

Hearing God Sword, Son, and Spirit

Monday:

Please read Psalm 29. As you do, count how many times the phrase “The voice of the LORD” is written. Through the Psalm, we learn the voice of the LORD...

- ♦ is over the waters.
- ♦ is powerful.
- ♦ is majestic.
- ♦ breaks the cedars.
- ♦ strikes with flashes of lightning.
- ♦ shakes the desert.
- ♦ twists the oaks and strips the forests bare.

As you think about the voice of the LORD through this Psalm, do you recognize we worship a God who roars? What images fill your mind as you read this Psalm? Is it comforting? Is it disconcerting? As we learn to hear from God, we must be aware of the magnitude of the God whom we call Father. **Please read Isaiah 6:1-8.** What did Isaiah realize the instant He was in God’s Presence? **Please also read 1 Kings 19:11-13.** In both interactions, Isaiah and Elijah heard from God. Isaiah experienced the infinite and almighty presence of God. Elijah experienced the intimate and nearness of God. Our God is a God who roars, but He is also a God who whispers.

Pray and journal about this truth today. Spend time contemplating both Isaiah and Elijah’s experiences. Both men’s encounters pronounce God’s Presence in different ways. As we learn to hear from God, we do so in reverence and awe; intimacy and love. It is also important to remember both men’s reactions as we study their stories. Isaiah said in verse 8, “*Here am I. Send me!*” Elijah, though downcast, obeyed and followed God’s command. As we learn to hear from God, we want to be receptive to Him as He speaks.

Tuesday:

In the message this past weekend, Paul shared 3 consistent ways to hear from God. We will talk about each way through the next few days of devotions. We hear from God, through relationship with The Word of God: The Bible. **Please review Hebrews 4:12** from last week’s message and devotion: Hebrews 4:12 English Standard Version (ESV)

¹² *For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.*

Also please read 2 Timothy 3:16-17 English Standard Version (ESV)

¹⁶ *All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, ¹⁷ that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.*”

God’s Word is breathed by God, living and active. It discerns our thoughts and the intentions of our heart. As we spend time with God in His Word, He speaks to us. Think about a time this has been true for you. Reflect on how God spoke to you through His Word as you sought Him in Sabbath and prayer. Thank Him for how He speaks to us in this way. If you have not yet experienced God speaking to you through His Scriptures, ask Him to illuminate His Word to you as you seek Him in this series. Make a plan to read His Word each day. As you end your time today, pray

Psalm 119:9-16. As you pray the Psalmist’s words, ask God to make them your own.

Wednesday:

We hear from God, through relationship with The Word of God: Jesus Christ. **Please read Hebrews 1:1-3. Please also read John 1:1-5.**

Contemplate what these verses teach us about Jesus. Write down what you learn:

Jesus is everything. In relationship with Him, in knowing Him and in following Him, His life speaks to us. He reveals Himself through His Word and in Him we find the source of life-His life. His life touches our life, and God speaks to us through Him.

In two weeks, we will begin a new series at Jacob’s Well called Pursue. Together as a church, we will pursue the person of Jesus Christ. We will understand what it means to follow Him and to be His disciple. In preparation for this series, begin to learn more about the person of Jesus through the Gospel of Mark. Allow His life to touch yours. Spend time in prayer, asking God to speak to you through the life of Jesus. Ask Jesus to open your heart to Him in new ways, teaching you what it means to fully follow Him.

Thursday:

We hear from God, through relationship with The Word of God: The Spirit of God. Please read John 16:5-15. Contemplate what these verses teach us about the Holy Spirit. Write down what you learn:

When we give our lives to Christ, we are blessed with the gift of the Holy Spirit. For us to hear from God by the power of His Spirit, we must be sensitive to the Spirit’s working in our life. As we rest in God and take time alone with Him, the Spirit is at work to teach



us God's truth. As the Spirit convicts us of God's truth, we need to be responsive. We can hinder the Spirit's work if we push His prompting away. We can also miss the Spirit working if we don't pay attention. We need to talk with the person of the Holy Spirit, asking Him to move and work in us as we desire to hear from God. As you pray today, pay attention to the person of the Holy Spirit. Ask Him to help you become aware and sensitive to His Presence. If you want to read more about the Holy Spirit, a good book to go to is "The Wonderful Spirit Filled Life" by Charles Stanley.

Friday:

In the Old Testament, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob had to dig their own wells. For an example, please read Genesis chapter 26. Working with their hands and ancient tools, they dug and dug until they finally reached the water table. Their hard work exposed water, as it covered and filled the bottom of the well. In ancient times, as well as today, where surface water is scarce, water wells are essential. People cannot survive without water.

The same is true for us as followers of Christ. We cannot live the life God means for us to have without the living water, Jesus Christ. Please read John chapter 4. The story of the Samaritan woman meeting Jesus at Jacob's Well is why our church has its name. We want to be a place where people meet Jesus. The most important part though is that we don't want people to only meet Jesus at church on the weekends. We want each person to meet Jesus every single day.

Last week you were challenged to find your chair, your place to meet with God each and every day. As you meet with Him, you are deepening your relationship with God. You are digging your own well, uncovering the source of life, the source of living water, Jesus.

To hear from God, you must be willing to dig your own well. You must be willing to spend time with Him, in His Word, learning and following the person of Jesus Christ, listening as well as being sensitive to the Holy Spirit. Do you find yourself only experiencing God on the weekends when you attend church? If so, what would it look like for you to begin to dig your own well? Write down your next steps here:

Wherever you are on your journey, write down your next step as you seek to dig deeper into the well of Living Water in Jesus Christ.

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