

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter ~ Sunday, April 15, 2018

“Hearing God ~ How God Speaks Part 1”

2 Timothy 3:10-17

Life is a never-ending series of \_\_\_\_\_; and sometimes faced with a decision, we can be uncertain which \_\_\_\_\_ to take.

God wants to have real \_\_\_\_\_ with us; and this is only possible when there’s \_\_\_\_\_. Because God longs for us to have real relationship with Him, He’s promised to \_\_\_\_\_ us by His Spirit and teach us how to \_\_\_\_\_ His voice. We don’t have to go through life \_\_\_\_\_ making decisions or relying on our own strength and abilities, hoping for the best. We can do so with the \_\_\_\_\_ and counsel of a God who longs to guide us.

“...he leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul. He leads me in right path for his name sake...” (Psalm 23:2-3)

We need to learn to \_\_\_\_\_ into God’s voice—not just as an occasional event, but as an \_\_\_\_\_ part of life.

Being able to hear God’s voice, makes us \_\_\_\_\_ to overcome the challenges in our life; avoid the \_\_\_\_\_; and make the right choices.

The Bible must be the first and last word in our lives; our ultimate \_\_\_\_\_; the measuring stick that we use to \_\_\_\_\_ everything else in our lives.

The Scriptures are filled with life \_\_\_\_\_; stories of God’s mercy towards mankind; and parables packed with important \_\_\_\_\_ for every individual, regardless of culture or background. God speaks to us and directs us, molding us into vessels for His \_\_\_\_\_ and plan by His written word. He sets the \_\_\_\_\_ for our lives so that we can know where we’re going. The Bible is the written divine expression or \_\_\_\_\_ of God to humanity. And we should read it with the \_\_\_\_\_ that God will speak to us here and now through its words .

“All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching and rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that we may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.” (2 Timothy 3:16)

*theo-pneustos* =

“For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.” (Hebrews 4:12)

The ultimate goal of reading, studying, and meditating on Scripture is \_\_\_\_\_ –following what it says and living it out in our daily lives.

“Be doers of the word, not hearers only who deceive themselves.” (James 1:22)

As we listen to God speaking to us through His written word, we need to welcome that Word with \_\_\_\_\_ –we need to be open to it and approach it from a place of \_\_\_\_\_ and not pride. He says that if we hear God’s Word and don’t allow it to \_\_\_\_\_ our lives—we’re only \_\_\_\_\_ ourselves.

Word = *Logos* = the truth \_\_\_\_\_ or revealed. It refers to the total \_\_\_\_\_ word of God and to Jesus, who is the \_\_\_\_\_ Logos.

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God.” (John 1:1)

Word = *Rhema* = truth speaking and communicated \_\_\_\_\_, illuminating our lives. It’s a verse or portion of Scripture that the Holy Spirit brings to our attention with \_\_\_\_\_ to a current situation or need for direction.

The rhema Word of God is the \_\_\_\_\_ of the tired and proven established Word of God, made \_\_\_\_\_, as if God just spoke it into our ears.

The rhema Word must always be \_\_\_\_\_ by the established truth revealed in the logos written Word. What I mean by that is, if anyone claims to have heard from God, it cannot \_\_\_\_\_ Scripture—it must agree with God’s written word.

God’s written word never \_\_\_\_\_ –we can trust it as our final authority in all things. Therefore we need to \_\_\_\_\_ anything that contradicts the written Bible.

If we don’t seek God’s \_\_\_\_\_ in these things; if we don’t listen for His voice; if we don’t know what the Bible says, we can be easily \_\_\_\_\_.

**POSITIONING OURSELVES TO HEAR GOD  
THROUGH THE HIS WRITTEN WORD**

**#1. If I want to position myself to hear God through the Bible, I need to \_\_\_\_\_ on it.**

I need to take what I’ve read and make it the \_\_\_\_\_ of my life.

## 4 FOUNDATIONS OFFERED BY THE WORLD

- \_\_\_\_\_ - **“If everyone else is doing it, it must be right.”**  
“Don’t follow the crowd in doing wrong...” (Exodus 23:2)
- \_\_\_\_\_ - **“That’s the way I’ve always done it.”**  
“You abandon the commandments of God to follow human traditions.” (Mark 7:8)
- \_\_\_\_\_ - **“If it makes sense logically, it must be right.”**  
“Sometimes there is a way that seems to be right, but in the end it is the way to death.” (Proverbs 15:25)
- \_\_\_\_\_ - **“If it feels right, do it.”**  
“At that time there was no king in Israel and people did whatever they felt like doing.” (Judges 21:25)

The world is quick to provide us with foundations too build our lives on; however, to build on these options is to build on \_\_\_\_\_ sand. We need to build them on \_\_\_\_\_ ground. God’s Word provides a solid foundation because unlike the ways of the world, God’s truth never \_\_\_\_\_. (Matt 7:24-27)

**What are you building your life on?**

### #2. If I want to position myself to hear God through the Bible, I need to \_\_\_\_\_ on it.

God’s Word is what gives us \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

“Man should not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.” (Matthew 4:4)

The Bible contains the \_\_\_\_\_ that our \_\_\_\_\_ require; and we need to feed on it for \_\_\_\_\_ health.

“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly.” (Colossians 3:16)

## FEEDING ON GOD’S WORD

- \_\_\_\_\_ **with our ears.**  
“Faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.” (Romans 10:17)
- \_\_\_\_\_ **with our eyes.**  
“I will study your commandments, and fix my eyes on your ways.” (Psalm 119:15)
- \_\_\_\_\_ **with our hands.**  
“The unfolding of your words gives light; it imparts understanding even to the simple.” (Psalm 119:130)
- \_\_\_\_\_ **with our mind.**  
“The person who continues to study God’s perfect teachings that make people free and who remains committed to them will be blessed.” (James 1:25)

- \_\_\_\_\_ **with our heart.**  
“I have hidden your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you.” (Ps 119:11)  
**Where do you go for spiritual sustenance? How often do you feed on God’s Word?**

### #3. If I want to position myself to hear God through the Bible, I need to \_\_\_\_\_ By it.

God’s Word that will give us \_\_\_\_\_ in times of crisis. It’s God’s Word that will give us \_\_\_\_\_ in times of despair. It’s God’s Word that will give us \_\_\_\_\_ when we’re weak. It’s God’s Word that will give us \_\_\_\_\_ when we’re confused. It’s God’s Word that will give us \_\_\_\_\_ when we’re lost. And it’s God’s Word that will give us the \_\_\_\_\_ to resist temptation.

God’s Word is a \_\_\_\_\_ for living—the standard by which we judge everything else in our life; the standard through which we view the world around us, our circumstances, and other people; and the standard by which we make decisions and \_\_\_\_\_ our life.

“Blessed is the one who doesn’t walk in the counsel of the ungodly, but who meditate on the word of God.” (Psalm 1:1)

We need to live with \_\_\_\_\_ and not automatically accept what others tell us, or what the world values, as truth. We need to decide whose counsel we’re going to take—the \_\_\_\_\_ or God’s.

“Don’t be nitpickers, but use your head and heart to discern what is right, to test what is authentically true.” (John 7:24)

“Live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ.” (Phil 1:27)

**What standard are you living by? What role does God’s Word play in your life and priorities?**



“If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” (John 8:31)

**Do you long to hear God’s voice?  
Have you heard Him speaking to you this morning?  
What are you going to do about it?**

“**Today, if you hear God’s voice, do not harden your hearts...**” (Hebrews 3:15)