

HEARING GOD SPEAK THROUGH SCRIPTURE WEEK 4

Introduction

A. We are on a journey to learn not just how to recognize the voice of God but how to hear and be led by God as a lifestyle. Leading our lives at the speed of God's voice. We've discussed many areas He wants us to hear His voice about (guidance, assurance, discernment, wisdom, ministry to encourage and bring God's love to others, words of peace for our storms, healing for our hearts. (Psalms 107:20).

We have said that being led of the Spirit and receiving whispers from the Holy Spirit is the normal Christian life. "He leads me beside still waters, restores my soul..."

A class declaration:

"The Sovereign Lord has given me a well instructed tongue, to know the word that sustains the weary. He wakens me morning by morning, wakens my ear to listen like one being instructed." (Isaiah 50:4 NIV)

Reasons include:

1. When we're led by the Spirit the **ocean's part**
2. We don't yield to the lustful desires of our flesh (Galatians 5:16)
3. We will end up in the destination of God's will no matter how we get knocked off course.
4. We will have wisdom that none of our enemies can refute
"For I will give you words and wisdom that none of your adversaries will be able to resist or contradict." (Luke 21:15)
5. We will live out of rest. We will be Spirit led not flesh driven.
"For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." (Matthew 11:30)

Most chronic stress is attempting to do more than the Spirit is leading you to do. When you move with God you stay in the bubble of His peace. (He sets a table before you in the presence of your enemy) The eye of the storm.

6. You always have a word in season to encourage and lift. (Isaiah 50:4)

The problem is never God speaking loud enough it is us turning down the volume of our soul to hear Him speak. These voices are of people's opinion or voices of our past.

ASK IF ANYONE CAN SHARE A WAY GOD HAS SPOKEN TO YOU THIS WEEK!

B. We mentioned last week, the ability to hear God is sharpened by an awareness of God's constant availability and **desire to connect** with us in every area of our lives about everything in our lives. God is always talking. Lean into this as a new normal. Just as you might text your favorite person several times a day, intentionally check in with God ten times more than that in every hour. Be intentional about sharing your moments with Jesus including things like car rides, work outs, cooking times...

Also realize that with every revelation God wants you to go **beyond a revelation into a conversation.**

Pay special attention to times, places, songs and other things that especially seem to connect you to an awareness of God.

Realize the words He speaks to you are to become declarations He wants to make through you to grow your faith. (Bullet proof, I'm a champion, blessed and highly favored)

II. Today we want to talk about the most predictable and common way we hear from Heaven- God's word coming to our heart and mind to be a light to our path.

"Your Word is a light unto my path and a lamp to my feet." (Psalms 119:105)

God's word is the illuminator of God's will.

A. The importance of learning to hear God through the Scripture.

1. Scripture in our heart is **the paint** God uses to draw the picture of revelation He wants to show us on our hearts

2. God's Word is like the **anchor** that keeps us steady so we can move with the wind of the Holy Spirit in our life and ministry.

3. God's Word especially as it is memorized is like the **stones in David's bag** that give us exactly what we need in the moment of battle. (Belize/I Cor. 10:13 depression)

4. God's Word is key to being able to discern between soul and spirit. (The truth the world, flesh, and the devil try to convince me of, and the real truth that cancels every lie and let's me stand on God as my foundation in every storm. Remember the enemy is a COUNTERFEITER

"For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires. Nothing in creation is hidden from God. Everything is naked and exposed before his eyes, and he is the one to whom we are accountable." (Hebrews 4:12-13)

(Example of the scene with the whip from Indiana Jones)

Having the Word illuminating my path is the difference between **me reacting** to something in the flesh and having the wisdom of God to respond in ways that can end turmoil and temptation and bring peace!

B. In the story of Jesus and the two on the road to Emmaus we see Jesus choosing to do an **expository study** of His death and resurrection in Scripture rather than just showing them the physical proof that it was Him. As good as experience and even signs and wonders are, until something is codified in our heart by the proof of scripture, it can easily be snatched from our memory and spiritual tool chest. (Children of Israel)

I think of the Constitution because it wasn't just something spoken for someone's memory it was ratified and codified as a permanent record of law to litigate judgements with.

"This is the covenant I will make with them after that time, says the Lord. I will put my laws in their hearts, and I will write them on their minds." (Hebrews 10:16 NIV)

Biblical explanations trump emotional or mystical encounters.

1. The more Scripture you memorize the more you will hear and the stronger you will be to act on a word from God from Scripture.

2. Examples of key areas for Bible memory

a. **Assurance-Titus 3:5, John 1:12, Romans 10:3**

b.Forgiveness-Romans 8:1, I John 1:9

c.Tests and Trials- I John 4:4, Romans 8:28

d.Fear and Anxiety-2 Timothy 1:7, Philippians 4:4, Psalms 23

e.Temptations I Corinthians 10:13, Ephesians 4:26,Hebrews 1:9 (you have loved righteousness and hated iniquity), Philippians 4:8

f.Identity-2 Corinthians 5:17, 20, Galatians 2:20

g.Faith-Mark 11:22-23, Luke 1:37

These verses are like putting a megaphone in your heart for God to speak to you through.

C.In addition to verses you memorize for battle, it is helpful to define **life verses** and special promises that God has given or spoken to you in the past. These become frameworks for discerning and processing decisions and calling.

Do you have a life verse or verses? What are some of the things that helps you process?

D.Beyond memorizing and knowing Scriptures, it is important if we are going to hear from God that we don't have just Biblical cliché's but we have a Biblical World view.

We don't **interpret Scripture in the light of our views, we interpret our views in the light of Scripture. Even if we don't understand or agree, the final authority for our view is not our reason or philosophy but the clearly revealed truth of God.**

"God forbid, yes, let God be true, but every man a liar." (Romans 3:4 KJV)

As we said today many people claim to be **spiritual but that doesn't mean they are Biblical**. Our **Epistemology**-the way we define reality is based on the world view Jesus had-the mind of Christ expounded in the clearly defined principles, beliefs, and boundaries of Scripture.

The primary means of Satan's attack always has been and always will be to tempt us to doubt, "Hath God said!"

III.One of the great keys to hearing God through Scripture is to learn how to let the truth of Scripture go from our **head to our heart** through praying, meditating, contemplating, and articulating the Scripture. Where we don't rush to consume but we sit to soak.

"Let the (spoken) word of Christ have it's home within you (dwelling in your heart and mind-permeating every aspect of your being as you teach (spiritual things) and admonish and train one another with all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs with thankfulness in your heart to God." (Colossians 3:16 AMP)

A.God desires "truth in our inward parts and in the hidden part You will make me to know wisdom." (Psalms 51:6 NKJV)

The church fathers had a practice called "**Lectio divina**." It is a process of handling the Scripture in a way that we understand it objectively but then process it also subjectively so that it goes from information to revelation. We read the Bible with our heads and our hearts depending on the Holy Spirit and through a process of praying through the word.

B.Reading the word objectively means the way Jesus read it to the disciples on the road to Emmaeus. Exegesis is how you take Scripture apart, Hermeneutics is how you see it as a whole.

There are different kinds of Hermeneutics today-feminist, orthodox, liberal, but we believe Jesus teaches us a “Christological hermeneutic.” To see all of the Bible in the light of Jesus.

“You search the Scriptures; for in them you think you have eternal life; and they are which testify to me.” (John 5:39 NIV)

“He said to them, ‘This is what I told you while I was still with you; Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the law of Moses, the Prophets, and the Psalms.’” (Luke 24:44)

What this teaches us that the Bible isn’t to be read randomly or like a **fortune cookie**, but systematically understood as one story revealing Jesus and His grace as the connecting point between people and God for the life we are invited to enjoy and live. (Mt. 27:5 Judas, Luke 10:37 Go and do)

The first part of reading the Scripture is observation and research, but we must not stop there.

C.The second part of Scripture’s is where we read with our heart and we don’t just read the Bible as a Picture but as a **window and a mirror**. We look at God and see how He looks at us. We read it as a **love letter**. We let it **be a key** that opens the door into God’s intimate presence where we invite Him to speak to us.

If we want God to speak to us through His word we must be sure that we don’t just read the Bible but that we allow the Bible to read us!

How: pray, read, meditate, contemplate, read, pray, and articulate what God is saying

1.1 Corinthians 8:1-3

Warns us that if we just read for knowledge, “knowledge puffs up but love builds up.”

In 8:3 He points out that it isn’t about us knowing God but being known by God.

2.Some Keys

a.Learn to **pray the Word**

“Prayer was never meant to be a monologue, it was meant to be a dialogue. Think of Scripture as God’s part of the Script; prayer is our part. Scripture is God’s way of initiating a conversation; prayer is our response. The paradigm shift happens when you realize the Bible wasn’t meant to be read through, the Bible was meant to be prayed through. And if you pray through it, you will never run out of things to talk about.” -Mark Batterson

b.Ask the **Holy Spirit** to help you

John 14:26-He will testify of Me

John 15:26 He will guide you into all truth

John 16:23-He will tell you things that are to come.

He will turn what is didactic into what is prophetic

c.Meditate-Slow **down to notice and** reflect, draw deep of it’s truth.

“How I love your law I will meditate on it day and night.” (Ps. 119:97)

“How sweet is your Word, sweeter than honey in my mouth.” (Psalms 119:103)

“If you read the Bible quickly it will benefit you a little. You will be like a bee that merely skims the surface of a flower. Plunge deeply within to remove the deepest nectar.” -Madame Guyon

d.Contemplate-This involves using your **imagination** to place you in the story. In every way.

Jesus warned how imagination can form a heart of adultery in you, in a reverse positive way it can form the script for everything positive and powerful in you.

“I long to see imagination released from its prison and given its proper place among the sons of the new creation. What I am trying to describe here is the sacred gift of seeing, the ability to peer beyond the veil and gaze with astonished wonder upon the beauties and mysteries of things holy and eternal” -A.W. Tozer

Imagine yourself digging for **pearls**.

e.Apply and decide where this will transform your life. In partnership with Holy Spirit declare here is how my life will be different because of what I just read. Find a way to hold yourself accountable.

A-action I will take

C-changes I will make

T-teaching I will share

F.For years we have encouraged a form of journaling with the acronym S.O.A.P

S-Scripture.. Write the verse at the top of the page the Holy Spirit highlights

O-observe all you can about the text.. Who, What, Why, When, Where,

A-Apply-how my life will be different

P-Pray the Word into your life by imagination, evaluation, and declaration.