

to us. If Moses had been alive today, he might have been tempted to write a book, "My Burning Bush Experience and How You Can Have One, Too." Everyone would be reading it and looking for their "burning bush" experience. But we must not get hung up on imitating the experiences of people mentioned in the Bible, but instead learn that God did speak then and He still desires to speak today.

2. God Speaks a Confident Word.

When God speaks we can be sure it is God speaking. The Scripture tells us that when God spoke to Moses through the burning bush, he had no question about the fact that God was the one speaking. Likewise, it is possible for us to recognize the voice of God (John 10:4). If I have trouble hearing God's voice, then I either do not belong to God or I am not right with God.

The Key to Spiritual Perception (Luke 11:33-36)

Having just spoken about the spiritual blindness of His generation in verses 29-32, Jesus speaks to the question of whose fault it is when there is a lack of spiritual perception. In so doing, He teaches us that the key to spiritual perception is a heart that is pure (Matthew 5:8).

A. Lack of spiritual perception is not God's fault - v. 33

One of the purposes of light is to help one find his way in the dark. Therefore, in lighting a darkened room, one will place his lamp on a place of prominence, such as a lamp stand, so that it might provide as much light as possible.

The point here is that when it comes to God revealing Himself to us, He has at least as much sense as we do. God does not hide Himself from us, but works to reveal Himself to us.

B. Lack of spiritual perception is our fault - vs. 34-36

Jesus tells us that our eyes work to help us maneuver about. By deciphering the various images of light that bombard them, our eyes help us know how to get about in this world. If, however, our eyes go bad, then everything goes dark and we are left to stumble about.

He then goes on to speak of one's heart ("the light within you" - v. 35) as being the organ by which we discern spiritual light. If, however, our hearts have become darkened, then we are left without spiritual perception, condemned to wander in spiritual darkness.

Paul speaks of this in Ephesians 4:18 ("blindness of the heart"). How does this hardness develop? It develops from time after time of choosing to not walk in the light we have received. God has established a law in the universe which governs man's spiritual perception (Galatians 6:7). If one sows rejection of God's light, he will reap spiritual blindness; but if he sows reception of God's light, he will reap spiritual perception.

If you are traveling at night with the headlights on, they will only shine so far in front of the car. But they shine far enough to let you know where you are to go, and when you have traveled that distance, the headlights then shine that much further down the road to let me know where to go next. So it is with the guidance of God. We walk in what light He has given us today, knowing that as we do, more light will be provided tomorrow (1 John 1:7).

3. God Speaks a Clear Word.

When God speaks, we can know what God is saying. Moses knew what God wanted, how He wanted it done, and when. Likewise, we can know what God wants done, how God wants it done, and when God wants it done (Psalm 37:4-5). As we delight in the Lord, he will not only tell us what he wants us to do (v. 4), but how He wants it done (v. 5a); and when He wants us to get started (v. 5b).

Six Secrets to Discerning God's Guidance (Acts 11:1-18)

1. Commune with God

Spend time in communion with God (11:5a). Peter was taking time for prayer and meditation when God spoke to him. Likewise, if we would be in a position to hear God's voice and receive His direction, we must commit time to prayer and meditation in the presence of the Lord.

2. Receive God's Vision

Receive a personal vision from God (11:5b). Peter tells us that the language of the Holy Spirit is "dreams and visions" (Acts 2:17). By this I am not referring to the type of miraculous experience that Peter had here, but to the desire that God implanted in Peter's heart (Psalm 37:4; Proverbs 29:18).

Through applying secrets one and two, God can implant in my heart a vision for WHAT He wants me to do. Through applying the next four secrets, you can then discern HOW and WHEN He wants me to do it.

3. Look for God's Opportunities

Look for opportunities given by God (11:11).

4. Listen for God's Voice

Listen to the voice of the Spirit of God (11:12). (Colossians 3:15, I Corinthians 14:33)

When God speaks, He doesn't stutter.

5. Seek Counsel from God's Children

Enlist advice from men and women of God (11:12b). (Proverbs 11:14, 15:22)

6. Consider God's Word

Consider the testimony of the Word of God (11:16). God will NEVER contradict God's Word. God's word ALWAYS clarifies God's will.

4. God Speaks an Encountering Word.

When God speaks, we have an encounter with God. Moses would have been foolish to say, "This has been a wonderful experience with this burning bush. I hope it leads to an encounter with God." It WAS an encounter with God.

Likewise, when God speaks to us, though we may not yet know all that He has in mind (like the how and the when), and though we may need to wait on Him further to discern His leading in these matters, the fact that we have had the initial word from God is, in fact, an encounter with God.

Conclusion

The WAY God speaks is essentially the same, though HOW He speaks is different. In Hebrews 1:2a, the Bible tells us that God has spoken by His Son and John 14:16-18 tells us that He still speaks by His Son, who indwells us by His Spirit. Today, God speaks by His Spirit through His Word, prayer, circumstances, and His church. But the WAY God speaks is the same.

The Holy Spirit gives clear directives today. God is personal. He wants to be intimately involved in your life. He will give you clear guidance for living. You may say, "That has not been my experience." I would say to you that you need to base your understanding of God on Scripture and not on experience.

Richard Foster said "I determined to learn to pray so that my experience conformed to the words of Jesus rather than try to make His words conform to my impoverished experience."

Is God Speaking to You?

Go and Live As Disciples!

Have you heard the story of a man named John Harper? He was born into a Christian

family on May 29, 1872. He became a Christian at the age of 13 and started preaching by age 17. He received training at the Baptist Pioneer Mission in London, and in 1896 he founded a church, now known as Harper Memorial Church. It began with 25 worshipers but grew to 500 members by the time Harper left it 13 years later.

In 1912 Harper was traveling on the Titanic with his 6-year-old daughter. After the ship struck an iceberg and began to sink, he got his child into a lifeboat but made no effort to follow her. Instead, he ran through the ship yelling, "Women, children, and unsaved into the lifeboats!" Survivors report that he then began witnessing to anyone who would listen. He continued preaching even after he had jumped into the water and was clinging to a piece of wreckage.

Harper's final moments were recounted four years later at a meeting in Hamilton, Ontario, by a man who said:

I am a survivor of the Titanic. When I was drifting alone on a piece of the boat that awful night, the tide brought Mr. Harper near me. "Man," he said, "Are you saved?" "No," I said, "I am not." He replied, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved." The waves bore him away, but, strange to say, brought him back a little later, and he said, "Are you saved now?" "No," I said, "I cannot honestly say that I am." He said again, "Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved," and shortly thereafter he went down; and there, alone in the night, and with two miles of water under me, I believed. I was John Harper's last convert.

Our desire should be to be as urgent about souls being saved as John Harper. So much so that our last moments are used to win the lost to Christ, no matter what the cost is to us.

Jesus' last command, the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20), was made to his apostles shortly before He ascended to Heaven. Now let me ask, are you striving to be a learner, a student, a follower, and a leader for Christ? Are you striving to be like Him in every aspect of your life and are you taking opportunities to share His message with others?

We can't expect to fulfill the "great commission" if we don't have a clear understanding of what a disciple is, how we can be a better one, and how we can make disciples of others.

Jesus' command to us sounds so simple and it is very straightforward: Go and make disciples of all nations. Go make disciples of everyone, not just people we know or people we are comfortable around, but everyone who does not know Him. It also doesn't preface it with, when you have spare time, when it's convenient for you, or when you decide you're comfortable to do it. It says we are to go and make disciples. In order to make disciples we must live as disciples. Everyone who claims the name of Jesus must be His disciple.

God Bless You!

Bro. Allan

Opportunities For Service

Living out Your Spiritual Commitment . . . and Fulfilling Christ's Divine Plan

Sunday, August 12, 2018

Sunday School 9:15 am

Morning Worship.....10:30 am

Nursery: Volunteers as needed

Ushers: ? ? ? ?, Gary Yarbrough, Joseph Coats, John Lewis

Alternate: Larry McKahan

Evening Service.....6:30 pm

Wednesday, August 15

Prayer / Bible Study.... 6:30 pm

Worship Team 7:30 pm

Saturday, August 18

Biblical Manhood Conference

Sunday, August 19, 2018

Sunday School.....9:15 am

Morning Worship.....10:30 am

Nursery: Volunteers as needed

Ushers: ? ? ? ?, Ken Nice, Fred Kerns, Don Sharp

Alternate: ? ? ?

Evening Service.....6:30 pm

Wednesday, August 8

Prayer / Bible Study ...6:30 pm

Worship Team 7:30 pm

Up-Coming Events.....

August 18 — Biblical Manhood Conference

August 26 — Diversicare

September 3 — Labor Day

September 14-15 NW Disaster Relief Training

September 16-23 Week of Prayer for Missouri Missions

September 23 — SJBA Annual Meeting 4:00 pm

September 26 — See You At the Pole

GROW Team

Commit to **GROW!** **Everyone make a contact!** Invite someone to Bible Study and Worship this week. ☺

Sunday Nights

We *will* have Sunday night services tonight. Please join us as we will continue *A Case for Faith* with Lee Strobel. Don't miss it!

Wednesday Night Prayer and Bible Study

Prayer is such a vital part of everything a church does. Please come as we pray for the direction of our church. Hope to see you this Wednesday at 6:30 pm.

Disaster Relief Training

September 14-15, 2018

Green Valley Baptist Church

Biblical Manhood Conference: Our Higher Calling:

Biblical Manhood in the Home, Church, and World

August 18, 2018

8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Frederick Boulevard Baptist

The cost is ordinarily \$20 per person (lunch included). However, we have 20 tickets. Sign up in the hallway to reserve your spot.

Key Speaker

John Akin

North American Mission Board

Worship lead by:

Connor Scholes

Noland Road Baptist Church

Diversicare

Nursing Home

August 26, 2018

at 2:30 pm

Please join us as we minister to those who can no longer attend their own churches.

Thank You

Thank you to those who donated the food products to our food pantry. Your continued support of us is very much appreciated.

Cheryl Meeks

Patee Park Food Pantry

For the Record-

Attendance: August 5, 2018

Sunday School.....	29
Visitors.....	3
Total.....	32
Contacts Made.....	9
Morning Worship.....	45

Sunday Night.....	7
Children's Worship	N/A
Wednesday Night	8

Financial Record:

Weekly Budget \$ 2,286.39
Offering Received ... \$ 2,134.54
Long Family -July... \$ 110.00

Offering Received by Mail:

Eric and Shelly Thompson
Toni Wyrick
Tim and Sharon Waters

August Counting Team:

Bill Schottel and John Lewis

August Van Driver:

Mike Green
Call 232-3747 before 8 am

August Member Birthdays:

09...Dottie Wildberger
18...Don Beavers
18...Tonia Meers
22...Beverly Lewis
24...LeRoy Bush

August Anniversaries

David and Annette Schottel
August 5, 1989

LeRoy and Ruth Anne Bush
August 5, 1966

Tim and Sharon Waters
August 10, 1985

Prayer Requests ...

Karen Shirley—death of Sister
Ruth Anne Bush—healing
Linda Huff—surgery recovery
Family of Rev. A. B. Brown
June Fritchle—recovery
Sandy and Stanley Wilson
Jim and Brigida Winans
Marcia and Don Hart—blessings
Blake Conner—Swymeler's Grandson
Mike Green—back to work
Arlette Duty—strength
Sharri Duty—surgery recovery
Donna and Bill Dunn—health

Jack and Flo Conard
Peggy & Gary Fewins—Peggy's health
Gina Harr—strength
Tammy Panning, Emily Jones & Liam
Cynthia Burdick—cancer recovery
Karissa and Matt Long and family
Stephanie & Jason Terpack
Shawna Hughes—recovery
Rosella Davis—Flo Conard's sister
Mary Sharp's brother-in-law Jim
Bill Clinton—Don and Mae's son
Lisa Bowers—Jack and Flo's daughter
LoLeta Middleton—strength
Zella Davis —Doris Richardson's sister
The Waters Family Betty Campbell
George Ferbert Kevin Duty
Nellie Reynolds Ann Riddle
Don Beavers Tim Izer
Kathryn Beavers Keon McKahan
Jozy Winans Kenny Duty
Pat Means Buddy Means
Bill & Juanita Debbie Sands
Pat Puckett Curtis Conard
Brenda Burgess Roscoe Lane
Carolyn Houts
Nickolay Nazaruk, Peski 2 Church
David and Deborah Grace
Our Nation and Leaders
Our Military Service people
Today's Prayer Requests ...

Our Nation and our Leaders ...

Five More New Families...
