
hearts on fire

MESSAGE MINISTRIES - RADICAL CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP MANUAL

HEARTS ON FIRE

DISCIPLESHIP COURSE

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Session #5

LEARNING TO HEAR

THE VOICE OF GOD

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ROMANS - KEY VERSES

In this session we're going to talk about
LEARNING TO HEAR THE VOICE OF GOD.

Remember this statement:
**LEARN TO
HEAR,
LISTEN
AND LEARN
IN EVERY SITUATION**

Romans 1:16 "I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile."

Romans 3:23 "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God"

Romans 5:1 "Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ"

Romans 5:8 "But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

Romans 7:23 "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Romans 8:1-2 "Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death."

Romans 8:11 "And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit, who lives in you."

Romans 8:28 "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose."

Romans 8:38-39 "For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Romans 10:8-9 "But what does it say? "The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart," that is, the word of faith we are proclaiming:

That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved."

Romans 12:1 Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God--this is your spiritual act of worship."

Romans 12:11 "Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord".

Romans 12:17 "Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody."

Romans 15:17 "For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit,"

Romans 15:20 "It has always been my ambition to preach the gospel where Christ was not known, so that I would not be building on someone else's foundation."

QUESTIONS - ROMANS

- 1) What did Paul and others receive as a calling for their lives? (1:5)
- 2) With whom could you share God's unfolding plan of salvation for the whole world?
- 3) When we judge others, what do we do to ourselves? (2:1)
- 4) On what basis will God render His judgments? (2:5-8)
- 5) How does a person obtain righteousness? (3:22)
- 6) What was the main characteristic of Abraham's relationship with God? (4:1-3)
- 7) What good things can result from suffering? (5:3-5)
- 8) For what reason would a person not want to live in sin any longer? (6:2)
- 9) What does baptism symbolize about our relationship to Christ? (6:2-4)
- 10) How did Paul describe his own struggle to do what was right? (7:21-23)
- 11) What is the difference between those who live according to their sinful nature and those who live according to the Spirit? (8:5-8)
- 12) How does God work in all the situations and events of a person's life? (8:28)
- 13) What determines how God bestows favor on people? (9:16)
- 14) Who are the elect? (11:7)
- 15) How should Christians think about themselves? (12:3)
- 16) What attitudes should we strive to have? (12:9-16)
- 17) For what reason are government officials in power? (13:4)
- 18) How should a fellow believer who is weak in the faith be treated? (14:1)
- 19) What should we do instead of judging fellow Christians? (14:13)
- 20) What was Paul's ambition? (15:20)
- 21) What did Paul say about the gospel? (16:25-27)

LEARNING TO HEAR and LISTEN TO THE VOICE OF GOD

God wants us not to just know about Him but He wants us to know Him. As you read through scripture, you see that some people were content to just know about God. Some were content to read about Him, to study Him, to just talk with others who know Him more closely than they did. The Bible says the children of Israel knew God's acts but Moses knew His ways. In order to know His ways we have to first know Him. Jesus made a statement in John 15:15 where He says *"I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you."*

To get the full meaning of this verse we have to read the verse in context with the whole passage. As you read this passage in John 15, take note that He didn't say this to everyone. He spoke this to a group of followers who were 1) bent on knowing Him 2) committed to following Him 3) committed to Loving Him with all their heart, soul, mind and strength.

God the Father knows the best way to show Himself to us. He knows that if we want to find Him, we have to seek Him. That was how the Father designed it to be. Jesus prayed a lot! Why? Because He needed to hear what the Father was saying. He needed to see what the Father was doing. In John 5:19 *"Jesus gave them this answer: "I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does."* In John 14:31 He also says *"I love the Father and that I do exactly what my Father has commanded me."* Note that in John 15:15 He says *"everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you"*. This isn't a misprint! He is saying He learned from the Father. The Greek word for this is AKOUO. Which has to do with HEARING. Remember **We have to hear to listen and we have to listen to learn.**

We seem to have the idea at times, that when Jesus was born He had all knowledge and understanding in Him. That all the instructions were pinned to the babe in the manger to be opened when He turned 30 and His "ministry years" were to began.. That Joseph and Mary kept Him hidden away until that time. Some seem to think He didn't have to learn it was just, kind of there automatically. But Jesus said *"I learned from my Father"*. From the time He was young He listened to those God put in His life to instruct Him. He had to learn carpentry and He studied the Old Testament scriptures. In Luke 2:52 it says *"And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men."* In the King James Version Luke 2:52 says *"And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man."* This statement clearly shows there was a learning process.

LEARNING TO HEAR and LISTEN TO THE VOICE OF GOD (cont.)

Remember, Jesus came to seek and save those that were lost. In all He did He was teaching us by example. Before Jesus faced Satan in the wilderness, God the Father first filled Him with God the Holy Spirit. Then God the Father led God the Son through God the Holy Spirit into a divine appointment and testing in the Wilderness. At that point Jesus took all the things that He had learned and God the Holy Spirit brought it to His remembrance in that divine, yet diabolic confrontation and temptation by Satan in the Wilderness. (Read LUKE 4) In Luke 4:2 it says **"he was tempted by the devil."** Please remember this, God may test us but He never tempts us. God is not a trickster waiting to lay a trap for us, that is the plan and doing of the Kingdom of Satan. **Satan will tempt us but God will make a way of escape. Jesus's way of escape was the power of the Word of God spoken through the power of the Holy Spirit.**

It was at the end of this time of temptation, after Jesus had experienced the infilling and empowerment of the Holy Spirit coupled with the written word that we see all that God the Father had done in Him. He sees His readiness to walk out what is referred to as His "three years of active ministry". He says this in **Luke 4:18 "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed,"** Thirty years of HEARING, LISTENING and LEARNING. Followed by three years of incredibly anointed ministry where He displayed the Love of God.

Jesus is the only Son of God who is God the Son. He was fully God and He was fully man. **We are "sons of God"** according to *Romans 8:14 "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God."* And in *John 1:12 it says "But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God".* He was completely full of the Holy Spirit for He never sinned! I would never put us in the same category as Jesus. That would be blasphemous! We are joint heirs with Christ Jesus but we are His creation.

We must see each day as a day to HEAR, LISTEN AND LEARN. We must see ourselves as Lovers of God, who like Jesus are being trained by the Father to bring His light and love to this lost world. God wants us to know Him and see Him in His fullness. He will show Himself to us in many different ways. Two primary ways are 1) through His written word 2) through His spoken word as received during our times of prayer. He allows us, just like Jesus to go through our own "wilderness" experiences where we can see that the Spirit of the Lord is upon us too!

ROMANS (continued)

THE CHURCH IN ROME

The first Christians in Rome were probably Jews.[7] They may have become Christians after Peter's first Pentecost sermon in Jerusalem (Acts 2:5,10-11,41), or they may have heard the gospel sometime thereafter. Business, religious pilgrimage, and pleasure were constantly carrying Jews back and forth between Rome, Jerusalem, Antioch, and other cities. Some Jews probably heard the gospel in the East and carried the news back to Rome. When Paul met two Jews from Rome, Priscilla and Aquila, they were apparently already Christians (Acts 18:2-3).[8] Along with all the other Roman Jews, these two had been expelled from the capital by Emperor Claudius because of persistent rioting in the Jewish community "at the instigation of Chrestus." [9]

That expulsion took place in 49 AD, but a few years later both Christian and non-Christian Jews were back in Rome (Romans 16:3). By 57 AD there was also a substantial number of gentile Christians in Rome, for Paul addressed both Jews and Gentiles at length in his letter (Romans 2:17, 11:11-21). Because he said a great deal about relations between Jews and Gentiles, we infer that neither group was a tiny minority in the churches.

When Paul wrote this letter, his understanding of the gospel was not the norm throughout the Empire, as it is today. A few of the Christians in Rome, such as Priscilla and Aquila, were familiar with Paul's view of the faith. However, most of the Roman Christians had been converted by other apostles' teaching. Now they were working out the details of the gospel with the Holy Spirit and the Old Testament to guide them. Some of the Roman Christians approached their relationship with Jesus from an orthodox Jewish point of view, others from an idolatrous past, and others from one of the many Jewish sects with various interpretations of the Old Testament and Jewish tradition. Paul had to keep this variety among Christians in mind as he presented his gospel as the one accurate understanding of Jesus' work. When he described how Christians should live in light of the gospel, he emphasized unity and tolerance among Christians with different gifts and customs (Romans 12:1-15:13).

THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD

Paul's letter to the Romans systematically unfolds the gospel of God's Son, the revelation of the righteousness of God (Romans 1:16-17). In it, Paul deals with such huge and knotty issues as sin, guilt, salvation, grace, law, faith, works, righteousness, justification, sanctification, redemption, death, resurrection, the place of the Jews in God's plan of salvation, and the way we should live in light of our salvation. Martin Luther calls this book, "the daily bread of the soul." [10] Feast on!

INTRODUCTION TO ROMANS

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND OF ROMANS

In the prologue to the 1534 edition of his English New Testament, William Tyndale calls the letter to the Romans "the principal and most excellent part of the New Testament" and "an introduction unto all the Old Testament." [1] Why? First, because the letter is the most thorough statement of the gospel that God has given us, and second, because it draws together the whole intent of the Old Testament to explain that gospel.

Tyndale goes on to say, "No man verily can read it too oft or study it too well: for the more it is studied the easier it is, the more it is chewed the more pleasant it is, and the more groundly it is searched the preciouer things are found in it, so great treasure of spiritual things lieth hid therein." How did such a treasure come to be?

LOOKING WESTWARD

In 57 AD, Paul had been a missionary apostle for about twenty years. He had spent the past ten years evangelizing Asia Minor, Macedonia, and Greece (Achaia), and he felt his work there was fulfilled. Now that local leaders were equipped to care for the churches Paul had planted, Paul was looking westward to Spain--the farthest end of the Empire, which had never heard the gospel (Romans 15:23-24). On the way to Spain, Paul hoped to satisfy a longing to visit Rome. Although he was legally a citizen of Rome (Acts 22:27-28), Paul had never seen the famed capital of the Empire. A stay there would be a chance to meet members of the network of churches already flourishing in Rome. Paul hoped that the Roman Christians would help provide funds and a base of operations for his mission to Spain. However, Paul had met only a few of the hundreds of Christians now living in Rome. Also, he could not journey westward immediately. He had collected a gift of money for the poor Christians in Jerusalem from the gentile Christians in Greece, and he felt he should deliver it to Jerusalem personally (Romans 15:25-26). For these reasons, he decided to send a letter of introduction to the Roman Christians to prepare them for his visit. The letter Paul wrote from Greece in the early spring of 57 AD (Acts 20:2-3) turned out to be his greatest treatise on the gospel.

AS WE HEAR, LISTEN AND LEARN. WE COME TO KNOW GOD IN DIFFERENT WAYS DEPENDING ON THE SITUATIONS WE ARE IN

- 1) **Read** the following list of names, titles and descriptions of God. **Circle** those that describe God in ways you have personally experienced him.
- 2) In the bottom corner **write** one title that best describes how God has most influenced your life.
- 3) **Pick** one title that best describes how you need God to influence your life.

my defender (Job 16:19)

Comforter in sorrow (Jer. 8:18)

Wonderful Counselor (Isaiah 9:6)

my strong deliverer (Psalms 140:7)

our Father (Isaiah 28:16)

a sure foundation (Isaiah 28:16)

God Almighty (Genesis 17:1)

God who avenges me (Psalms 18:47)

bread of life (John 6:35)

my confidence (Psalms 71:5)

defender of widows (Psalms 68:5)

Faithful and True (Rev. 19:11)

a consuming fire (Deuteronomy 4:24)

my friend (Job 16:20)

God of all comfort (2 Cor. 1:3)

God who saves me (Psalms 51:14)

our guide (Psalms 48:14)

our Help (Psalms 33:20)

a great high priest (Hebrews 4:14)

my hope (Psalms 71:5)

righteous judge (2 Tim. 4:8)

our leader (2 Chronicles 13:12)

light of life (John 8:12)

Lord of the Harvest (Matt. 9:38)

the most holy (Daniel 9:24)

Prince of Peace (Isaiah 9:6)

LEARN TO HEAR, LISTEN AND LEARN IN EVERY SITUATION

ROMANS 8:28 "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose."

YOU CAN BE CERTAIN THAT **GOD NOT ONLY KNOWS THE SITUATION YOU ARE IN AT THIS MOMENT OF TIME, BUT GOD ALSO KNOWS HOW YOU GOT THERE AND HOW YOU WILL GET THROUGH IT.** AS A CHILD OF GOD WE MUST LIVE WITH A CONFIDENCE "A FAITH" THAT GOD WILL **DELIVER US IN ALL SITUATIONS BUT NOT NECESSARILY FROM ALL SITUATIONS.**

INSTEAD OF LOOKING AT THE NEGATIVE SIDE OF THE SITUATION YOU MAY FIND YOURSELF IN, **BEGIN TO THINK ABOUT WHAT GOD IS GOING TO ACCOMPLISH IN YOU AND THROUGH YOU** AS YOU GO THROUGH WHAT HE HAS YOU GOING THROUGH. JUST AS JESUS DID IN THE WILDERNESS EXPERIENCE. HE WENT THROUGH THIS INCREDIBLE INFILLING OF THE SPIRIT WHERE THE HOLY SPIRIT DESCENDED ONTO HIM IN THE FORM OF A DOVE. THE NEXT THING HE KNOWS THIS HOLY SPIRIT IS LEADING HIM INTO SOME DESERT TO FACE TEMPTATION FROM THE DEVIL HIMSELF.

ROMANS 8:31 SAYS "If God is for us, who can be against us?"

- 1) LOOK FOR GOD IN EVERY SITUATION**
- 2) LEARN TO HEAR GOD IN EVERY SITUATION**
- 3) LEARN TO LISTEN TO GOD IN EVERY SITUATION**
- 4) LEARN TO LEARN FROM GOD IN EVERY SITUATION**

***ALWAYS KEEP THE WRITTEN WORD FIRST!
THOSE ARE WORDS THAT WE KNOW ARE FROM GOD.
REMEMBER JESUS IN THE WILDERNESS.
HE SPOKE WHAT WAS WRITTEN IN THE SCRIPTURES.***

THE BOOK OF ROMANS

OUTLINE 1

- I. Introduction (1:1-15)
- II. Theme: Righteousness from God (1:16-17)
- III. The unrighteousness of all mankind (1:18-3:20)
 - A. Gentiles (1:18-32)
 - B. Jews (2:1-3:8)
 - C. Summary: All people (3:9-20)
- IV. Righteousness imputed: Justification (3:21-5:21)
- V. Righteousness imparted: Sanctification (6:1-8:39)
- VI. God's righteousness vindicated: The problem of the rejection of Israel (9:1-11:32)
- VII. Righteousness practiced (12:1-15:13)
- VIII. Conclusion (15:14-33)
- IX. Commendation and greetings (16:1-27)

PRAYER REQUESTS and UPDATE

PLEASE WRITE HERE ANY PRAYER REQUESTS YOU HAVE FOR YOURSELF AND HOW ARE YOU DOING? DO YOU HAVE ANY SPECIAL NEEDS OR QUESTIONS I CAN HELP YOU WITH?

NAME: _____

MEMORY VERSE

PLEASE WRITE OUT AT LEAST ONE VERSE YOU HAVE MEMORIZED FROM 2 CORINTHIANS

NAME: _____

