

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

I. Review

1. **The Plumb Line** – The Bible is the final authority by which everything else we hear is to be measured. God will never contradict His written word.
 - God speaks to our heart.
 - The Holy Spirit applies the word to our life.
 - The written word judges whether we have really heard God.
2. **Produces results** – Whatever God speaks comes to pass.
3. **Carries a cost** – Rejecting God's word leads to suffering and death.
4. **Brings life** – Accepting and obeying God's word brings abundant life.
5. **Changes lives** – God's word is living and powerful. God word to us will expose our motives, transform us, and make us useful to Him as we humble ourselves before Him.

II. Part Two

6. **God's Word: Tests Us**

Blackaby (p.99) – Whenever God speaks, what we do next exposes the condition of our hearts.

When the Israelites left Egypt and approached Mt Sinai....

Ex 20:18-20

18 All the people perceived the thunder and the lightning flashes and the sound of the trumpet and the mountain smoking; and when the people saw *it*, they trembled and stood at a distance.

19 Then they said to Moses, "Speak to us yourself and we will listen; but let not God speak to us, or we will die."

20 Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid; for God has come in **order to test you**, and in order that the fear of Him may remain with you, so that you may not sin." NASU

What kind of test was this?

The Israelites needed to hear from God and decide if they were going to obey Him. Would they recognize the awesome power of God and fear Him enough to obey?

Have you ever heard from God and stepped out to obey, even if it seemed impossible? Did you ever fail a test from God?

Gary leaving Harris...a word in our hearts. Not easy, many financial trials, learned God's faithfulness.

7. **God's Word: Requires Understanding**

God's word is not a mystery. God wants us to understand what He says. OT – God always spoke to the people through his prophets. He warned them and encouraged them.

NT – God has provided teachers, pastors and others to help us understand God's word.

Acts 18:24-28

Now a Jew named Apollos, an Alexandrian by birth, an eloquent man, came to Ephesus; and he was mighty in the Scriptures.

25 This man had been instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in spirit, he was speaking and teaching accurately the things concerning Jesus, being acquainted only with the baptism of John;

26 and he began to speak out boldly in the synagogue. But when Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately.

27 And when he wanted to go across to Achaia, the brethren encouraged him and wrote to the disciples to welcome him; and when he had arrived, he greatly helped those who had believed through grace,

28 for he powerfully refuted the Jews in public, demonstrating by the Scriptures that Jesus was the Christ. NASU

Apollos was mighty in the scriptures, but had an incomplete understanding. Priscilla and Aquila explained the way to him and then he was able to teach others. God wants us to understand and help others to do so.

8. God's Word: Contains Promises

2Co 1:20

20 For all of God's promises have been fulfilled in Christ with a resounding "Yes!" NLT

The Bible is full of God's promises to us.

When we abide in Christ we have access to all of God's promises. God's promises are a gift of His grace, but sometimes they have a requirement or condition.

We need to be careful to receive God's promises in humility rather than expecting their fulfillment as what we are due.

When we come across one of God's promises, we should ask ourselves if we are presently walking in the requirements to receive that promise. If not we should adjust our life so we can enjoy all God has intended for us.

9. God's Word: Gives Guidance

- Direct commands for us to obey
- Principles to live by
- Examples of godly believers
- Example of Christ
- Through mediation God will speak to us directly

10. God's Word: Requires Meditation

Sometimes we take God's word too lightly. It holds so much truth that it takes time to digest it. God wants to speak to us and meditation is allowing God time to do so.

Jer 29:13

³ 'You will seek Me and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart. NASU

Jer 29:13

¹³ If you look for me wholeheartedly, you will find me. NLT

God promises that if we seek him we will find him. Open your heart, mind and soul to what He wants to communicate to you.

Bob Sorge (in *The Secrets of the Secret Place*, p.72):

What does it mean to mediate in God's word? It means to slow way down the reading pace, and to contemplate every word and phrase, looking for deeper and fuller meanings.

George Muller on Meditation (p.107)

It often astonished me that I did not see the importance of mediation upon Scripture earlier in my Christian life. As the outward man is not fit for work for any length of time unless he

eats, so it is with the inner man. **What is the food of the inner man? Not prayer, but the Word of God** - not the simple reading of the Word of God, so that it only passes through our minds, just as water runs through a pipe. No, we must consider what we read, ponder over it, and apply it to our hearts.

The written word of God is revealed to us by the Holy Spirit. As we meditate we reach out to the Spirit to speak to us.

How to Meditate on God's Word:

1. **Take your time**. You cannot meditate in a hurry.
2. **Choose a reasonable amount of Scripture** to mediate on at a time so you can devote your full attention to every word.
3. **Choose verses as God leads**. He may lead you to a particular passage or he may draw you to verses that will have particular relevance to your current circumstances.
4. As you read, take time to **consider each word**.
5. As you ponder the passage, **consider each phrase**. Read it several times. Invite the Holy Spirit to open your understanding to deeper truths in the verse.
6. Carefully **consider the context**. Examine how the various phrases are connected to one another. Consider the events happening around the passage.
7. Look for two things. **First**, allow the Spirit to help you understand **the greater truth** of the words you are reading. **Second**, seek **the Spirit's application** of this passage for your life.
8. Understand that the Bible is not merely a book to be studied and conquered. **God's Word is living**. God will reveal the truth he knows you need and are capable of understanding and responding to at the time.