

GOD'S WORD

When you hear God's word you are hearing truth and that truth can live inside you, giving you complete rest.

KEY POINTS

- "If a tree falls in a forest and no one is around to hear it, does it make a sound?" This is an age-old philosophical riddle.
 - Maybe this would be easier to answer: "If a light is turned on in an empty room, does it still shine?"
 - Whatever our answers to the questions above and the reasons for our opinions, these conundrums are not likely to affect our daily lives.
 - However, there are questions that do affect the way we live every moment of our lives. For example: "When God speaks to us, do we hear Him?" "If God speaks and no-one is listening, are His words still true?"
 - In John 18:37, Jesus states that He came into the world "to bear witness unto the truth" (v. 37).
 - One key component of "bearing witness" is to *speak*, and another component is to *do*. Both Jesus' words and His life bore witness to truths that God wants us to know and understand.
 - John tells us that Jesus is "[God's] word...made flesh" (Jn. 1:14). And Jesus, praying to His Father affirmed, "Thy word is truth" (Jn. 17:17).
 - So, in answer to the second question: when Jesus speaks, God speaks and His word is **true**— whether or not we or any other being choose(s) to take heed. When we read the word of God, we read truth.
 - But beyond the fact that God's word teaches us what is true, are there other benefits to knowing and understanding His word?
 - Well, let's see what the true Word says about itself:
 - "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path... The entrance of Your word gives light. It gives understanding to the simple" (Psalm 119:105, 130).
 - "And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts" (2 Peter 1:19).
 - The word of God illuminates our lives – and we can have this light living right inside us!
 - Jesus promises His presence to us if we will listen to His voice: "...If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me" (Revelation 3:20).
 - And the apostle Paul tells us, "For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ [*the Living Word*]" (2 Corinthians 1:6).
- Perhaps now more than ever the human heart and mind longs for peace and rest. But where can these elusive resources be found? We find them in the Word!

KEY SCRIPTURES: John 1:14, 18:37, 17:17

- Jesus, the Word made flesh, says: "Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid" (Jn. 14:27).
- He calls: "Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am [a]gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls" (Matthew 11: 28-29).
- But although God promises us rest, we forfeit that blessing when we choose to harden our hearts to His voice (Hebrews 3:11-12).
- Quoting Psalm 95:7-9, Hebrews 3:7-9 warns us not to harden our hearts to the word of God, as others have done in the past.
- Then in Hebrews 4, we again see rest connected to the word of God.
- But this time God's word is portrayed as a living, active entity that helps us to see the truth about ourselves. It is likened to a "two-edged sword" – but sharper and able to divide soul and spirit, joints and marrow, "discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart" (Heb. 4:11-13, ESV).
- And again (v. 7), we are warned not to harden our hearts to His voice...to His word...to *truth*.
- Have you been avoiding the word of God, reluctant to read it, to listen to it, or to draw closer to the Living Word?
- Do yourself a favour: reach out for it. Welcome it. Allow the Word to fill your heart and mind. You will begin to walk in radiant light and experience true peace and rest in your soul.

DISCUSSION/REFLECTION TOOLS

- Based on time you have spent reading, listening, or talking to the (Living) Word, share one or more of the following:
 - a thought or insight you received recently
 - comfort or direction when you needed it
 - clearer understanding of yourself or a situation in your life
 - an answer to a question/dilemma
 - loss of anxiety and/or of mental fatigue
 - confusion
 - any other experience(s).
- What is your favourite way to interact with the Word? How can you increase your connection with the written and Living Word?

PRAYER TIME

Lord, Your word leads, guides and comforts me.
My desire is to spend more time with You.

WEEK OF SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2020

NOTES

Meditate as you read through/listen to this week's message. If it helps, use symbols for your notes.

✓ (Reminds me/Confirms) 💡 (New idea) 🧠 (Think about)

! (Do this) ❤️ (Speaks to my heart) ↔ (Must share)

PRAYER NEEDS/THANKSGIVINGS

Go deeper with your Life Group family.
CONNECT-REFLECT-DISSECT THE WORD
Your Life Group ~ Your Lifeline

Start-up: Share two statements, one of which is true; the other, something you hope will be true in the future.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

TO SUBMIT A BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENT

Obtain approval from Head of Department and send to announcements@faithsanctuary.com by Wednesday @ 4:00 p.m. (If projection is desired send to media@faithsanctuary.com.)

In-person Services: Suspended until further notice

Due to current City of Toronto regulations.

FAITH SANCTUARY DONATIONS

To donate online, please go to www.faithsanctuary.com/give
For email transfers, please use donate@faithsanctuary.com

*'Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus
Just to take Him at His word
Just to rest upon His promise
Just to know
Thus saith the Lord*

FAITH SANCTUARY ON-LINE SERVICES:

Bible Study – 10:15 a.m.

Morning service – 11:00 a.m.)

- Go to www.faithsanctuary.com >click "livestream" link (or type in www.faithsanctuary.com/live)
- Go to www.youtube.com >search for "Faith Sanctuary"
- Sign in to Facebook >search for "Faith Sanctuary"
- Call 1-844-268-4848 for toll-free telephone access

Berean Bible Study: Monday evenings from 6:30-8:00 p.m. (Facebook and Zoom)

FAITH FOUNDATIONS

GOD

We believe there is only one God: the eternal, holy, loving, all-knowing, all-powerful, omnipresent Spirit, creator of all (Deuteronomy 6:4; 1 Timothy 1:17; Leviticus 19:2; 1 John 4:8; Hebrews 4:13; Revelation 19:6; Jeremiah 23:24; John 4:24; Isaiah 44:24; Colossians 1:16).

GOD'S WORD

We believe the Holy Scriptures—The Bible—is God's true and complete Word to humanity, verified most notably through fulfilled prophecies concerning Jesus Christ (2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20-21; Isaiah 41:21-23, 42:8-9, 46:9-10; Luke 24:25-27; John 17:17).

GOD'S CREATION

We believe all people were created in the image of God for His pleasure, to be His children, His church and His bride, living in eternal love and fellowship with Him (Revelation 4:1; Genesis 1:27; John 1:12-13; Romans 8:16; Ephesians 5:25-32; Revelation 19:7).

HUMANITY'S FALL

We acknowledge that we have all sinned and failed to fulfill God's plan and purpose for our lives, through willful disobedience to the word of God and our own conscience. All sinful acts lead to separation and alienation from God's pure, holy presence, eventually resulting in both physical and spiritual death (Romans 3:23, 6:23a).

THE GOSPEL

We believe that Jesus Christ is the Almighty God, fully divine and fully human (1 Timothy 3:16). He came to Earth and suffered death by crucifixion, willingly substituting Himself for us in receiving God's judgment against sin (Isaiah 53:5). But God raised Him from death (Acts 5:30), and He now offers eternal life to all who will believe in Him (John 3:14-17, 6:29; 2 Corinthians 5:18-21; Romans 6:23b; Ephesians 2:4-9). Faith is sparked within us when we hear the gospel, the "good news" that Jesus died, was buried and rose from the dead for our benefit (Romans 10:14-17; 1 Corinthians 15:1-4).

OUR FAITH RESPONSE

Hearing the gospel is intended to lead us to repentance, a divinely inspired change of heart that causes us to turn away from our sins and turn to God (2 Corinthians 7:9-10; 2 Timothy 2:24-26). Faith and repentance lead us to obey the scriptural command to be baptized in Jesus' name for the forgiveness of our sins and to receive His gift of the Holy Spirit. His Spirit gives us the power to live a righteous, godly life, joyfully sharing the good news of our new life in Christ with others (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38, 4:12; 1 Peter 1:22-23).

CHRIST'S RETURN

We believe our Lord Jesus Christ will soon return to Earth to receive His people to Himself and establish His righteous, eternal kingdom (John 14:3; Matthew 25:34).

NOVEMBER 29, 2020


Know Jesus, Love Jesus, Share Jesus

2020 ~the year of vision~ 2020

Pastor: Rev. Granville E. McKenzie

*"Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth."
John 17:17 NKJV*

SUNDAY SERVICES

Worship: 8:00 a.m. • 11:00 a.m. • 6:30 p.m.
Sunday School/Bible Study: 9:45 a.m.

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