

# POWER *for* LIVING

*A quarterly publication of Empowered Living Ministries*

*July - September 2010*

Dear friends,

God is calling! He's calling to me and to you. But many people I talk with today tell me they can't hear God speaking to them. If you are one of those who struggle to hear God, you will appreciate this quarter's article, "**God Calling**", which is an excerpt from **Jim's new book**, *Come Walk With Me*.

*Come Walk With Me* has been two years in the writing. Pacific Press likes it so much that they plan to put it on special display at the General Conference session in Atlanta. Feedback we're receiving from the first few copies that have been sent out is extremely positive.

An **attorney** called me and said, "Everyone needs to read this book! It's the a-b-c's of how to walk with God for dummies!" A **cardiologist** friend of mind emailed, "This is a masterpiece, Jim! It is right on, it is practical, the stories are perfect and simple." One of my **toughest critics** sent me this comment: "I have been reading your new book. WOW! It has the same grab-you, keep-you-reading, YES-YES-YES ... I can really put myself into it so much...Thanks!"

Hardback 159 pages, \$17.00 single copy. Quantity discounts available.

You are all invited to our **8th annual open house July 22 - 24**. For further information, check the July schedule on our website.

God has opened the doors for Empowered Living Ministries programming to be aired on **satellite TV in Africa and Europe**. Praise God! Viewer response to the current showing is extremely positive and the network is requesting us to produce more material. Please keep this project in your prayers!



**Thank you** for helping to enable this ministry and its message to reach into the hearts and homes of people all around this world!

In Christ,

*Jim & Sally*

"Power for Living" is available free of charge and is sent out quarterly by mail.

If you or someone you know is not receiving it and wish to be added to our mailing list, please feel free to contact us. For information on any of the materials or events mentioned in the publication you can reach us at: Empowered Living Ministries: 3945 North Fork Road, Columbia Falls, MT 59912.

Email: [Office@EmpoweredLivingMinistries.org](mailto:Office@EmpoweredLivingMinistries.org)

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## Upcoming Seminars

### South Africa Tour 2010

October 28 - 31	Durban
November 3	Richard's Bay
November 5 - 7	Cape Town
November 10	Port Elizabeth
November 12 - 14	Johannesburg

For information email:

[Samuel.Jacobs@kznworks.gov.za](mailto:Samuel.Jacobs@kznworks.gov.za)

or [HeinD@Nedbank.co.za](mailto:HeinD@Nedbank.co.za)

## Annual Camp Meetings 2010

July 22 - 24	Polebridge, MT
Annual Open House Call (406) 387-4333	
September 3 - 5	Hickory, NC
Call (406) 387-4333	
October 14 - 17	Roach, MO
Call (417) 661-6161	
December 2 - 5	High Springs, FL
Call (406) 387-4333	



**It's About Walking With God!**



# GOD Calling

*He who has ears to hear, let him hear!*

*Matthew 13:9*

Dennis was frustrated big time. He and I took a walk and he didn't take long to get to the point. "Jim, we bought your CD seminar *Why Country Living* several years ago and were convinced we needed to move to a quieter country setting so that we could listen to God better."

"Praise God!" I interjected.

"But, Jim, our house has been on the market for over two years now, and we have not received even one offer. Not one!

"Why doesn't God answer my prayers? Why doesn't God hear me? You say God speaks to you and that He's no respecter of persons..."

I nodded in agreement.

"Well, why then doesn't He speak to me? I'm listening, but there's total silence. It's like He ignores me. I don't get it. Doesn't He want us to move to a quieter environment?"

Dennis was frustrated—as are a lot of people I talk to. While I don't have all the answers, I know God does. So at that moment, I petitioned God silently.

Then this thought came to my mind and I shared it with Dennis. "Many people today are looking for answers. They have one ear pointed to heaven with their hand cupped around it. They are saying, 'Speak, Lord. Show me what I need to know. I want to hear from You. Please, Lord, speak.'"

Dennis nodded while listening intently, "Yes, that's me."

I continued. "But that's only part of the picture. In their other ear, they have a finger. Now the surest way to get an answer to the ear that is cupped towards heaven is to pull your finger out of your other ear and listen to what God is calling you to in that ear."

Dennis suddenly turned pale white and then an astonished expression spread over his face. He was speechless, so I gently asked him, "Is there something God has been convicting you on that you are refusing to cooperate with?"

He hesitated only momentarily and then replied, "Yes!" I asked him, "Do you want to share it with me?" "Pornography. I'm addicted to pornography."

God had been calling to Dennis's heart—but the call about pornography was not the call Dennis wanted to hear. He was afraid of it. He didn't comprehend the freedom God had in store for him. You see, God answers our prayers according to our real need! Dennis's real need was dealing with his addiction—not his perceived need of a new location.

"Dennis, the best way to have your prayer answered is to deal with the known call of God upon your heart in the present. Would you like some guidance on how to face your addiction?"

He did and I shared with him God's principles for finding freedom. I ran into Dennis about a year later and he updated me. "Jim, I'm free of pornography! Praise God! And...my house has sold! We're moving

to our country property in just a few weeks!”

“I’m really delighted to hear that, Dennis! Facing your addiction didn’t earn God’s favor. It simply untied His hands so that He could pour out more blessings on you.”

Many of us have tied God’s hands from answering our own prayers. How? By refusing to listen to Him in the known areas of His revealed will as expressed in His Word. Hebrews 12:25 says, “See that you do not refuse Him who speaks.”

God had been speaking to Dennis, but Dennis was refusing God in known areas. How then could God speak to him in unknown areas and bless him in new endeavors?

Are you refusing God? If you are, you will most likely have a hard time hearing Him at what I classify as the three different levels of God’s call to us as individuals.

### Three levels

As the triangle illustrates, level one is the essential foundation for levels two and three. Level two builds on level one and prepares us for level three. (Mind you, this is for discussion purposes only. No one can diagram exactly how or when God will or will not speak to them.)

From our side of the equation, level one is the place to begin. If you, like Dennis, are having trouble hearing God at level three, make sure your ear is open to level one.

### Level One—educating my conscience

God speaks to us constantly through the Scriptures. If you want to know God and become acquainted with His voice, study His Word. Jesus said of the Scriptures, “They are they which testify of Me”.

God speaks to us personally through His Word. In all of His promises and warnings, He means me. The experiences related in God’s Word are to be my experiences. The prayers recorded are meant to be my own. The precepts taught are meant for me personally.

God was speaking clearly to Dennis in Proverbs 5:20, 5, 8: “Why wilt thou, my son, be ravished with a strange woman?...Her feet go down to death; her steps take hold on hell...Remove thy way far from her.”

If you have access to the Scriptures, you can never say that God does not speak to you. Open His Word. Unplug your ears. Let Him speak to your heart and the issues of your life. Surrender to His ways and will.

### Level Two—learning to listen

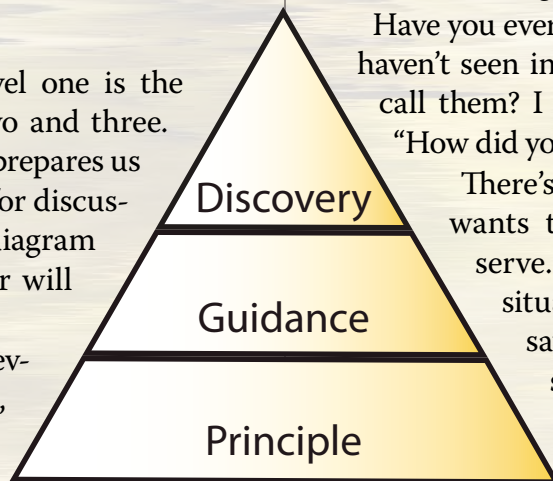
God is always there for us! Period. He is as available to us as the air we breathe. He offers you and me the benefits of His inside information if we choose to listen to Him. That doesn’t mean He discloses to us everything He sees and knows, but He leads us as we would choose to be led if we understood our own hearts and saw ourselves as He does. He offers this guidance free of charge to all who choose to connect, listen, and follow. Often He whispers quietly to our consciences, calls unobtrusively to our hearts, or makes a suggestion to our minds.

Have you ever been just sitting there and all of a sudden you sense a call to your heart to do something nice for your spouse? That’s God! He knows how to keep love alive and tries to get our attention.

Have you ever been thinking about someone you haven’t seen in a long time and are impressed to call them? I have and when I called they said, “How did you know I was hurting?” That’s God!

There’s no such thing as coincidence. He wants to use us as His instruments to serve. Have you ever been in a difficult situation and you had no clue what to say or how to fix it and then the answer comes? That’s God.

“He cares for you!” All the time, through every situation, in each detail both large and small.



### Level Three—a process of discovery

God has ways of directing our future of which we cannot predict. Exodus 14:14 states, “The Lord shall fight for you and you shall hold your peace.” For me, asking God to reveal His will for my future is a process of discovery—a process of “waiting upon the Lord” to show His divine hand directing our future through open and closed doors. I have found that this process of discovery requires a humble and open heart—in fact, I have come to see that God is as close as a humble and open heart.

God is calling you today! Turn off your distractions, unplug both ears, tune into Him and let Him speak to you! 🙏

*This article is a condensed excerpt of the chapter “God Calling” from Jim Hohnberger’s newest book, Come, Walk With Me.*

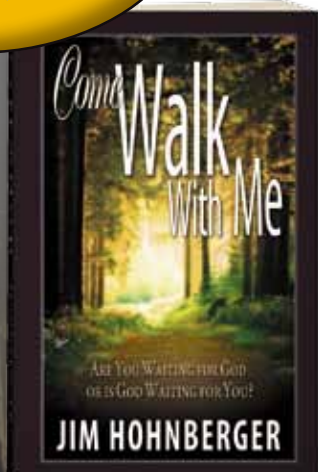


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## Two Principles Turn Two Lives Around

**RAQUEL** I was having panic attacks about my husband. We were fighting about the color of the sky. The bad times were much more frequent than the good times.

**ROBBIE** One particular fight was extra bad. It had me screaming my head off. Verbal abuse doesn't really cover the fury that I unleashed from my troubled heart. While we didn't physically wound each other, our mutual digs left deeper scars.

**RAQUEL** I decided that I had to protect my children from my husband at any cost. I swore out a protection order in front of a judge and dispossessed my husband of our home.


**ROBBIE** I knew when she left that evening that it was different this time. I was not surprised when the police arrived to take me to my house to get my things. We had both complained about each other to friends and were getting a lot of advice. Most of the advice was horrible, and almost predestined to obliterate our marriage.

**RAQUEL** Robbie defeated me in court, and I felt so lost, so disillusioned. When the matter of reconciliation came about, I couldn't talk about it. I just felt like I needed to run away. We split our children, and I left for California. My father (married for 49 years) sat me down and said, "Daughter, you will lose your children if you don't fix this marriage." I grudgingly agreed to attempt to reconcile, but *only* if Jim Hohnberger counseled us. We finally had a much-awaited phone

call with Jim. I was nervous; I didn't feel like I could trust Robbie ever again.

**ROBBIE** I didn't know what to do, but I felt a desperate need for help. Jim presented to us **two principles—connecting with God and serving each other\***—and asked both of us to commit to doing those two things for 90 days. I was desperate enough to agree and I finally fell into the arms of Jesus as a broken hearted man.

**RAQUEL** When we agreed to put God and each other first in our lives, Jim told me "Ok, Raquel, go home." I was incredulous. I almost shouted, "You mean AS A WIFE?!" Jim chuckled, and reassured me, "Yes, Raquel, as a wife. Go home." We were not allowed to discuss our troubles during those first 90 days. I remember sitting on the end of the bed that first night as we began to talk to each other and laughing about old times.

**ROBBIE** That was six years ago. While my adorable wife and I have far to go, we praise El Shaddai for saving us and working thru agents like Jim and Sally. 

*\*These two points are outlined in detail in the book, Irresistible.*

