

As we sit at the feet of Jesus, when we listen, what will we hear?

1. John 6:63 – Words full of Spirit and life
 2. John 14:27 – Peace
 3. John 15:11 – Joy
 4. Romans 10:17 – Faith
 5. Romans 5:5 – Love
 6. John 16: 12-13 – Guidance
 7. James 1:5 – Wisdom
 8. Hebrews 4:15-16 – Mercy
 9. 1 John 1:9 – Forgiveness
 10. Philippians 4:19 – Provision
 11. Psalm 32:8 – Instruction
 12. 1 Corinthians 10:13 – Endurance
 13. John 14:21 – Jesus
 14. John 16:14-15 – Glory
 15. Hebrews 12:6 – Correction
 16. Romans 8:16 – We are His children
 17. 2 Corinthians 1: 3-4 – Comfort
 18. Psalm 16:7 – Counsel
- And More and More and More.

Luke 10:40-42

When Christians pray, most realize that they are speaking to God. But many don't understand that God actually speaks back to them. And, since they don't expect Him to speak, they never learn to listen for Him.

He speaks (high-impact spiritual impressions) and give me...

Direction

Correction

Comfort

Bible shows clearly that God has spoken to His people from the beginning...Adam and Eve, Moses, Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, Jacob, and all the prophet's.

Referring to the Messiah's reign Isaiah 30:21 prophesies that God will lead His people by His voice:

21 Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying, "This is the way; walk in it."

-John 10:27 Jesus says 27 My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.

-John 16:13 He promises that the Holy Spirit will guide us by what He will speak 13 But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come.

13 But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come.

God didn't inspire the Bible to be written as only a love letter or an instruction manual, but so that we might also get to know Him personally. Hearing Him is a vital part of the intimate fellowship He desires with us.

-the ability to hear Him is so precious to us that we need to know it as a vital part of our walking with the Lord.

Jesus once entered Bethany and was welcomed into the home of Mary and her sister Martha.

-Mary sat at the Lord's feet, listening to His word

-Martha was distracted from listening -busy cooking and preparing food.

Luke 10:40-42

40 But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to him and asked, "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!"

41 "Martha, Martha," the Lord answered, "you are worried and upset about many things, 42 but few things are needed-or indeed only one.[a <<http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke%2010:40-42&version=NIV#fen-NIV-25406a>>] Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her."

What did Jesus mean when He said, "Only one thing is necessary?"

What is that "one thing"

Different translations:

"One thing only is essential"-Message

"But one thing is needed"-NKJV

"But just one is needed- Good News Translation

"But only one thing is needed"- NIV

"There is only one thing worth being concerned about"-New Living Translation

Comparing translations, we see that only one thing is necessary, needed, essential, and worth being concerned about IF we are going to experience the life that Jesus came to give.

-Is this isolated to Martha, or is this a truth for every believer?

Anything can be proven with a few verses that backs up our beliefs.

100's of denominations are divided by what they think Scripture teaches. (many will not fellowship with other believers unless they completely agree on every point.

God did not write His word to divide His family.

-It's easy to add our own ideas to what God has revealed, which makes life more complicated than it's supposed to be.

Some well meaning Christians tell us the "Many things are necessary" to grow spiritually. BUT we must remember the Jesus Christ said "only one thing is necessary."

THAT ONE THING IS A LIVING RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD, WHEREBY WE HEAR WHAT HE HAS TO SAY TO US!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!1

Jesus himself lived this simply listening to His Father and obeying what He heard.

John 5:19

19 Jesus gave them this answer: "Very truly I tell you, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does.

This is the manner the early Church also lived and walked.

THE CHRISTIAN WALK IS ALLOWING THE HOLY SPIRIT, WHO LIVES INSIDE EVERY BELIEVER, TO GUIDE US INTO ALL TRUTH, AS JESUS PROMISED. JOHN 16:13

13 But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come.

Mary was seated at the Lord's feet, listening to His word.

What does that look like today?

IT'S NOTHING MORE THAN SETTING OUR ATTENTION COMPLETELY ON THE LORD AND LISTENING TO WHAT HE HAS TO SAY TO US.

Most of us believe prayer is telling God what we want instead of listening to what He wants.

Prayer is more about listening than talking

If we approach God with an open heart, eagerly desiring to hear from Him, He will reveal His will to us.

**God doesn't just want to guide and direct our paths. He also desires to have fellowship with us. I John 1:3.

3 We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ.

Are these words for all of us? Can it be experienced by all of us?

**Our Father wants to commune and communicate with us in a true fellowship of love and enjoyment of each other.(Acts 2:42)

42 They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

-It's imperative to understand this...

Not talking about ..."get more from God"

BUT to enable us to get to know Him in a more personal way.

***Fellowship is impossible if we cannot hear Him as well as talk with Him.

I Corinthians 1:9

9 God is faithful, who has called you into fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Does Scripture teach that we can hear God speak to us today?

-Is it clear, important repeated teaching OR is it one that can be supported only by manipulating small portions of Scripture to prove a point?

So much damage has been done based on "God said.."

-We must be cautious

-If Scripture strongly teaches it we need to hear and obey...

-If not we ought to stay as far away as possible from this idea.

As we prepare to look at the evidence in Scripture for hearing God speak to us today-biblical instruction, promises and commands-let us explore a few questions to stimulate our thinking:

1. What is more important, an author or the book he or she writes?
2. Who is better able to interpret and explain a book than its author?
3. What should we worship, the Bible or the God the Bible proclaims?
4. How can we find God's will for most things in life unless He tells us?
5. Why is so much division caused by the Bible-which teaches that Christians ought to be unified?
6. How did Christians from earlier centuries make it? What about the Christians who were born before the Gutenberg invented the printing press, and therefore never owned a Bible? Like many Christians today, in Third world countries, they could not have read it anyway. So how did they manage to live the Christian life?

What is the purpose of scripture?

I have a love letter from Shelia she wrote when we were first dating. I treasure it, MY FOCUS IS NOT ON THEM, BUT ON HER.

-They told me of her love for me that I'm still experiencing NOW.

What if...

-I memorized her love letters

-frame them and hang them all over my house.

-I wrote commentaries explain to everyone exactly what she meant in her letters.

-If I did all of that, but never had time to spend with her

because I was too busy memorizing, framing and writing commentaries, then I would have missed the whole purpose of her letters!

Similarly, Scripture is not an end in itself.

-It points the way to meaningful relationship with the living God.

-It brings us into fellowship with Him as it demonstrates His love.

Our Response is to love Him with everything we are and have-

-show that love through obedience

John 5:39-40

39 You study[a

<<http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+5%3A39-40&version=NIV#fen-NIV-26250a>>] the Scriptures diligently because you think that in them you have eternal life. These are the very Scriptures that testify about me, 40 yet you refuse to come to me to have life.

Scripture is a collection of letters to us from God through special secretaries like Moses, prophets, apostles and others-letters urging us to come to Him for fellowship.

Photo...

-person

-not the person

-it's a remainder of what he or she looks like

-we keep it in wallets and frame them in home or at office why ? we love them

-Albums as representations and reminders

**Though they substitute for those people in their absence, they are not enough to take the place of the people themselves.

-In the same way Scripture is a photo album of Jesus Christ.

-We see Him as He acts out His role as Savior.

-We see Him also a teacher-friend-counselor-healer-helper and many other roles according to our

need.

But with those word pictures are the Lord's current address and phone number.

-Jesus is saying to us, "Come to Me so that I can be to you now what I was in the past to others." IF WE DON'T COME...WE HAVE MISSED THE PRIMARY PURPOSE OF SCRIPTURE.

Over and over again, Jesus taught the importance, the necessity, of hearing God speak to us.

15 times in the NT was "He that hath ears to hear, let him hear!"

-the last 7 times was in Rev. 2 and 3, Jesus added, "what the Spirit is saying".

-why because Christ was in heaven and the Holy Spirit was here.

**Jesus define His followers as those who "hear My voice, and know them, and they follow Me." John 10:27

27 My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.

-On one occasion, Jesus' mother and brothers could not get near Him

-sent message that they wished to see Him

-He turned their request into a vivid demonstration of the importance of hearing God by describing the members of His physical family as those who "hear the word of God and do it" Luke 8:21

21 He replied, "My mother and brothers are those who hear God's word and put it into practice."

Jesus told us we are to live as He lived and to minister as He ministered. Then explained how...nothing on His own initiative. John 12:49.

49 For I did not speak on my own, but the Father who sent me commanded me to say all that I have spoken.

Jesus told Martha that only one thing was necessary, and it was what Mary was already doing---listening t

o His words. And He wasn't about to stop Mary from hearing heavenly truth so she could help Martha in the kitchen! Luke 10:41-42

41 "Martha, Martha," the Lord answered, "you are worried and upset about

many things, 42 but few things are needed-or indeed only one.[a
<<http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=%20Luke%2010:41-42&version=NIV#fen-NIV-25406a>>] Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her."

What we can expect to hear

If we do the "one thing" as Jesus said, here are some of the things we can expect to hear God speak to us

Words: John 6:63

63 The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you-they are full of the Spirit[a
<<http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%206:63&version=NIV#fen-NIV-26321a>>] and life.

Peace John 14:2727 Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

Joy John 15.11

11 I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.

Faith Romans 10.17

17 Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word about Christ

Love Romans 5.5

5 And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

Guidance John 16:12-13

12 "I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. 13 But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come.

Wisdom James 1:5

5 If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.

Mercy Hebrews 4:15-16

15 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are-yet he did not sin. 16 Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

Assurance of forgiveness 1John 1:9

9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

Your needs met Philippians 4:19

19 And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus.

Instructions Psalm 32:8

8 I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go;
I will counsel you with my loving eye on you.

Protection from evil 1Corinthians 10:13

13 No temptation[a
<<http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1Corinthians%2010:13&version=NIV#fen-NIV-28581a>>] has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted[b
<<http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1Corinthians%2010:13&version=NIV#fen-NIV-28581b>>] beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted,[c
<<http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1Corinthians%2010:13&version=NIV#fen-NIV-28581c>>] he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it.

God's love for you John 14:21

21 Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them."

Revelation from God John 16:14-15

14 He will glorify me because it is from me that he will receive what he will make known to you. 15 All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will receive from me what he will make known to you."

Correction Hebrews 12:6

6 because the Lord disciplines the one he loves,

and he chastens everyone he accepts as his son."[a
<<http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Hebrews+12%3A6&version=NIV#fen-NIV-30219a>>]

Assurance of salvation Romans 8:16

16 The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children.

Comfort 2 Corinthians 1:3-4

3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, 4 who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God.

Counsel in the depths of night. Psalm 16:7

I will praise the LORD, who counsels me; even at night my heart instructs me.

Major NT teaching

One of Jesus' greatest promises; He made to the disciples, who were saddened by the announcement of His imminent departure.

"I will ask the Father," He declared, "and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever" John 14:16

Then He explained further: the Helper "is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, but you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans" John 14:17-18.

Later in the same message to His disciples Jesus made an even stronger statement:

"I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away....John 16:7

-One of the functions of the Holy Spirit, Jesus explained, would be to teach them all they needed to know---what Jesus could not teach because they were not ready for it. Vs 12-13

1 "All this I have told you so that you will not fall away. 2 They will put you out of the synagogue; in fact, the time is coming when anyone who kills you will think they are offering a service to God. 3 They will do such things because they have not known the Father or me. 4 I have told you this, so that when their time comes you will remember that I warned you about them. I did not tell you this from the beginning because I was with you, 5 but now I am going to him who sent me. None of you asks me, 'Where are you

going?' 6 Rather, you are filled with grief because I have said these things. 7 But very truly I tell you, it is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. 8 When he comes, he will prove the world to be in the wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment: 9 about sin, because people do not believe in me; 10 about righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer; 11 and about judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned.

12 "I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. 13 But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come.

The teaching of the NT writers is that the Christian NORM is to walk in the Spirit.

-Paul , when he wrote to the Romans specifically defined the children of God:

-those "who are being led by the Spirit of God"
romans 8:14

14 For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God.

-John writes to believers

"You abide in Jesus...

I John 2:27

27 As for you, the anointing you received from him remains in you, and you do not need anyone to teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about all things and as that anointing is real, not counterfeit-just as it has taught you, remain in him.

Psalm 16

A miktam[a

<<http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm+16&version=NIV#fen-NIV-14094a>>] of David.

1 Keep me safe, my God,
for in you I take refuge.

2 I say to the LORD, "You are my Lord;
apart from you I have no good thing."

3 I say of the holy people who are in the land,
"They are the noble ones in whom is all my delight."

4 Those who run after other gods will suffer more and more.

I will not pour out libations of blood to such gods
or take up their names on my lips.

5 LORD, you alone are my portion and my cup;
you make my lot secure.

6 The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places;
surely I have a delightful inheritance.

7 I will praise the LORD, who counsels me;
even at night my heart instructs me.

8 I keep my eyes always on the LORD.
With him at my right hand, I will not be shaken.

9 Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices;
my body also will rest secure,

10 because you will not abandon me to the realm of the dead,
nor will you let your faithful

<http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm+16&version=NIV#fen-NIV-14>

103b>] one see decay.

11 You make known to me the path of life;
you will fill me with joy in your presence,
with eternal pleasures at your right hand.

So many other places in the NT teach that God speaks to us that it would be impractical to list them all. All of us who read Scripture as God's Word should hear His voice clearly.