



ENGAGE

An Invitation To Delighting In God's Word
Part 2 — God Speaks to Us

REVIEW FROM LESSON 1

- The self-existent one God spoke, the Bible contains His Words, and He intersects in human history.
- The desire of God is to intersect in your life.
- “All scripture is given by inspiration of God.” (2 Timothy 3:16a)

- **KEY PRINCIPLE:** WE NEED TO SEEK TO KNOW GOD'S WORD BETTER THAN WE KNOW ANYTHING ELSE
- Jesus said we must live “by every word that proceeded out of the mouth of God.” (Matthew 4:4)
- God invites us to engage the Bible as a routine life practice.

GOD SPEAKS TO US

- In the opening chapter of the Bible, not only does God speak, but He spoke to Adam and Eve
- He made them in His image.
- There is a sharing in His nature
- Humanity was designed for a relationship with God
- And for that we must be able to communicate

GOD SPEAKS TO US

- Adam comprehended God (Gen. 2:16-17)
- Adam could speak and create new words (Gen. 2:20)
- Adam communicated with God with understanding
- God communicates with us in the Bible

GOD SPEAKS TO US

- What we see in the opening chapters of the Bible and throughout is that God's Word claims for itself to be knowable.
- The self-existent one God who was always there spoke to humanity and we can comprehend what He said.
- Many people think the Bible is written for others to read (for the elites)

GOD SPEAKS TO US

- It is imperative that we are confident that God's Word is knowable
- The old term for this is perspicuity
- The new term for this is clarity
- "The clarity of Scripture is that quality of the Biblical text that, as God's communicative act, ensures its meaning is accessible to all who come to it in faith."

GOD SPEAKS TO US

- God and Abraham and His chosen people
- The Law or Torah to regulate behavior
- “Thou shalt not steal”
- But how could they comply if they could not understand?
- Deuteronomy 30:10-14

GOD SPEAKS TO US

- So comprehensible were God's regulations that His people were to place them in their hearts (or minds) and teach them to their children.
- Deuteronomy 6:6-7, 31:10-13
- The Psalmist declared that God's Word "is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." (Psalm 119:105)
- God's Word is such that the simple or inexperienced can read it, understand, and progress to wisdom.

GOD SPEAKS TO US

- The New Testament affirms God's Word is knowable
- Deuteronomy 30 quoted in Romans 10:6-8 regarding the Jewish people understanding the gospel of Jesus Christ
- Paul elsewhere wrote that "[a]ll scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness." (2 Timothy 3:16)
- How could it be profitably if not understood?

GOD SPEAKS TO US

- Jesus first taught in parables in Matthew 13 to reveal and conceal the Word of God about the Kingdom
- What we see illustrated in Matthew 13 is that faith, or lack thereof, plays a key role in our understanding of God's Word.
- See 1 Cor. 3:1-2; Hebrews 5:11-14

GOD SPEAKS TO US

- We find a richness in Psalm 119, where the writer requested of God, “teach me thy statutes” (Psalm 119:26), “teach me” (Psalm 119:33), and “teach me thy judgments” (Psalm 119:108).
- The Holy Spirit enabled the apostles’ teaching and writing Scripture, and in turn aids our understanding of what the Spirit inspired them to write.
- John 16:13, 17:17; Eph. 1:17-18
- This is the illumination of the Word by the Holy Spirit

GOD SPEAKS TO US

- God also provides teachers to help us understand the Bible.
- The Bible teaches that Jesus “gave some...pastors and teachers” to the Church—meaning He placed them in local churches—“for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ.” (Ephesians 4:11-12)

GOD SPEAKS TO US

- The clarity of the Bible, the illumination of the Holy Spirit, and good teachers do not guaranty that we will never struggle to comprehend a passage in the Bible.
- We need time to grow and understand.
- We are God's long-term construction projects.
- Peter wrote that God by "his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue." (2 Peter 1:3)