

## How to Hear from God

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### Perspective

*“Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. <sup>25</sup> And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. <sup>26</sup> And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. <sup>27</sup> And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it.”*

Matthew 7.24 – 27

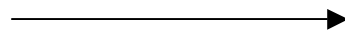
### Paradigm shifts

How can we move...?

#### From

#### To

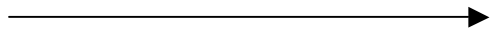
Observing (hearing)



Participating (doing)

*But those that were sown on the good soil are the ones who hear the word and accept it and bear fruit, ... (Mark 4.20)*

Weekly



Daily

*And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved. (Acts 2.42, 46, 47)*

Being inward-focused (it's all about me)



Being outward focused (it's about others)

*You then, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others. (2 Timothy 2.1, 2)*

**The practice of daily time with God through Bible reading and prayer begins to address all three of these shifts!**

### A Plan for Hearing from God through the Scripture and Prayer (overview)

Read and mark

Reflect

Respond

Record

**Read and mark**  
(example)

Psalm 19.7: The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple.

We suggest you read from a contemporary translation or paraphrase. The New Living Translation (NLT) and The Message are good, as well as the New International Version (NIV). The NIrV (a version of NIV for those who don't read well) is available from the International Bible Society. We further suggest that you NOT read from a study Bible where the notes sometimes overcome the text!

When you read, don't turn it into a Bible study. Read for the grand sweep of what God has done in history. Read with pen in hand and mark what jumps out at you. Pray that God will reveal his truth to when you read. Then read the passage, marking what comes alive for you (not necessarily the key ideas or the most important ideas—just those that are applicable for you today).

If you have trouble seeing something “jump out at you” then use the SPEAK acrostic (“*Speak, Lord....*”) Look for...

- S *Sins* to confess
- P *Promises* to claim or *Prayers* to pray or *Praises*
- E *Errors* to avoid or *Examples* to follow
- A *Actions* to take or *Attitudes* to change
- K *Knowledge* of God, Jesus Christ, the world, people, etc. to retain

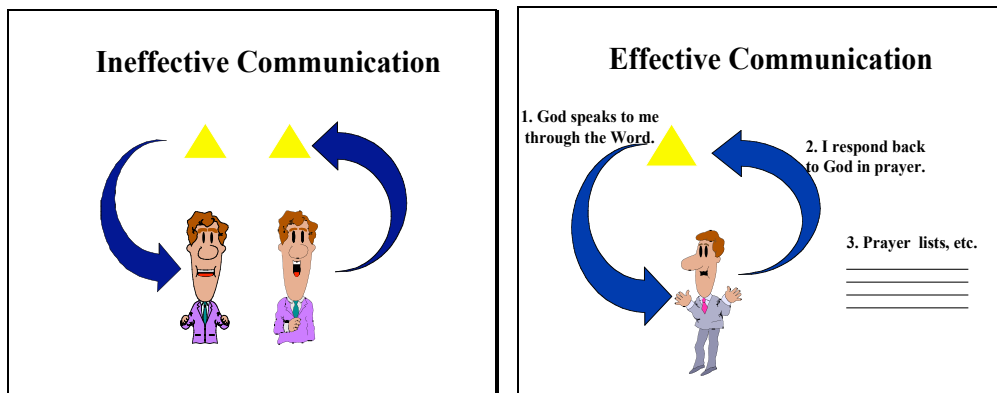
**Reflect**

Pick one thought to meditate on for the day. Then Respond to God in prayer about it.

**Respond**  
(God wants response)

*For I, the LORD, have promised this, and I will do it.*  
This is what the Sovereign LORD says: “I am ready to hear Israel’s prayers for these blessings, and I am ready to grant them their requests.”

*(Ezekiel 36.36 – 37, NLT)*



**Record**

Pray that God will reveal his truth to you as you read a passage, marking what comes alive for you (not necessarily the key ideas or the most important ideas—just those that are applicable for you today). Pick out one idea that you marked, and discuss it with God in prayer. Then record your thoughts in a journal. You could also use a form like the one on page 3.

## Practice

**Pray** that God will reveal his truth to you in the following passage. Then **read** the passage, **marking** what comes alive for you (not necessarily the key ideas or the most important ideas—just those that are applicable for you today). Pick out one idea that you marked to **reflect** on, and discuss it with God in prayer (**respond**). Then **record** your thoughts in the space that follows.

<sup>7</sup> *The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple; <sup>8</sup> the precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes; <sup>9</sup> the fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; the rules of the LORD are true, and righteous altogether. <sup>10</sup> More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb. <sup>11</sup> Moreover, by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward. <sup>12</sup> Who can discern his errors? Declare me innocent from hidden faults. <sup>13</sup> Keep back your servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me! Then I shall be blameless, and innocent of great transgression. <sup>14</sup> Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.*

*Psalm 19.7 – 14*

Best thing I marked today: Reference: \_\_\_\_\_

(**Read**) Thought (quote or summarize the best thing): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

(**Reflect**) How it impressed me

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

(**Respond**) My response to God:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

- Continue daily for weeks and months
- Share your *fresh words* with others
- Teach someone else how to have time with God and develop a community of people who are sharing their *fresh words* from God with each other!

*But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called "today," that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. (Hebrews 3.13)*

*And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, ... (Hebrews 10.24)*

*And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others. (2 Timothy 2. 2)*

## Appendix: Why Read the Bible

Here's some food for thought! Most people's view of God is not completely accurate because they have only listened to other people's opinions about God. What people hear about Him may come from family and friends, philosophy, books, T.V., radio, movies, etc., and often they have drawn conclusions about God based on inaccurate information and the traditions of men instead of the Word of God. The problem is they have not given God a chance to speak for Himself. People may have read bits and pieces from the Bible, but to accurately hear God speak they must have the "whole counsel of God." For example, in Matthew 4:6 when Satan misquotes scripture, Jesus responds with scripture and says, "The scriptures also say...."(We need to know all of God's word.)

Remember, this is no ordinary book! This Book is "the Word of God" written to you, "up close and personal," penned through over 40 men over a 1,500 year period, by the inspiration of God's Spirit (2 Timothy 3:16 – 17). Many of the writers never knew each other, yet all the books of the Bible fit together perfectly. Don't take my word for it, check it out! Did you know this book has sold more copies than any other book in the world? Did you know that more people have died for this book than any other book? It has also been burned more than any other book in the world! Just what is it about this Book that people would be willing to die for it, and that others would be threatened by it enough to want to burn it? You are about to set out on a personal journey that will lead you into an intimate relationship with the Author of The Book! Will you prayerfully consider putting all other reading material aside until you get through the Bible for the first time? You will be glad you did!

Common sense has it that none of us would want to spend time with someone if we have heard things that would make that person seem less than desirable. Unfortunately many people have an incorrect view of God based on what others have told them, and this prevents them from spending time with Him in His Word. When they finally go to the Word, the God they are about to meet may not at all be the same God they expected! Take a moment and allow yourself to be introduced to the True God and His awesome character. Go to His Word and let Him speak for Himself!

*Jesus answered by quoting Deuteronomy: "It takes more than bread to stay alive. It takes a steady stream of words from God's mouth."*

*(Matthew 4.4, MSG)*

*<sup>14</sup> But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it <sup>15</sup> and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. <sup>16</sup> All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, <sup>17</sup> that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work.*

*(2 Timothy 3.14 - 17)*