

God Speaks Through the Scripture

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. Understanding the Scripture as a four-beat sequence:
 - i. Speaking
 - ii. Writing
 - iii. Reading
 - iv. Listening
8. Ask God to help us hear his voice through his Word (Psalm 40:6)

Loving God Through His Word

9. Why should we devote ourselves to the Bible as a sacred avenue to intimacy with God?

a. The Bible is a pathway of truth

2 Timothy 3:7 *Man is ever learning but never able to come to a knowledge of the truth.*

b. The Bible is a pathway of growth

1 Peter 2:2 *...like newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the word, so that by it you may grow in respect to salvation...*

c. The Bible is a pathway of happiness

Luke 11:28 *He replied, "Happy are those who hear the word of God and obey it."*

d. The Bible is a pathway of victory

Psalms 119:11 *Your word I have treasured in my heart, That I may not sin against You.*

e. The Bible is a pathway of hope

Psalms 119:114 *You are my hiding place and my shield; I hope in your word.*