**MAKING THE MOST OF GOD’S RESOURCES FOR YOUR GROWTH**

**Lesson 5: Hearing God’s Word**

*And we also thank God constantly for this, that when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men but as it really is, the word of God, which is at work in you believers.* (1 Thessalonians 2:13)

***Review:***

* For the Purpose of Godliness (1 Timothy 4:7-8)
* Reading God’s Word (Psalm 1; 19; 119; 2 Timothy 3:14-17; Deuteronomy 17:14-20)
* Studying God’s Word (2 Timothy 3:14-17; Psalm 23)
* Meditating and Memorizing God’s Word (Psalm 1:1-2; 119:1-32)

***Introductory Remarks:***

***Some questions for diagnosing how we listen to the proclamation of God’s Word:***

**1 Thessalonians 2:13**

* Is my listening primarily speaker-centered?
* Or am I primarily listening to hear from God? (Do I truly recognize biblical truth for what it is?)

**2 Timothy 3:14-17**

* Am I eager to hear every truth from God’s Word?
* Am I eager to hear God’s voice when I listen to God’s Word?
* Am I eager to be taught God’s truth?
* Am I eager to have my sin pointed out? (Proverbs 3:11-12; 9:7-10; 10:17; 12:1; 15:10, 12, 31-33; 27:5-6; 28:13, 23; Hebrews 12:3-11)
* Am I eager to learn how to learn how to change?
* Am I eager to be trained to live a righteous life?
* Am I eager to be fully equipped for every good work that God desires for me to do?

**1 Timothy 4:1-5**

* Do I deeply desire that pastors and teachers would make the proclamation of God’s Word central to their ministry?
* Do I approach listening to preaching/teaching with a long-term perspective as well as a short-term perspective?
* Do my desires and experiences control what I am ready to hear from God?
* Do I recognize and embrace the centrality of preaching/teaching the Word in God’s plan?

**Hebrews 4:12-13**

* Do I approach preaching/teaching with great anticipation because I know that God’s Word is full of God’s power?
* Do I deeply desire for the proclamation of God’s Word to cut into me and reveal every aspect of my heart? (Psalm 139:23-24; 19:10-14)
* Do I see the proclamation of God’s Word as being a vital part of how God is preparing me to stand before him in the Day of Judgment?

**Isaiah 66:1-6**

* Do I approach the preaching of God’s Word (and worship services) as merely another necessary religious ritual?
* Do I humbly tremble when God’s Word is proclaimed? (Or read, studied, discussed, etc.). Do I bow in humble reverence, awe, submission when the Word of God is proclaimed?
* Do I trust God to honor this attitude of humble submission and reverence before his Word?

**Acts 17:10-15**

* Am I eager to hear the Word of God proclaimed?
* Do I desire to hear God’s Word so much that I examine the Bible to make certain that it is his voice I am hearing when someone claims to speak for him? (Prophetic Books; 2 Peter; Jude)