

their soul-stirring instruction and vital spiritual food, are deeply satisfying. As time goes on, however, we routinely read those same portions over and over in a manner that no longer speaks to us. Our spiritual senses grow dull and lethargic, and God's exhilarating Word becomes commonplace to us. But then, what joy we feel when a passage reveals an exciting truth, and once again we "hear" the Lord!

Are you reading the Scriptures out of a tired sense of duty? Or do you still possess the fresh expectancy you had when you first believed? Today, when you read God's Word, listen closely for His voice.

*I scanned the Scriptures thoughtlessly—
My haste had closed my ear;
Then prayerfully I read once more—
This time my heart could hear. —Gustafson*

Without a heart for God, we cannot hear his word.



Central Mountains Baptist Church

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Hearing God

The first morning I heard the lyrebird practicing his bagful of imitations beyond the back yard, I was thrilled by the beauty of his songs. Gradually, however, I began to take this early morning songster for granted. One day as I awoke, it dawned on me that I no longer appreciated my regular morning recital. It wasn't the lyrebird's fault. He was still there. His beautiful song hadn't changed, but I was no longer listening for it.

As believers in Christ, we may have a similar experience hearing God speak to us in His Word. When we are first saved, the Scriptures, with





2 Peter: Overcoming Error The Value of the Word I

In 2 Peter 1:12-21 Peter, returning to the subject of truth, gives us four more reasons to value the Word of God:

1. The Word is valuable because it _____ us of _____, verses 5-15

(1 Chronicles 16:8-12) "Oh, give thanks to the LORD! Call upon His name; Make known His deeds among the peoples! {9} Sing to Him, sing psalms to Him; Talk of all His wondrous works! {10} Glory in His holy name; Let the hearts of those rejoice who seek the LORD! {11} Seek the LORD and His strength; Seek His face evermore! {12} Remember His marvelous works which He has done, His wonders, and the judgments of His mouth,"

(John 21:18) ""Most assuredly, I say to you, when you were younger, you girded yourself and walked where you wished; but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will gird you and carry you where you do not wish.""



Jill Price

(Revelation 22:18-19) "For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book; {19} and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book."

(Acts 17:18-21) "Then certain Epicurean and Stoic philosophers encountered him. And some said, "What does this babbler want to say?" ... {19} And they took him and brought him to the Areopagus, saying, "May we know what this new doctrine is of which you speak? {20} "For you are bringing some strange things to our ears. ..." {21} For all the Athenians and

the foreigners who were there spent their time in nothing else but either to tell or to hear some new thing."

(Romans 15:15) "Nevertheless, brethren, I have written more boldly to you on some points, as reminding you, because of the grace given to me by God,"



2. The Word is valuable because it records _____ - _____, verses 16-18

(Luke 16:24) ""Then he cried and said, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, ..; for I am tormented in this flame.'"

(Luke 16:26-31) "... between us and you there is a great gulf fixed, so that those who want to pass from here to you cannot, nor can those from there pass to us.' {27} "Then he said, 'I beg you therefore, father, that you would send him to my father's house, {28} 'for I have five brothers, that he may testify to them, lest they also come to this place of torment.' {29} "Abraham said to him, 'They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.' {30} "And he said, 'No, father Abraham; but if one goes to them from the dead, they will repent.' {31} "But he said to him, 'If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded though one rise from the dead.'"

(Psalms 119:20) "My soul breaks with longing For Your judgments at all times."

(Psalms 119:131) "I opened my mouth and panted, For I longed for Your commandments."

(Psalms 119:37) "Turn away my eyes from looking at worthless things, And revive me in Your way."



Entrance gate to Hattusa, capital of the Hittite Empire