



Hearing the Voice of God Pt. 2

Sunday, January 21, 2018

Open in prayer

Ice Breaker: If you had to be on a reality TV show, which would you chose and why?

- Can you recall and share a time when God spoke to you?
- What are different ways God speaks to us?
- When are we most willing to hear from God? Why might we resistant to hearing God speak to us?

Pastor Loren said, "If you desire to hear God's comforting voice, you must also be willing to hear his correcting voice. It is God's desire to speak for us all the time through His Word. **Don't say God is silent when your Bible is closed.** Before you read scripture pray, 'Holy Spirit speak to my heart from your word. Help me to hear your voice.'"

The Big Idea: When you open your Bible, you are literally opening the words of God. Scripture is God's voice available for you in every moment, situation, and predicament you face. You can know God desires to speak to you because you have in your possession his voice through the Bible.

Read 2 Timothy 3:16-17

Charles Spurgeon - "No one outgrows Scripture."

A.W. Tower - "The Bible is not only a book which was once spoken, but a book which is now speaking." God wants to speak to us today, and everyday, through His word.

All Scripture is given by inspiration = God-breathed

- Pastor Loren said, "We don't just read the Bible; the Bible read us. It's like seeing yourself in a mirror." Discuss how the Bible reflects us.
- Read Hebrews 1:1 and John 14:17. How did God speak in the past and how does he speak to us today? What is the role of the Holy Spirit when we read the Bible?

Pastor Loren said, "The goal is learning to recognize and respond to your heavenly Father's voice so you can grow in relationship with Him."



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Paul teaches us in 2 Timothy 3:16-17 some of the ways God's Word speaks to us:

1. Through Scripture God speaks doctrine.

"Simon Peter answered him, 'Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.'" (John 6:68 NIV)

2. Through Scripture God speaks reproof and correction.

"For this command is a lamp, this teaching is a light, and correction and instruction are the way to life." (Proverbs 6:23 NIV)

3. Through Scripture God speaks instruction.

"Teach me, Lord, the way of your decrees, that I may follow it to the end. Give me understanding, so that I may keep your law and obey it with all my heart." (Psalm 119:33-34 NIV)

Reflection and Application

- Jesus said, "If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you." (John 15:7 NIV). How can you abide in Christ?
- Pastor Mark Batterson: The goal isn't getting through the Bible, the goal is getting the Bible through us."
- Pastor Loren gave the following keys to read the Bible in a way that impacts and transforms us: having an open heart, giving it quality time, and being consistent. How are some of these challenging? Which of these do you need to focus on in your practice?
- What are things that hinder us from hearing God?