



Over the next few weeks our worship will consider the means through which God speaks to us by His Spirit. Today, we will consider how God speaks to His people through His Word. Augustine said, "When the Scriptures speak, God speaks."

In our text, Jesus told these new believers that the key to their truly being His disciples was that they would "hold" to His teaching. If they would do this, He assured, then they would know the truth and the truth would set them free - free to experience all that God had in mind for them. Christian freedom - true freedom - isn't freedom to do and be what I want to do and be, but freedom to do and become all that God wants me to do and become.

What was true for those believers addressed here by our Lord is also true for us today. If we are going to experience all that God has in mind for us as his children, we must "hold" to the teachings of Christ - teachings which are discovered in God's Word. I must learn to hear what God has to say to me through his Word, so that I might adjust my life to his truth.

**Letting God speak to me through His Word involves three things:**

**1. Submit to the Spirit of Truth.**

Why is this important if I am to hear God speak to me through His Word?

**A. Because God's Word has been inspired by the Spirit.**

Read what Peter tells us about the Old Testament in 2 Peter 1:20-21. And what Paul tells us about the New Testament in 1 Corinthians 2:9-16.

**B. Because God's Word is discerned by the Spirit.**

Again, read 1 Corinthians 2:9-10; 12; 14. Also read John 16:13-15. How does one submit to the Spirit? Ephesians 5:18 and 1 John 1:9 tell us this.

**1) Submitting to the Spirit is something I do consciously.**

Being filled (controlled) by the Spirit is a command.

**2) Submitting to the Spirit is something I do continuously.**

My life is either being lived under the control of the Spirit or under the control of sin and self. Therefore, when I find unconfessed sin in my life, I must choose to confess it, thus renouncing sin and self's control over me and submitting myself to the control of God's spirit. Through committing sin, we take ourselves out of the circle of the spirit's control and submit, instead, to the control of sin and self. But through confessing sin, we take ourselves out of the control of sin and self, and submit ourselves afresh to the control of the Spirit. As we are within the circle of His control, we are in a position to discern God's voice and walk in His truth.

**2. Adjust to the Person of Truth.**

Jesus said that as we hold to His teachings, we will know the truth. God's Word is truth (John 17:17). God's Word is the sword of the Spirit (Ephesians 6:17). The Spirit leads us into all truth (John 16:13). Therefore, the spirit uses god's word to reveal God's truth to us.

But what is God's truth? Perhaps a better question might be, "Who is God's truth?" God's truth is a person - Jesus Christ (John 14:6).

Through the Spirit revealing more of Christ to me through God's Word, I know the truth. But it isn't enough to know the truth. I must adjust my life to the truth. I must adjust my life to Jesus Christ.

Paul tells us in Galatians 5:25, that as a Christian, I "live by the Spirit." In other words, my life has the Spirit as its source, not the world. I am to learn to live on a spiritual plane, not simply an earthly plane. I must develop a spiritual perspective, not simply an earthly one. That is why Paul tells us in Galatians 5:25 that I must "keep in step with the Spirit."

And what are the steps that the Spirit wants us to walk in? How am I to walk as Jesus walked? By adjusting my life to what the Bible says is true of me "in Christ" (Ephesians 2:10, 1 John 2:6).

When the Bible speaks of our salvation, we find that it is described as having three phases:

**Phase 1: Justification** - I am saved immediately in my spirit (Romans 8:16); and I have been saved from the penalty of sin (John 3:16).

**Phase 2: Sanctification** - I am saved progressively in my soul (James 1:21); and I am being saved from the power of sin (Galatians 5:16).

**Phase 3: Glorification** - I will be saved eventually in my body (Romans 8:23); and I will be saved from the presence of sin (Revelation 21:27).

Today we are speaking about **Phase 2** (Ephesians 2:4-6). The means whereby we translate these spiritual realities into daily experience is Phase 2. The key to Phase 2 is renewing my mind (Romans 12:2).

When we adjust our life to the Word of God, we adjust to the person of Truth - Jesus Christ. That adjustment begins with our thinking, which impacts our feelings, which impacts our choices, which impacts our actions, which impacts our world.

### **3. Obey the Word of Truth. James 1:21-25**

To not obey God's Word is like looking into the mirror in the morning, seeing that I need to comb my hair, then walking away without doing it. I have not adjusted my life to the truth concerning the need to comb my hair.

Likewise, James tells us that we must make obedience to the Word of God a priority if we are to see true life transformation. When God speaks to me through His Word, and I do not adjust my life according to His revealed Truth, my time spent with God's Word has not benefited me at all.

Here is an illustration of the way God may use His Word to speak to you. Suppose you are reading your daily Bible reading from Psalm 37. You have read this Psalm many times before. You come to verse 21 and read: "The wicked borrow and do not repay." You are "drawn" back to that verse. You read it again. Then you remember a debt you have failed to repay. You realize that this Scripture applies to you.

The Holy Spirit has just spoken to you through that verse. You have encountered truth. Now you understand that those who borrow and do not repay are wicked in God's sight. The Holy Spirit has called your attention to a specific instance where this verse applies to you. He is convicting you of sin. He is the only One who can do that. God has just spoken to you by the working of the Holy Spirit and through His Word. God wants you to have no hindrances to a love relationship with Him in your life.

Once God has spoken to you through His Word, how you respond is crucial. You must adjust your life to the truth. In this case the adjustment is this:

• **You must agree with the truth** - those who borrow and do not repay are wicked in God's sight.

• **You must agree that the truth applies to you in the particular instance brought to your memory.** This is confession of sin. You agree with God about your sin.

In this way you have adjusted your understanding about borrowing and repaying to agree with God's will in this matter. To agree with God you must change your understanding to agree with His. This requires an adjustment. Is that all you must do? Just say to God you agree with Him? No! Agreeing with God is not enough. Until you repay the debt, you will continue to be seen as wicked in God's sight.

This is where obedience comes in. You obey God's will by repaying the debt. Now you are free to experience a more complete relationship with God.

**LISTEN:** Obedience is the appropriate adjustment in your actions that reflects the adjustment in your attitude.

### **Conclusion**

Ingmar Bergman is a celebrated Swedish filmmaker. He tells the story of how one day he was listening to the works of classical composer Igor Stravinsky. As he was listening to the music, he began to daydream about a 19th-century cathedral. He said that he found himself wandering around the great building and then finally standing before a picture of Christ. Realizing the importance of the icon, Bergman said to it, "Speak to me! I will not leave this cathedral until you speak to me!" But of course the picture didn't speak. That same year—1963—Bergman produced a film entitled *The Silence*. The movie is about characters who despair of ever finding God because He is silent.

But Bergman's problem was that he was looking in the wrong place. God is not silent. God speaks volumes. But His voice is not found in an icon in a cathedral. Rather, His voice is heard in the words of the New Testament. The New Testament is God's full and final revelation.

Do you want to hear the voice of God? Then read the words of the Scriptures. Do you want to know what God is saying to you today? Then today:

1. Submit to the Spirit of Truth
2. Adjust to the Person of Truth
3. Obey the Word of Truth

### ***Let God Speak through His Word!***

## **Jesus, Friend of Sinners**

A number of years ago a Johns Hopkins University professor asked his graduate students to locate 200 boys ages 12-16, and research their family backgrounds. The assignment was then to predict their future. The students were sent to the slum area of the city to find the boys. The conclusion reached by the graduate students was that 90 percent of those researched would spend time in jail. The final chapter of this study would not be completed until 25 years later.

When the 200 original students were sought after, some 25 years later, John Hopkins sent the researchers into the slum area again. Some of the group still remained in the slums; others had moved away, a few had died. In all they were able to locate 180 of the original 200. What they found amazed them. Only four had ever been to jail. Remember the prediction had been 90 percent of 200.

What caused this figure to be so low when all indications pointed to a larger number? When the researchers began to ask this question they found that they were getting the same answer, "Well, there was this teacher...." Pressed further, the researchers found that the teacher in all cases was one and the same. These boys had all been influenced by the same teacher.

The graduate students traced down the teacher, now living in a retirement home, and inquired about her remarkable influence over a group of boys who were headed for a life of crime. She really could not think of any reason why she would have this kind of influence. She did mention that "I truly loved my students."

The teacher who had made such a difference in the lives of these inner city boys had made that difference because of her genuine love for them. She could not remember any profound lecture that she had given. She could not remember any great and outstanding curriculum of learning that she had developed or used. Love was the instrument that she used to change the lives of these young men just as love was the instrument which Jesus used to change the lives of the disciples and it is still love which is the primary tool in the hands of the Church to revolutionize the world for Jesus Christ.

Rich Wilkerson, author of *Friend of Sinners*, said this:

*Jesus is the friend of sinners. That means He has an ongoing relationship with us; He is continually committed to our well-being. It seems a lot of times we are okay with Jesus saving us, but we think we have to sustain ourselves without Him. "Thanks for saving me, Jesus! I've got it from here!" Then the weight starts to crush us, and we wonder what we're doing wrong. Jesus is not just the Savior — He's the sustainer. He's not just the author of our faith — He's the finisher, the One who perfects and completes and carries our faith through to the end. The more we come to know Jesus as the friend of sinners, the more we will be able to truly find rest for our souls.*

A lot of people never come to know Jesus as the friend of sinners, and as a result, they never fully know the Love of the God who made them. Perhaps there have been times in your journey with Jesus when you've felt worn out, in pain, and limited, not because God is asking too much of us, but because we are insisting on carrying too much. Instead of letting Jesus carry our weights by His grace, we are often convinced we have to do it ourselves. God knows all about our oversize egos and undersize strength. He is far more understanding and far less condemning than most people give Him credit for.

Ask yourself if you are willing to let Jesus be your friend? Will you allow Him to love you and carry those burdens we have made on our own that God never intended for me to carry? He alone can make all the difference.

God Bless You!  
Bro. Allan

## **Opportunities For Service**

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

#### **Sunday, September 23, 2018**

Sunday School ..... 9:15 am

Morning Worship.....10:30 am

Nursery: Volunteers as needed

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

Alternate: Larry McKahan

Diversicare.....2:30 pm

SJBA Annual Meeting 4:00 pm

No Evening Service.....

#### **Wednesday, September 26**

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

Worship Team ..... 7:30 pm

#### **Sunday, September 30, 2018**

Sunday School.....9:15 am

Morning Worship.....10:30 am

Nursery: Volunteers as needed

Ushers: ? ? ? , Ken Kirkpatrick, Larry McKahan, Bill Schottel

Alternate: Ken Nice

Evening Service.....6:30 pm

#### **Wednesday, October 3**

Prayer / Bible Study ...6:30 pm  
Worship Team ..... 7:30 pm

**Up-Coming Events.....**

**September 23 — Diversicare at 2:30 pm**

**— Worship Gathering and Annual**

**Meeting at Journey Baptist at 4:00 pm**

**October 1 — Food Kitchen**

**October 10 — Prayer Warriors**

**October 22-23 — Missouri Baptist Annual Meeting,**

**Springfield, MO**

**GROW Team**

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

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**Sunday Nights**

We **will not** have Sunday night services tonight. Please join us as we resume on September 30 to study God's Word. 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.

**Diversicare  
Nursing Home  
Today,  
September 23, 2018  
at 2:30 pm**

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

**Reuben L. South**

## Missouri Missions

*"Everything comes from You, and we have given You only what comes from Your hand." Chronicles 29:148*

Our Goal: \$1,500.00

So Far: \$1,236.00

## Saint Joseph Baptist Association Annual Meeting

*Today, September 23, 2018*

*4:00 pm*

*Journey Baptist Church*

This annual meeting will have a shortened business meeting with video reports. The emphasis for the evening will be on all our churches worshiping and praising God together. Journey is providing a meal following the Worship Gathering. All church elected messengers should attend but everyone is welcome to join us as we worship God together.

### *For the Record-*

#### Attendance: September 16, 2018

Sunday School.....	35
Visitors.....	2
Total.....	37
Contacts Made.....	9
Morning Worship.....	45
Sunday Night.....	N/A
Children's Worship .....	N/A
Wednesday Night .....	11

#### Financial Record:

Weekly Budget .....	\$ 2,286.39
Offering Received ...	\$ 1,369.12
Long Family –Sept. ...	\$ 75.00
MMO .....	\$ 1,236.00

#### Offering Received by Mail:

Toni Wyrick

#### September Counting Team:

Larry McKahan and Mike Green

#### September Van Driver:

George Burgess

Remember to call 232-3747  
before 8 am if you need a ride.

## **September Birthdays:**

05...Nellie Reynolds  
12...Grant Schottel  
20...Elmer Mayse  
20...LoLeta Middleton  
20...Tim Waters  
22...Rachael Molloy  
23...Kenny Kirkpatrick  
29...Lindsey Mayse

## **September Anniversaries**

Al and Karen Shirley  
September 26, 2009

## ***Prayer Requests ...***

Shirley Wilson—strength and recovery  
Mike Green—recovery  
Brendan Conner—Swymeler's Grandson  
Ruth Anne Bush—healing  
Sharri Duty—Jerry Garcia  
Kenny Kirkpatrick  
Mary Sharp—back surgery recovery  
Linda Huff—cancer treatment  
Jim Winans—recuperation  
June Fritchle—recovery  
Sandy and Stanley Wilson  
Marcia and Don Hart—blessings  
Arlette Duty—strength  
Donna and Bill Dunn—health  
Jack and Flo Conard  
Peggy & Gary Fewins—Peggy's health  
Randy and Gina Harr—new pastorate  
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 ...**

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**Our Nation and our Leaders ...**

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**Five More New Families...**

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