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

JOHN 10:27- John 10:27 My sheep **hear** my voice, and I know them, and they **follow** me

ROMANS 10:17- So then faith **cometh by hearing,** and hearing by the Word of God

JEREMIAH 33:3- **Call** unto me, and I will answer thee, and show thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not.

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