



A Guide on Getting to Know God
Listening to God Through His Word
Lesson #2 ~ November 17, 2020

Learning to Listen to God

Hebrews 1:1 ~ 2: Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world.

2 Timothy 3:16: All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness...

QUESTION: What does it mean to you that “all Scripture is breathed out by God”?

If God breathed his very breath and truth into the words of Scripture, it just makes sense that we can look to that written word to learn to know God better.

Romans 15:4 For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope.

We take our Bible for granted. Ever stop to think what you would do if someone took all your Bibles away from you? We need to know how precious this book is. Have you fallen in love with the Bible?

Psalm 119 is a beautiful testimony to the power and all-sufficiency of the Word of God in the life of a believer. Look at these verses in this Psalm and see what the Word of God can do for you:

Verses 2-3: Blessed are those who keep his testimonies, who seek him with their whole heart, who also do no wrong, but walk in his ways!

Verse 9: How can a young man keep his way pure? By guarding it according to your word.

Verse 11: I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you.

Verse 99: I have more understanding than all my teachers, for your testimonies are my meditation.

Verse 105: Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

Verse 165: Great peace have those who love your law; nothing can make them stumble.

This is what you can expect the Word of God to do for you and in you as you get to know God better by listening to his blessed written Word.

Reading the Word of God

Learning how to read the Bible in a meditative manner is extremely important. Without it you could read for days and days and really get very little from it. Remember, there's no other book in the world like this one.

I want to encourage you to prepare yourself as you open it up each day. Sit for a few minutes and pray and think about this book that you're opening and the treasures that are there.

Do you have a method in place for reading your Bible? You want to have a balanced diet—Old and New Testament. And you want to include all the books of the Bible. How much you read each day is your decision, but it needs to be more than a few verses or a chapter.

There are many good devotional books, and I've often used one or two of my favorites along with my Bible reading, but NEVER in place of my Bible reading.

I want to encourage you to challenge yourself to read more than you think you can each day. The one I've used for many years is this one:

On a daily basis:

- Read 1 chapter from a Gospel
 - Start in Matthew, go through John and then start again in Matthew.
- Read 1 chapter from the remainder of the New Testament
 - Start in Acts, go through Revelation and start again in Acts.
- Read 1 Psalm
 - Start at Psalm 1, go through Psalm 150 and start over again.
- Read 1 chapter from Proverbs
 - There are 31 chapters, so it's easy to match the chapter with the day of the month.
- Read 2 other Old Testament chapters
 - Start at Genesis and go through Job, then start again in Genesis.
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 - Start in Ecclesiastes and go through Malachi (skipping Psalms and Proverbs), then start again in Ecclesiastes.

I've even designed a sheet to keep track of where I'm reading, and that is included in your handout.

This it may be too much if you're just a beginner. If so, choose two portions of it; start small.

Meditating on the Word of God

How do you cultivate that meditative reading?

When you find your mind wandering and you realize you've read a few verses but you have no idea what you read, just stop and go back and read that passage again. It's a matter of training yourself to stay focused while you read.

One thing that works well for me is to tell myself to read today as though I've never heard or read this before. This is especially helpful while reading the Gospels. Imagine you are there, and you're listening to what Jesus says and you've never heard it before. How would you feel? What would you ask? You will see Jesus in new ways if you put yourself in the picture.

Then as you're reading, when something is very meaningful to you, don't rush it. Stop, pray, ask God what is the lesson for you in this verse or passage.

Remember, you can always use otherwise wasted time to read—maybe lunch time at work when you can isolate yourself. Or getting up early before the rest of the family.

Praying Scripture as You Read

I want to encourage you to develop the habit of praying scripture as you read it, especially when a certain verse speaks to you. Perhaps you read:

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. (John 13:34)

And it speaks to you, maybe convicting you that you don't love others as you should—maybe even a specific person. When that happens, stop there and pray about it.

Keep a Record of Communication with God

I encourage you to keep a record as you read God's Word and it speaks to you. Many benefits:

- Helps you remember what God said to you through His word.
- Helps you concentrate more as you read.
- Becomes a treasure house to you as it tracks your own spiritual growth.

What should you write? Whatever is on your heart in your style. Nobody reads this but you. No English teacher will check for spelling. It can be short.

Let me quote something that George Muller wrote on this:

I began therefore to meditate on the New Testament from the beginning, early in the morning. The first thing I did, after having asked in a few words the Lord's blessing upon His precious Word, was to begin to meditate on the Word of God, searching as it were every verse to get a blessing out of it, not for the sake of the public ministry of the Word, not for the sake of preaching upon what I had meditated upon, but for obtaining food for my own soul.

(If you're not familiar with George Muller, I strongly encourage you to read one of his biographies. He was a man of great faith and much prayer.)

You don't need to write everyday – but I would encourage you to be consistent. Those journals will become valuable possessions.

I want to say again that I'm not laying down some strict method that you have to follow to the tee, but I do know that if you don't have a structure, you're not likely to truly pursue a knowledge of God.



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