First Lesson

Jeremiah 37:17 KJV *“Is there any word from the Lord?” And Jeremiah said, “There is.”*

**Throughout the course of this study we will cover these lessons:**

1. **Approaching God**
2. **Hearing God**
3. **Understanding God**

**INTRODUCTION**

**4/14/2020**

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO KNOW & UNDERSTAND THE WORD OF GOD?

* God cannot be separated from His word *John 1:1*
  + Building a relationship with God must include regular study of His word. He is His word!
  + God’s word is a blessing to the believer. Living a life according to God’s word, is a blessing to God.
  + The believer cannot serve God & live absent of His word.
  + There should be some level of conviction & turning point (repentance) from lifestyles contrary to God’s word.
* To know God’s word, is to know His will *Hebrew 1:1*
  + Through the Holy Spirit, God will speak directly to you & teach you His will & way
  + God wants up to depend on Him for direction & instructions specific to our lives
  + Many mistakes can be avoided & life choices rewarded if we 1st seek God for His will
* Knowing God’s word means you’re more likely to avoid erroneous teaching & bad advice *John 14:26*
  + Understanding the word of God can help the believer to steer clear of bad advice. Advice that goes against the word of God is never good advice!
  + The Holy Spirit will increase your ability to discern His will
  + The Holy Spirit will become your spiritual memory bank & store scriptures you’ve heard & read!
* Knowing God’s word is knowing the truth vs facts *Romans 3:4*
  + God’s word is infallible, complete & totally sufficient for our needs
  + This understanding produces faith that stands on the promises of God in spite of the current situation they face
* God’s word is authority & accomplishes what it promises to do *Isaiah 55:11*
  + Jesus subdued Satan with “it is written”
  + You may have experienced defeat in areas where you lack understanding of God’s word
  + You cannot protect what you do not know belongs to you *John 10:10*
  + You cannot claim what you don’t believe is yours
    - Healing *Isaiah 53:5 James 5:14-15*
    - Deliverance *Matthew 15:26*
    - Blessed (Zoe) life *Jeremiah 29:11 John 15:7 Proverbs 22:4*

Approaching God

• SURRENDER • CONFESSION • RENOUNCE • COMMUNE • STUDY • DECLARE

1 John 5:14 ***This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that is we ask anything according to his will, he hears us.***

* **Surrender** *John 8:47* (Note: a heart surrendered to God willingly goes the will of God. A heart prompted by Satan gratifies the lust of the flesh)
  + To surrender is to acknowledge you need the Savior
  + To surrender is to abandon self- sufficiency
  + We are not designed to live independent of God
  + God created a family- not a slave, robot or pet
  + A heart not surrendered to Christ, rejects Christ

4/21/2020

* **Confession** *1John 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*
  + Confession is your personal acknowledgment of an issue & taking ownership in your contributing input
  + You cannot conquer what you will not confront (confess)
  + God is ever faithful & ready to receive help us through our issues
  + God delivers us from bondage & empowers us to remain free when we confess our sins & struggles
    - Confession & renunciation of sin got together!
* **Renounce** (formally declare one’s abandonment of a claim, right or possession)
  + *James 4:7 Submit yourselves therefore to God, resist the devil, and he will flee from you.*
  + When we confession our sins & receive God’s forgiveness & cleansing, we are in a state of submission to God!
  + A heart submitted to God has the authority in the Name of Jesus to avoid *the sins that so easily beset us*!
  + You cannot resist the devil if we are not submitted to God.
  + You cannot rebuke a devil you’re in agreement with.
  + Satan flees from & is rendered powerless to the authority of Jesus!
    - Reciprocity in our relationship with God
      * Confession- Your part
      * Cleanse- God’s part
      * Renounce- Your part

4/28/2020

* **Commune** (to focus on God, converse, talk, often with profound intensity, intimate communication or rapport as sharing your heart & mind with God in prayer)
* **Study** (as you read the Word, the Word reads you)
  + **The word of God must enter your heart to be effective in your life & against the enemy**
  + **Matthew 13:1-23 ROOTS**
    - V1-8 Jesus is speaking to the crowd
    - Teaches the crowd in parables (using something simple/ natural to explain a spiritual concept or lesson)
    - Crowd is a mix of people & agendas: believers, unbelievers, skeptics, friends, enemies, family, etc…
    - V9- Jesus gives an invitation for those in the crowd to acknowledge His teaching
      * Ear- everyone has ears (ability), but not all hear (capacity)
* V11- Having a relationship with Jesus gives access to understanding of the secrets of heaven
* V12- Whoever has: Whoever (inclusive) has (puts the Word of God to use)
* Whoever does not have (does not use God’s word in personal life)
* …will be taken- Open door for the enemy to pervert any possible understanding of God
* V18 (*…some fell along the* ***path****)*
  + Everyone (inclusive) has a path designed by God just for them
  + Cannot judge people because you don’t know where they are along their path
  + Lacks understanding, direction- All hear (ability without capacity)
  + Satan desires to stop you from gaining understanding
  + Understanding can only come from God
  + Understanding empowers you to apply the word by faith & defeat Satan
* V20 *Some fell on* ***rocky*** *places where it did not have much soil*
  + Hears the word (ability)
  + Receive with joy- emotional response (mind- not heart)
  + No root (capacity)- word not entered into their heart
  + Last only a short time- no time to bear the fruits of the spirit
  + Trouble/ persecution ***because of the word***- reference V5
  + Not enough soil- not deep enough, surface understanding
    - If Jesus doesn’t move exactly the way you imagined, you abandon your faith (quickly fall away)
* V22 *Other seeds fell among* ***thorns***
  + Hears – ability
  + Thorns- worries of this life (cosmetic) Not Kingdom business, but your business
    - Seek ye first the Kingdom of God…
* Deceitfulness of wealth- lack of faith in God to sustain you. Misplaced faith
* Chokes the Word- moves faith out of the way, obstructing, stifling
* Unfruitful- no Godly effect. My word shall not return void, but accomplish that which it was sent to do

Good soil

* **Declare**- John 16:13; we can declare the Word of God as spoken by God no matter the circumstance

5/12/2020

Hearing God

1. Rhema- utterance (specific)
   1. Mark 14:72 *A second time the rooster crowed. Then Peter called to mind the word that Jesus had said to him, “Before the rooster crows twice, you will deny me three times.”*
   2. Luke 3:2
   3. John 14:10
   4. Acts 11:14
2. Logos- spoken or written (consider the time in which the Bible was written); general
   1. Mark 4:14 *The sower sows the word…*
   2. Luke 5:1 *So it was, as the multitude pressed about Him to hear the word of God, that He stood by the lake of Gennesaret.*
   3. Acts 6:7

**IMPORTANCE OF HEARING GOD**

* Confirms belonging
  + JOHN 10:27- John 10:27 My sheep **hear** my voice, and I know them, and they **follow** me
* Increases faith
  + ROMANS 10:17- So then faith **cometh by hearing,** and hearing by the Word of God
* Reciprocity
  + JEREMIAH 33:3- **Call** unto me, and I will answer thee, and show thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not.
* Direction
  + Isan 30:21 And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left. KJV
* Knowledge of God’s plan
  + Jn 16:13 But when he, the spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own, he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come.

Dispensation (system of order) of the Holy Spirit

Hebrews 1:1 In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe.

Who

Jn 16:7 But very truly I tell you, it is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you.

Who is the Holy Spirit

* Jn 14:26
  + Helper
  + Teach you all things
  + Bring to your remembrance all that I have said (logos) to you (rhema)
* Romans 8:26
  + Help in our weaknesses
  + Intercedes in prayer (when we don’t know what to say) with groanings too deep for words
* Galatians 5:22-23
  + Causes us to bear fruit as we grow (more of Christ’s character)
    - Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control

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5/19/2020

* Is 11:2 Spirit of Wisdom & Understanding
  + - 1Co 1:30
    - 2 Chronicles 1:10
    - Understanding- sympathetic; sharp & discerning
  + Spirit of counsel & might
    - Counsel- advice; prudence/ foresight/ looking ahead
    - Might- power
    - Mt 19:26
  + Spirit of knowledge & the fear of the Lord
    - Knowledge- unknown by others
    - God’s knowledge is not based on limited or temporal information
    - Fear of the Lord- Willingly submissive
    - Respect & honor to God our Father

***GOD IS THE SOURCE OF WISDOM, UNDERSTANDING, COUNSEL, MIGHT, KNOWLEDGE***

5/26/2020

* We hear the voice of God by way of the Holy Spirit
* We understand the Holy Spirit is the Spirit (mind) of God
* To us: teacher, helper, intercessor, guide, Christ within us
* At optimum functioning, he becomes our ‘mind’
  + Optimum functioning- spiritual maturity
    - Hearers & doers of the Word
    - Hebrews 6:1-20 *Therefore let us leave the elementary doctrine of Christ & go on to maturity…* (stop debating on whether or not Christ/ God is real & move forward)
    - Not quarrelsome (2 Tim 2:14-19)
* Meaning we are GOVERNED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT
* Romans 8:5-8
  + Life governed by the flesh
    - Minds set on fleshly desires (what I want)
    - Death (flesh looks to nothing Godly for sustenance)
    - Hostile
    - Does not submit to God’s law, nor can it do so
      * Notice it did not say *submit to God’s grace*
      * Submission to God is by way of Christ & then you obtain grace, which is a gift
      * Flesh can only be judged by the law because it is not submitted

ROMANS 8:9 YOU, HOWEVER ARE NOT IN THE REALM OF THE FLESH BUT ARE IN THE REALM OF THE SPIRIT

Realm- kingdom; domain

Ro 8:14-15: echo why we hear God- belonging

Ro 8:16 Holy Spirit validates you

Ro 8:17 Heirs of God; co- heirs with Christ

* Acts 1:8 *But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come on you*
  + Power- demonstration of the Spirit
  + …you will be my witnesses (by your life)- It’s not for you
* 2 Co 3:17 *Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.*
  + Freedom

Understanding God

• Luke 11:28 *But he said, Yea rather, blessed are they that hear the word, and keep it.*

• Isaiah 30:21 *And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left.*

• Psalm 32:8-9 *I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will* ***counsel*** *you with my loving eye on you.*

• 2 Timothy 3:16-17 *All scripture is God- breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.*

• James 1:22 *Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.*

• Psalm 85:8 *I will hear what God the Lord will speak; for he will speak peace unto his people, and to his saints; but let them not turn again to folly.*

• Psalm 119:105 *Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.*

• James 1:5 *If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.*

• John 14:26 *But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things,* ***and bring all things to your remembrance****, whatsoever I have said unto you.*

First Lesson Summary

• Approach God with confidence

• Revelation 3:20

• Hebrews 11:6

• Hebrews 2:1

• James 1:22

• Isaiah 30:19-22