

HOW TO HEAR FROM GOD?

↳ LEARNING HOW TO READ AND STUDY GOD'S WORD | 2

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO READ AND STUDY GOD'S WORD?

↳ HEARING GOD'S VOICE COMES FROM UNDERSTANDING HIS VOICE. THE BEST WAY TO UNDERSTAND GOD'S VOICE IS TO READ AND STUDY HIS WORD.

MAIN POINTS:



- GOD'S WORD IS MEANT TO SHAPE OUR HEARTS, RENEW OUR MINDS, AND GUIDE OUR LIVES.
- A MAP GETS US WHERE WE NEED TO BE PHYSICALLY, BUT GOD'S WORD GETS US WHERE WE NEED TO BE SPIRITUALLY.
- GOD'S WORD CAN BE COMPLEX BUT THE RIGHT TOOLS AND THE RIGHT GUIDANCE CAN HELP YOU BETTER UNDERSTAND AND INTERPRET SCRIPTURE.

HEARING GOD'S VOICE COMES FROM
UNDERSTANDING HIS VOICE. THE BEST WAY TO
UNDERSTAND GOD'S VOICE IS TO READ AND
STUDY HIS WORD.

UNDERSTAND ↔ *RECOGNIZE*

- **2 Timothy 3:16-17 (AMP):** All Scripture is God-breathed [given by divine inspiration] and is profitable for **instruction**, for **conviction** [of sin], for **correction** [of error and restoration to obedience], for **training** in righteousness [learning to live in conformity to God's will, both publicly and privately—behaving honorably with personal integrity and moral courage]; so that the man of God may be **complete** and proficient, outfitted and thoroughly equipped for every good work..
- **John 10:27 (ESV):** “My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.”

ILLUSTRATION:



IF OUR **LIVES** REPRESENT THE
LOCATION, GOD'S SPIRIT IS
THE **GUIDE**, AND GOD'S WORD
IS THE **MAP**.

HERE'S WHAT I MEAN:



THINK OF YOUR LIFE AS AN UNCHARTED ADVENTURE FILLED WITH VARIOUS UNKNOWNNS, TRIALS, CHALLENGES, AND TREASURES.



IN ORDER TO COMPLETE THE ADVENTURE, YOU NEED A MAP AND YOU NEED A GUIDE.

- **John 16:13-15 (ESV):** “When the Spirit of truth comes, he will **guide** you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you. All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.”

A MAP GETS US TO WHERE WE NEED TO BE PHYSICALLY BUT GOD’S WORD GETS US TO WHERE WE NEED TO BE SPIRITUALLY.



A MAP IS POINTLESS WITHOUT A GUIDE, AND A GUIDE IS POINTLESS WITHOUT A MAP.



A LOT OF PEOPLE ARE SEEKING DIRECTION BUT AREN'T USING THE MAP.



GOD GAVE US HIS WORD AND HIS SPIRIT TO HELP US DISCOVER HIS WILL (DIRECTION).

TOOLS AND TIPS FOR READING, LEARNING, AND LIVING OUT GOD'S WORD:



DEVELOP A SPIRITUAL HUNGER FOR GOD AND A DESIRE TO MEET WITH HIM.

- **Matthew 5:6 (ESV):** “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.”



SEEK SPIRITUAL GUIDANCE FROM SOMEONE MORE SPIRITUALLY MATURE THAN YOU.

- **1 Corinthians 11:1 (ESV)** “Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ.”
- Paul used his spiritual maturity to pour into and build up faithful followers of Christ (Ex. Timothy, Titus, Silas, Luke, John Mark, etc.)



FOCUS ON THE QUALITY OF YOUR READING OVER THE QUANTITY OF YOUR READING.

- Don't bite off more than you can chew. Start small and focus on one verse. Once that verse is committed to your heart, move to a passage of Scripture, then a chapter, book, testament, etc.
- Knowledge has no use if it never applied. Focus on the application of Scripture in your life.

TOOLS AND TIPS FOR READING, LEARNING, AND LIVING OUT GOD'S WORD:



CONTEXT IS KEY.

- **2 Timothy 4:3-4 (ESV):** “For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths.”
- Scripture taken out of context can be destructive, not only to yourself, but to others.
- It is important to understand the true meaning of the text rather than forcing it to mean something it really doesn't.
- Get a study Bible (ESV, NLT, CSB, NIV) with footnotes and backgrounds for every chapter and verse.
- **Study Resources:** He/She Reads Truth, Daily Grace Co., Bibleref.com, TheBiblerecap.com, Biblestudytools.com

WHERE DO I START?

- Start with the Gospel. Start small. (John 3:16, Ephesians 2:8-9, 1 Corinthians 15:1-4) Before you understanding anything about Scripture, you must first learn the WHY - The Gospel.
- Start with the life of Jesus - the Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John) cover the life and ministry of Jesus.
- Focus on the quality of your reading rather than the quantity of your reading.
- Don't be discouraged if reading the Bible seems difficult, be faithful and let the Spirit guide you.