

Hearing God - Teacher's Notes
Lesson Four – Part One
The Bible: God's Word

I. The Plumb Line

- a. The Bible is not just one way that God speaks to us, it is the standard (plumb line) by which everything else is to be measured.

Dt 4:2

² Don't add a word to what I command you, and don't remove a word from it. Keep the commands of GOD, your God, that I am commanding you. THE MESSAGE

- b. The Bible has the power to speak directly to a person's heart
- c. By the Holy Spirit God applies the Word specifically to a person's life

Jn 14:26

But when the Father sends the Advocate as my representative—that is, the Holy Spirit—he will teach you everything and will remind you of everything I have told you. NLT

- d. We can read His words and see what He did in people's lives

Heb 11: 1-2

Faith is the confidence that what we hope for will actually happen; it gives us assurance about things we cannot see.

² Through their faith, the people in days of old earned a good reputation. NLT

It was their faith that distinguished them. We can be encouraged by the faith of those who went before us as we read God's word.

II. Produces results

- a. At creation – God spoke and it was so.

Heb 11:3

By **faith** we understand that the worlds were prepared by the *word* of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things which are visible. NASU

Even God acted in faith.

- b. Whatever God speaks comes to pass.

Isaiah 55:10-11

10 "For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, And do not return there without watering the earth And making it bear and sprout, And furnishing seed to the sower and bread to the eater;

11 So will My word be which goes forth from My mouth; It will not return to Me empty, Without accomplishing what I desire, And without succeeding *in the matter* for which I sent it.

- c. Every word God speaks is powerful; every word accomplishes God's intention.
- d. The final result of what God's word produced was always "good".

III. Carries a cost

- a. Adam was promised Paradise in the Garden. The only thing that could take that from him was disobeying God's word.
- b. The consequences of rejecting God's word lead to **suffering and death**. All of the Bible bears witness to this.

IV. Brings life

- a. Accepting and obeying God's Word brings **abundant life**.

Deut 30:15-16

15 "See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, and death and adversity;

16 in that I command you today to love the LORD your God, to walk in His ways and to keep His commandments and His statutes and His judgments, that you may live and multiply, and that the LORD your God may bless you in the land where you are entering to possess it. NASU

- b. God's word is inspired ("life-giving") **2 Tim 3:16-17, Matt 4:4**
- c. The Holy Spirit opens men's minds to understand and receive the words of the Bible – God speaks to them through the words and brings them life.
- d. Jonathan Edwards (preacher during the First Great Awakening) on reading **1 Tim 1:17**:

1Ti 1:17

17 Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, *be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.* NASU

“The first instance that I remember of that sort of inward, sweet delight in God and divine things that I have lived much in since, was on reading those words ‘Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honour and glory forever and ever, Amen.’ As I read the words, there came into my soul, and was as it were diffused through it, a sense of the glory of the Divine Being; a new sense, quite different from any thing I ever experienced before. Never any words of Scripture seemed to me as these words did.”

When have you ever experienced a quickening (life flowing into you) when you read the words of the Bible?
 Did you sense God's voice speaking directly to you from the pages of the Bible?

V. Changes lives

- a. **John 6:63**

the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and are life. NASU

Hezekiah (good king dies) 2 Kings 20:21

Manasseh (2 Kings 21:1-2) reigns 55 years and did evil

Amon (2 Kings 21:19-20) reigned 2 years and did evil

Total of 57 years of evil and idolatry

Josiah (2 Kings 22:1-2) good king

The book of the law that was lost is found. (2 Kings 22:3-20)

Josiah consecrated himself. (2 Kings 23:1-3)

Josiah brought reform to Judah. Cleared the land of pagan worship, idolatry, mediums. Reinstated temple worship and the Passover. (2 Kings 23:25)

God's word on the tender heart of a king brought life to Judah.

b. Heb 4:12

For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. NASU

- c. The Holy Spirit cuts through our behaviors and attitudes to expose our motives. As we meditate on God's Scriptures, something supernatural takes place. God helps us to see what He sees when He looks at us.

Read story of two women on pp 98-99.

How far are we willing to let God use His word to change our hearts and minds?
Will we consecrate ourselves to God as Josiah did?
Will we let our hearts be tender to God's word and humble ourselves before Him?