them from falling into some trap.

TLB Job 33:12-18

**Guidance** *God Does Speak*

"But I tell you, you are not right in saying this, because God is greater than we are. Why do you accuse God of not answering anyone? God does speak—sometimes one way and sometimes another— even though people may not understand it. He speaks in a dream or a vision of the night when people are in a deep sleep, lying on their beds. He speaks in their ears and frightens them with warnings to turn them away from doing wrong and to keep them from being proud. God does this to save a person from death, to keep him from dying.

NCV Job 33:12-18

# For God Does Speak

Year \_\_\_\_\_ Week \_\_\_\_\_ Day \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Guidance** – Job 33:12-18

**In Context:** *Read Job 33*

**Begin With Prayer:**

***Here I am Lord. I Am Listening.***

**Meditating On God's Word:** ***(What is God speaking to your heart?)***

"But I tell you, in this you are not right, for God is greater than man. Why do you complain to him that he answers none of man's words? For God does speak--now one way, now another-- though man may not perceive it. In a dream, in a vision of the night, when deep sleep falls on men as they slumber in their beds, he may speak in their ears and terrify them with warnings, to turn man from wrongdoing and keep him from pride, to preserve his soul from the pit, his life from perishing by the sword. Job 33:12-18 (NIV)

**Considering The Words:** ***(What words speak to your heart?)***

"But | I tell you, | in this | you are | not right, | for God | is greater | than man. | Why | do you | complain to him | that | he answers none | of man's words? | For God | does speak |--now one way, | now another | -- though man | may not | perceive it. | In a dream, | in a vision | of the night, | when | deep sleep | falls on | men | as they | slumber in | their beds, | he may speak | in their ears | and | terrify them | with warnings, | to turn man | from wrongdoing | and keep him | from pride, | to preserve | his soul | from the pit, | his life | from perishing | by | the sword. Job 33:12-18 (NIV)

**Praying The Scripture:** ***(What prayer from your heart will you write?)***

Lord, thank you for speaking to me in so many various ways. Help me to be attentive to your voice so I am ready to listen to all that you have to say to me. When I hear you speaking to me, I will joyfully respond to you with a thankful and obedient heart. Amen

**What It Means:** ***(What questions speak to your heart?)*** *(Suggested questions for small group discussion are in bold)*

When has God spoken to you in the midst of a worship service?

How has God spoken to you when you have met with Him in prayer?

How has God spoken to you as you have read, studied and meditated on His word?

How has God spoken to you right where you are in the midst of your life circumstances?

**How strongly do you desire to know God and hear what He wants to say to you?**

**How can a hectic pace and noisy life hinder your ability to hear God speaking to you?**

**What adjustments would you be willing to make in your life so that you can hear God speaking to you?**

**Living It Out:** ***(What action step is God guiding your heart to take?)***

Make adjustments in your life to meet with God so that you can hear what He has to say to you.

**Seeing It Happen:** ***(What are you trusting God for in our heart?)***

Have faith that God does want you to know Him and what He has to say to you.

**Get Ready To Share:** ***(What can you share with others from your heart?)***

Share with another person or your small group how God has spoken, and made himself known, to you.

**Close With Prayer:**

***Quiet Yourself Before The Lord***

*Pause And Offer Prayers Of...*

*With An Attitude Of Faith Listen To What The Lord Wants To Say To You*

Adoration... \_\_\_\_\_

Thanksgiving... \_\_\_\_\_

Confession... \_\_\_\_\_

Intercession... \_\_\_\_\_

Petition... \_\_\_\_\_

**Journal**

*As You Quiet Yourself Before The Lord*

**What Do You Want To Say To Me Lord?**

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**What Prayers Are You Praying Today?**

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**Prayer Of Blessing**

*(What Prayer Of Blessing Can You Pray For Another?)*

*May you be attentive to the voice of God so you can hear Him speaking to you.*

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**Prayer To Carry**

*(What Prayer Would You Like To Carry Throughout Your Day?)*

*Lord, I will be attentive to your voice so I can hear you speak to me.*

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**What Do You Want To Remember About Today?**

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**A Question To Ask God**

*(What Would You Like To Ask God?)*

*Lord, how can I be attentive to your voice speaking to me today?*

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