

# How to Hear God Speak through the Bible

1. Scripture is:
  - a. Verbal
  - b. Foundational
  - c. Particular
  - d. Dialogical
2. God not only wants to communicate with us, he desires to commune with us
3. We must learn to approach Scripture prayerfully, not technically
4. Our interest in Scripture should be in hearing God speak
5. Listening and reading are not the same thing
  - a. Listening is an interpersonal act
  - b. Reading involves one person and a book
6. Ways of reading Scripture that may interfere with hearing God's voice
  - a. *A tool of the trade*
  - b. *A textbook*
  - c. *As consumers*
7. Curing our problem
  - a. Naming the condition
  - b. Understand reading Scripture as a four beat sequence:
    - i. Speaking
    - ii. Writing
    - iii. Reading
    - iv. Listening

- c. The two middle sequences (writing and reading) must serve the speaking voice and the listening ear. If the middle two take over, they will replace reality with ritual and relationship with religion
- d. We must recover the conviction that God is speaking to us through the Bible.

**2 Corinthians 3:6** *"The letter kills but the Spirit gives life."*

- 8. Restoring our relationship with God by asking him to help us to hear his voice speak to us through his Word
  - a. How am I approaching Scripture? Examine your own heart and get your heart's condition into the light with God

**Psalms 40:6** (NASB) *Sacrifice and meal offering You have not desired; My ears You have opened; Burnt offering and sin offering You have not required. <sup>7</sup> Then I said, "Behold, I come; In the scroll of the book it is written of me."*

**Psalms 40:6-8** (TPT) *It's not sacrifices that really move your heart. Burnt offerings, sin offerings—that's not what brings you joy. But when you open my ears and speak deeply to me, I become your willing servant, your prisoner of love for life. <sup>7</sup> So I said, "Here I am! I'm coming to you as a sacrifice, for in the prophetic scrolls of your book you have written about me. <sup>8</sup> I delight to fulfill your will, my God, for your living words are written upon the pages of my heart."*

- b. Verse 6 reveals religious activity but deafness to God's voice
- c. They had read Exodus and Leviticus; they were following the instructions. They had become religious
- d. The psalmist prays for help (verse 1); God answers his cry in verse 6 by opening his ears to hear
- e. In verse 7, the psalmist responds **personally to God's voice**
- f. Listening is back, the process is restored. A personal relationship with God is now reality

*"FOR MAN DOES NOT LIVE BY BREAD ALONE BUT BY EVERY WORD THAT COMES FROM THE MOUTH OF GOD."*

— Jesus