4. Listening to God

When you became a Christian

Entered into a new relationship

One crucial element of any relationship— communication

Speaking and listening

Because you always listen before you talk

Today — Listening to God

Next time — Speaking with God

Three terms

1. "Revelation"

God making himself known to us

God speaking so we can listen to him — two ways

2. "General Revelation"

Information about God available to all people all the time

What all people can hear God saying

Rom 1:19-20

a. Exists — b. Power — c. Divinity (separate from creation)

Ps 19:1-4

Learn to hear God speaking in creation

Oregon coast: Creator — Galaxy: power — Flower: divinity

No matter how long you stand on the beach — salvation by grace through faith

3. "Specific Revelation"

Information about God available to some people some of the time

God's words that only some people can hear

Bible ("Scripture," "Word")

Psalm 19:7-8,10

Bible — Handout— TOC

Two parts — Old and New Testament

Divided into books (39/27) — TOC and handout

Books into chapters and verses — "John 3:16"

Handout

Four important topics — time only for conclusions

www.BiblicalTraining.org — first three lectures in biblical literacy

1. "Inspiration"

Comes from God (2 Timothy 3:16a; 2 Peter 1:20b-21)

2. "Authority" — 2 Timothy 3:16b

Source therefore authority

Not share its authority with anyone/thing

Not with Koran, Joseph Smith, human philosophy, church tradition

3. "Canonicity"

Church as whole accepted these 66 as inspired & rejected others

4. "Trustworthy"

Accurately recorded Jesus; not contradictions ("Really?")

What do you do with the Bible?

1. Read it!

    a. Healthy relationship needs healthy communication — listen by reading

        Like any healthy relationship — often and regularly

        My daily (regular) quiet time with Robin— "quiet time"

    b. How else know what God is saying to us? Best? True?

        Greatest commandment ? — Love God above all else

        Replicate ourselves — Great Commission

    c. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you understand

        "The god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers" (2C 4:4)

        1 Corinthians 2:12-13

2. Meditate on it!

    Robin tells me things during our quiet times that take time to digest

        We are committed to a healthy relationship —listen; meditate

    Not near-eastern meditation — empty your mind

        Christian meditation — fill your mind with Scripture

    Mull over, reflect, ask God to help you understand and apply

        Relationship is worth the effort

    Blessed — Psalm 1:1-3a

3. Memorize it!

    God's truth on the tip of our tongue

        Mind saturated

        "I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you" (Ps 119:11).

Face temptation

Model of Jesus' temptation ("You shall not test …")

Life becomes difficult

"Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light" (Matt 11:29-30).

Lonely

"I am with your always, to the end of the age" (Matt 28:20b)

Approximations don't cut it

Anxious — daughter stuck in Albany airport & airlines wouldn't help her

"And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus" (Phil 4:7).

4. Obey it

Purpose of Bible reading is not increased knowledge — "Fool" (Matt 7:24-27)

Conclusion

As obey, you will learn to trust it

It is going to conflict with the world's truth claims at almost every point.

"But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people" (Eph 5:3).

As obey and trust, you will be transformed

"And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another" (2 Cor 3:18).

Can we be People of the Book — know it and be transformed by it