

The Word: Hearing and Doing

Introduction

Continuing with part 4 of our “Going Deeper” study

- We will learn the essential part God’s word plays in our desire to go deeper
- We also will see that obedience to God’s word is also fundamental to this objective

Acts of Faith and obedience intersect with God’s faithfulness

After a long “fishless” night, Jesus asked Peter to take the boat back out

- Jesus instructs him to throw the net over this side into the “deep water”
- This didn’t make sense and wasn’t logical, but “because you say so”
- The amount of fish gathered almost sinks the boat, Peter’s response shows us so much
- “Go away from me Lord for I am a sinful man”
“Obedience causes us to see Jesus in a whole different light”

God Breathed Words

*“All Scripture is **God-breathed** and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness.” (2 Timothy 3:16)*

The written word of God, is “God Breathed” this biblical phrase is translated from the Greek word “Theopneustos”

“Theo” meaning *God*

“Pneustos” “Pneuma” *Breath*

These are God breathed words and “...though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit” (2 Peter 1:21)

We live by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God, in scripture we’re accustomed to the concept of God’s breath

- God breathed life into Adam
- He breathed on the red sea and a way opened up
- “Bread of life”, “living water”, the breath of life,
- In our daily lives these are all common elements to stay alive physically, you won’t live long without food, water or oxygen
- This is why we live by every word from God’s mouth, they are “God Breathed”, they are life to us
- He told Ezekiel to speak to the dry bones and to “prophesy to the breath” and they came alive

“Then he said to me, “Prophesy to these bones and say to them, ‘Dry bones, hear the word of the Lord! 5 This is what the Sovereign Lord says to these bones: I will make breath enter you, and you will come to life. 6 I will attach tendons to you and make flesh come upon you and cover you with skin; I will put breath in you, and you will come to life. Then you will know that I am the Lord.’” 7 So I prophesied as I was commanded

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God breathed life into his written word and we will not “go deeper” without God’s Word.

Read Reflect and Respond

“²² Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. ²³ Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror ²⁴ and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. ²⁵ But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it—not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it—they will be blessed in what they do.” (James 1:22-25)

In our modern world a text message on our phones takes on so much more meaning when we know who sent the text

- The Word of God is far more than a collection of religious and historical writings
- God’s very breath and life are in these words

So James, (the Brother of Jesus) is saying, nobody can deceive you, *like yourself*

- We know there will always be *false teachers* that will attempt to lead us away from the faith
- We know that Satan is a liar and the father of all lies and “in later times some will abandon the faith and follow *deceiving spirits* and things taught by demons” (I Timothy 4:1-2)
- But here we are deceiving ourselves

How do we deceive ourselves?

- (V25) Like someone looking “intently” into a mirror, (God’s word) and immediately forgets
- The word “intently” is the same word that was used when Peter looked into the empty tomb
- We’re looking into God’s living word, but take no action, soon forgetting, we are deceiving ourselves

Freedom

We need to look into God’s Word and do something with what we see

- This may appear from the outside to be *restrictive*, but it is actually *freedom*
- As we are committed to reading his word, the Holy Spirit teaches, comforts and prods us to come into the light and freedom
- Sometimes our response may be that we “need prayer”, when in truth we need to do something as we respond to something we see in his word
- In our daily lives, we look in the mirror and grab a comb, a toothbrush or an electric razor. Even more with the important things in the Word

Blessing

*“Why do you call me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say? 47 I will show you what he is like who comes to me and hears my words and puts them into practice. 48 He is like a man building a house, who **dug down deep** and laid the foundation on rock.*

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(Luke 6:46-48)

In our previous study we looked at Jesus challenge to the listeners

- You hear my words, you call me Lord
- But you need to be obedient to what you're hearing
- *Then* you will be like the man building his house who digs down deep and builds it on the rock foundation

What a blessing to actually experience the things we're reading about

- For example, we can read and learn about prayer, but we need to actually pray

Read: Be committed to reading God's Word. The church has resources to help if you need them...but read.

Reflect: Take the time to *intently* look into the God Breathed, living word. Allow the Holy Spirit to make the scriptures come alive in your understanding.

Respond: Respond to the word, we must do something with what the word is showing us. We can't go any deeper unless we're responding to his word.

Life Group Sermon Application Curriculum Leader's Guide

Week of **01/25/15**

Going Deeper Part 4" (The Word: Hearing and Doing)

Isaac a Lambadi tribesman lay paralyzed on his left side. Isaac had prayed countless prayers to Hindu gods asking for healing. But nothing happened. So the Lambadi tribesman in central India began reading a Lambadi Gospel of Mark, the only Scripture translated into his native language. His heart quickened with hope as he read that Jesus healed the paralytic who was lowered through the roof. (Mark 2)

"Jesus," he prayed, "you healed that paralyzed man. Please heal me."

Time passed, and Isaac continued to pray. First he noticed feeling in his limbs. Then he could move his hand, then his entire arm. Within a few weeks, he got out of bed and walked out of his house!

"The Hindu gods healed you!" astounded townspeople exclaimed.

"No, it was the God of this book," Isaac answered, holding up the Gospel of Mark. "He is the one true God."

Using that one book of Scripture, Isaac began to lead his people to the Lord. Today, through the power of the Scripture he loves, he pastors a growing church of more than 250 Lambadi believers.

Main Sermon text: (James 1:22-25)

There are some **consistent themes**, and key points, that emerge from these passages:

- We live by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God. The scriptures tell us that his written word is "God Breathed", in the same way we need physical food, water and air, we need the living word of God that gives us life. His living word will allow us to go deeper.
- Since God's very breath and life are in these words, James warns us not to deceive ourselves. We can deceive ourselves by looking "intently" into at mirror, (God's word) and immediately forget what we just looked at. Or read his word and do nothing, Jesus said why do you call me Lord, but "don't do what I say".
- We need to be committed to *read* God's Word. Take the time to intently look into the God Breathed, living word and *reflect* on what your reading. Allow the Holy Spirit to make the scriptures come alive as you read. *Respond* to the word, we must do something with what the word is showing us.

Discussion questions/prompts for your group: (These questions are designed to help your group go deeper, understanding and applying the Bible passage(s) and the sermon)

- Some see the Bible as a historical or religious book. We have learned that the written word of God is "God breathed". (2 Timothy 3:16) We know that although men wrote the scriptures, they did so as the Holy Spirit "carried them along", (2 Peter 1:21). So since God's word is life to us, what does this say about our commitment to reading it and our expectation as we do?

Peter 1:21). So since God's word is life to us, what does this say about our commitment to reading it and our expectation as we do?

- James warns us that we can actually deceive ourselves. He describes this process as a person who looks intently in the mirror and immediately forgets what they saw. Comparing that to us looking into the living word of God and not doing anything with what we read. Discuss this issue and what you can do to make sure that you're not being deceived.
- Pastor Randy summed it up this way for us, we need to read, reflect and respond to the Lord and his word. As we "go deeper," describe how these three things will help us in this area.

For those who might like to use visual aids in their Bible storying, or study preparation, especially for groups with children, here are some helpful links:

<http://ministry-to-children.com/many-silent-years/>

<http://www.raisingourkids.com/coloring-pages/printable/bible/index-02.html>

Log on and check "Right now Media" there are several good resources that will relate to this study for the kids. Some are for pre-school and older, so go surfing and see if you can find something for your group.