

Message by John Johnson  
Nov 1-2, 2008  
Ecclesiastes 5:1-7

Questions for Discussion:

1. Read the passage of text again slowly and deliberately. What seems to stand out about this section? Does it seem out of place with the previous sections? Why do you think Solomon stop to give these exhortations?
2. What is so significant about the 'house of God' in the Old Testament (under the Mosaic covenant)? What do you think prompted this exhortation? Do you think that Solomon had witnessed people approaching the 'house of God' in an inappropriate way? If so, what might be the underlying cause/s of that attitude?
3. Have we adopted this kind of attitude in approaching God? Have you, personally, found it true for you? What steps might you take to 'guard your step when you go to the house of God'?
4. Pastor Johnson noted that we are to draw near to listen and not be hasty in speech toward God. Do you find it difficult? What could this look like for us in personal worship and prayer? In corporate worship?
5. Practicing silence has long been regarded as a spiritual discipline that better connects us to the heart of God. Some people regard this type of discipline as a type of 'fasting' from noise in order to focus upon the Lord's voice – either through scripture or through prayer. Have you ever taken a 'silent retreat' or a regular time of active listening to hear the Lord? If not, how might you dedicate time to this discipline?
6. In the Old Testament agreements and contracts were a little different – a verbal agreement was binding. Solomon challenges us to speak a vow carefully in the presence of God. Do we take our words this seriously? Should we?
7. In the end we are challenged to 'Fear God'. What **active steps** should we take to follow Solomon's exhortation? Would our lives look different if we were to follow his directions in this regard? How? Are there other scriptures that support our understanding of fearing the Lord?