

Matthew 6:7-14

9/13/26

There is a lot of noise in the world. From what podcast to hear next, to doom scrolling TikTok or YouTube, to talking heads opining on sports, politics, nutrition. But how do we get through all this noise to hear the voice of Jesus? In September, we are going to discuss how to hear God's Word.

Professionals invest enormous effort staying informed in their careers. You may have to get recertified, take another training course, read the latest paper in your field. If you are serious about your work, you stay informed. This is no different from the Christian life. Yet many Christians attempt to navigate life spiritually undernourished. It sounds too simple; God most consistently speaks through God's Word.

Many ask, "What are the differences in Christian traditions?" Presbyterians have emphasized the best way to hear God is to read God's Word. Presbyterians were at the forefront of education in the US which led to Presbyterian Hospitals because of the high-quality education.

Jesus' spiritual life revolves around prayer and worship. And these practices have a tangible outcome of building connection and friendship with God. That is the goal of reading the Bible: to deepen friendship with God. Prayer and worship lead Jesus to courageously use his life to change our lives to change the lives of others.

The Bible is not simply something to study. It is God's primary way of forming disciples.

2 Timothy 3:16-17

2 Timothy is written to form disciples of Jesus Christ. That is ultimately why the Bible is written. When people like me meet Jesus through the Bible, we begin to believe following Jesus is the best way to live.

What is the best way to live? Here in the US, our constitution gives liberty to the individual to figure out the best way to live. Thank God every day that our constitution doesn't force but gives freedom. Interestingly enough, God does not force us into the best way to live either. God gives us the freedom to fail, but God doesn't want us to fail. Jesus wants us to flourish with Him! God's Word in the Old Testament informed Jesus with the wisdom to flourish. When Jesus wanted to hear God's Word, He read the Psalms, Isaiah, Deuteronomy.

God's Word provides wisdom not simply information. I am one of the confirmation teachers this year and the introductory lesson is getting to know each other and the Bible. We study math for the most part to figure out our finances. We study history hopefully to understand where we have come from and not to repeat mistakes. We study music and sports to learn discipline. But we study the Bible to hear God's wisdom. Studying the balance sheet of the church tells us the health, but it does not inspire us to be generous: God's Word provides that wisdom. Anyone who studies history sees that we humans continue to repeat our mistakes: God's Word provides wisdom to avoid those mistakes. We may learn discipline through practicing a musical instrument or learning a new sport, but we eventually may ask why we are spending so much time and energy pursuing these things: God's Word provides wisdom to discern meaning and purpose.



Scripture nourishes our souls and builds our friendship with Jesus. I highly recommend joining our **Daily Dose of Christian Friendship**. You can sign-up on the Realm app or email the office or me. If you don't think you have time to pick-up the Bible, a push notification is sent straight to your phone or email. The daily dose of Christian Friendship is just that. It is another way to deepen friendship with Jesus Christ and each other through either the Bible or Christian voices throughout the centuries. You will hear selections from Pastor Lori, Joshua, myself and even Pastor Travis through the end of the year. Rachel has been doing an awesome job each week providing a link on our homepage that expands on the sermon notes.

There is a lot of noise in the world. We are bombarded with information overload. Replace the noise, replace information overload with spiritual formation. You will be your most authentic self, your healthiest self, you will love your neighbor as yourself, when you hear God's Word in the Bible.

For the glory of God and the betterment of humanity,
Pastor Curtis

Theme: God most consistently speaks through God's Word.

Sermon Notes:

1. Professionals invest enormous effort staying informed in their careers. Yet many Christians attempt to navigate life spiritually undernourished.
2. The Bible is not merely something to study. It is God's primary way of forming disciples.
3. God's Word provides wisdom not simply information.
4. Scripture nourishes our soul and builds our relationship with Jesus.
5. Replace information overload with spiritual formation.