

Hearing From God Through His Word

(John 10:27) "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:"

Guided Growth with Pastor Keith @ CBC , Sunday, Aug. 8th

Christianity isn't a "Religion", but rather a Relationship with God made possible through Christ.

God wants us to know Him! Jn 17:3,4 *"This is life eternal, that they might know thee!"*

Such "Communion" requires (1) An introduction (To establish the relationship 2 Cor. 2:19-21; Jn 3).

(2) Clear Communication (To develop/deepen it. Jn 10:27)

Satan seeks to sabotage our relationship/communication through Deception and/or Distraction.

(Jn 10:10; Hebrews 3:7-8) How do we "Hear" (understand) God's voice?

Of the spoken or written word, which is most reliable? Why? (2 Peter 1:18,19)

Just as we primarily use words to communicate, *God primarily speaks to us through His Word.*

Because Satan is *"The god of this world"* (2 Cor. 4:4; 1 Jn. 2:16-18; 5:20) And since our own hearts are easily deceived (Jer. 17:9), We need to have a reliable source / standard from which to

recognize *"the spirit of truth and the spirit of error"* 1 John 4:6 Jesus identified the Holy Spirit

as *"the Spirit of Truth"* (Jn 14:17; 15:26; 16:13) that would *"Guide us unto all truth"* Jn 16:13

1 John 2:14 *"I've written unto you, young men, because ye are strong, and the word of God abideth in you, and ye have overcome the wicked one."*

1. The Bible Claims To Be "The Word Of God!" (over 100 times)

A. It's longest chapter (Ps 119) is about all God's word.

1) 174 of its 176 verses specifically references scripture using different words such as:

"Precepts, Word, Law, Testimony, Commands"

B. God's Word Shares His Characteristics:

1) **Inspired:** 2 Tim 3:16 *"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, ("God Breathed")*

2) **Eternal:** Mal. 3:6 *"I am the Lord, I change not"* See also Ps 119:89 and Mt 24:35

3) **Powerful:** Heb. 4:12 *"The Word of God is quick (zao: alive) and powerful..." (energes: active energy)*

4) **Practical:** 2 Tim. 3:16,17 *"all scripture ... is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works."*

5) **Precious!** Ps. 19:7,10, 11 *"The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul... More to be desired are they than gold...: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb. Moreover by them is thy servant warned: and in keeping of them there is great reward."*

2. Jesus Is Referred To "The Word Of God" (in the flesh)

Jn 1:1,14 *"The Word was with God and the Word was God... the Word was made flesh and we beheld His glory... full of Grace and Truth."* (See also Rev. 19:11-13)

A. We Learn Of Him Through His Word. Jn 20:31,31

1) To Know Him we must know His word. John 14:21

"He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him."

2) To "Grow in Him" we must know His word. John 15:1-8

3. The Holy Spirit Uses The Word Of God To Work in our lives!

A. For **Conviction**. John 16:8 *"when he is come, (The "Comforter" {parak'letos} of Vs. 7)*

he will reprove (convict) the world of sin, and of righteousness, (justification Ro.5:1) and of judgment"

(krino: justice, damnation)

B. For **Salvation**. Jn. 3:5-7 *"Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born ...of the Spirit,*

he cannot enter into the kingdom of God." (See also Jn 6:63)

C. For **Sanctification**. 2 Thess. 2:13 *"God hath . . . chosen you to salvation through sanctification (Hagiasmos': holiness, purification) of the Spirit and belief (Pistis: Faith, conviction) of the truth:"*
See also Eph. 5:25,26; Ps. 119:9-11

Conclusion: Since the Bible is the final and most reliable source of Divine Direction. It must be the filter through which every other means of communication (*from God or those claiming to speak for Him*) must pass!

Mt 22:29 *"Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God."*

Application: While we can transmit information in many impersonal ways (*text, twitter, tweet, emails, etc.*) the clearest path to intimate conversation is "face to face."

2 Cor. 3:18 describes God's voice/word as a mirror. *"But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass (mirror) the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord."*

James also uses this analogy to help us understand God's heart. James 1:21-25

"Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, (clean the mirror!) receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls. But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like a man beholding his natural face in a glass: For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgets what manner of man he was. But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he (or she) being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man (or woman) shall be blessed." **Makar'ios (Supremely fortunate!)**

**God's Word + God's Spirit + Our Obedient Heart Produces:
Accurate Information, Divine Direction, Spiritual Transformation!**

Pr. 3:5,6; Ro. 12:1,2

"Mirror, Mirror, on the wall, Do you see Christ in me...AT ALL?"



"He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith . . ."

Rev. 2:7, 11, 17, 29; 3:6, 13, 22