

God's Voice and His Word

Welcome to Harvest Community Church

Series: Knowing God's Voice

Text: Psalm 119:105

We live in a dark world and we will wander aimlessly and without true direction unless we turn to and turn on the light of God's Word. We all need guidance, **direction**, redirection, assurance, wisdom, confirmation, affirmation, a fresh vision to move forward and the reminder that we are loved.

As a light, the Word of God show us how we should walk and gives light on the direction we should take. **Ephesians 2:10, Isaiah 30:21, Ephesians 5:15-16** It helps us avoid **pitfalls** and gives us a road map which leads us to wise and better decisions. God's Word is the word on His overall plan and purpose for our lives. Before we can really understand God's individual plan for our lives, we must understand His overall purpose for every person and every believer. All of God's **specific** plans for our lives will always fall within His general parameters for everyone. The Bible reveals to us God's character, intentions and actions. It tells us how God thinks, talks and reasons. When God speaks to you personally it will sound like Him – do not confuse His voice with your **version** of the Bible.

The Bible functions spiritually the same way **light** does naturally. When you get into a dark place, when you cannot see properly, when you want to avoid hurting yourself you need illumination. Many people are asking for **revelation** knowledge when what they really need is what is simply revealed by the light of God's word. Remember everything is a mystery in the dark. **Psalm 119:105, John 1:4, Ephesians 5:8, 1 John 1:5-7**

Light always **repels** the darkness. **1 John 1:5** When God speaks to you one of the ways you know it is Him is that the darkness flees. The Bible is the light that gets rid of darkness. Jesus is the light of the World and He is the Word made flesh. God's voice saves us and cleanses us from sin.

God's word also helps us to find what was lost in the darkness; it helps us find what we truly **value**. **Luke 15:8-9** Many of us have lost our way or lost relationships or need to refocus our priorities. When you lose something of value, and you are not sure how to move forward you need the brightness of scripture to bring things into focus. What we need is wisdom. Wisdom not only brings understanding and enlightenment to an issue it helps us not appear so dim. **Daniel 12:3, James 1:5**

Light helps make what might be scary in the dark to not be so menacing in what His brightness reveals. This is true in the natural. Almost anything in the dark can appear bigger or scarier than what it really is. The darkness can steal anyone's boldness, but the light gives us **courage**. **Joshua 1:7-8** We are to meditate on God's Word day and night. In the light and in the darkness of life. His Word will lift our heads and stiffen our spines. It will also give us hope when we feel like there is none.

Light has a way of bringing us peace. When you go to God's Word apart from study but so that He will speak to you come into His presence with thanksgiving and praise. He is God and worthy of our praise and He has been faithful, so we have a great deal to be thankful for. Praise and thanksgiving drive out the spirit of heaviness and ushers us into the presence of God.

Philippians 4:6-7 It is hard to be still and hard to listen when you are afraid. Invite the peace of God to guard your heart and mind. Fear causes us to misinterpret many things. Peace helps us to receive.

When you need to hear from the Lord it is important that you start in a logical place. 'What does the Bible say about the particular issue?' A topical Bible can be helpful.

If you need wisdom on marriage, or health, finances or making decisions read passages that pertain to what it is you want to know. What you read may not literally apply to your situation, but you can find principles from the passages that will apply.

You can ask God 'what do you want me to see and learn from this passage?' 'What is your word for me in this?' This is why we are to meditate or think about the Word while praying (or talking with God).

When we meet regularly with God daily and incorporate Bible study and prayer together, it will become easier and easier for us to hear from God. Imagine what can happen if we start our day in the light before we engage the darkness in our world. If we want to hear the voice of God every day, then we must spend time in His presence and in His Word. This seems so basic, like Christianity 101. The truth is many Christians who say they do not hear from God as they desire need a refresher course in the basics.

Many Christians want others to hear from God for them. They run looking in many places and going to other people who seem mature in the Lord and hope they will have a word for them from God. While God will use others to give us a word, more often than not, they do not give us anything original, they are simply used by God to confirm what He is already speaking to us. We must be careful when others speak to us because many are able to pick up on a familiar spirit and simply tell us what we desire to hear. We need to learn to seek God out for ourselves.

Hebrews 4:16, James 1:5 Mature Christians do not depend on others to hear from God for them, they know they have a responsibility to hear from God for themselves.

Revelation 4:1, Psalm 119:32