

## KEEP IN STEP WITH THE SPIRIT

# THE GOD WHO SPEAKS #2

### ATTENTION:

- Because of the deep respect we have for the Scripture it is important to remind ourselves that the Bible is not God. He has only spoken to us through the scriptures!

- The Bible has a purpose:

*<sup>16</sup> All Scripture is inspired by God and is profitable for teaching, for rebuking, for correcting, for training in righteousness, <sup>17</sup> so that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.*

2 Timothy 3:16-17

- For Scripture to fulfill this purpose we must believe that the Holy Spirit is speaking straight to us as we read our Bibles!

### ATTUNE:

- On the other hand, while some diminish the Spirit in their focus on Scripture, others diminish Scripture in their focus on the Spirit.
  - It is not either or!
    - To be open to the Spirit is to be open to reading the Bible as God's personal Word to our minds and hearts.

### BODY:

#### • THE BIBLE AND THE SPIRIT

- As we read above, the Holy Spirit inspired the scripture.
  - Literally breathed the scripture
  - The message of the Bible being generated by the Spirit, is joined by the Spirit
    - The Spirit opens us to God's Word.
    - The Spirit is always present to the reader.

*<sup>19</sup> We also have the prophetic word strongly confirmed, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. <sup>20</sup> Above all, you know this: No prophecy of Scripture comes from the prophet's own interpretation, <sup>21</sup> because no prophecy ever came by the will of man; instead, men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.*

2 Peter 1:19-21

*<sup>15</sup> The Holy Spirit also testifies to us about this. For after he says: <sup>16</sup> This is the covenant I will make with them after those days, the Lord says, I will put my laws on their hearts and write them on their minds, <sup>17</sup> and I will never again remember their sins and their lawless acts.*

Hebrews 10:15-17 (quoting Jeremiah 31:33-34)

*<sup>7</sup> Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says: Today, if you hear his voice...  
Hebrews 3:7*

*<sup>10</sup> Concerning this salvation, the prophets, who prophesied about the grace that would come to you, searched and carefully investigated. <sup>11</sup> They inquired into what time or what circumstances the Spirit of Christ within them was indicating when he testified in advance to the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow. <sup>12</sup> It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves but you. These things have now been announced to you through those who preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven—angels long to catch a glimpse of these things.*

1 Peter 1:10-12

#### • WHEN YOU READ THE AS INSPIRED BY GOD

- The Bible is unlike every other piece of literature.
  - We claim more of the Bible than we do of any other literature.
  - We claim *God speaks to us* whenever we open this Book to hear its message.
  - We claim *the Holy Spirit helps us as we hear the Word.*
- How do you read such a book?
  - Is there a Spirit-assisted reading of the Bible?
  - How does this work?
  - Does the Spirit give us insight to understand what is said in the text?
  - Does the Spirit lead us in applying the meaning of the text for our spiritual development?
  - Does the Spirit help us understand what the Bible says or what the Bible *means*?
  - Is the Spirit present in the Bible so that everyone who reads it is influenced by the Spirit?

- Is the Spirit present in you influencing you as you read and apply Scripture?
- **OR** Is the Spirit absent as you reads the Bible thus leaving man/woman on their own to understand and apply?
- How is the Spirit involved?
  - The Spirit created the Scriptures, is aware of every reading of the Scriptures, and the Spirit is involved whenever we open the Scripture.
  - The Spirit indwells the Christian as a Helper, ...representants the 3 person deity (GOD), ...desires to be understood, ...leading us.

## PROJECT:

- How can we improve our reading of the Bible in the power of the Spirit?
  - Consider the following:
    - Read With Others
      - Read the Bible in conversation with other Bible readers.
      - Others keep us honest and expand what we can see.
  - Intentionally Reverent
    - If the Bible is God's Word to us it is reverent to find quiet, tune out all distractions, and do whatever else it takes to enter into the presence of God as we read Scripture.
  - Prayerfully
    - Pray as you read.
  - Listening
    - Listen to the words in an open, receptive mind set.
    - Listen to be open to hearing from God.
    - Listen without pressuring the text into saying what it doesn't say.
    - Do not recast the words to say what you want to hear.

- Listen without tuning out what we don't like and amplify what appeals to us.
- Listening and go where the Bible takes you.

### – Ponder

- Pause and ponder no matter how long/short the passage.
- We can't decide in advance what the Spirit will do
- Wait for the Spirit to use the Word to shape you.

### – Respond

- Respond to what you learn.

*<sup>22</sup> But be doers of the word and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. <sup>23</sup> Because if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like someone looking at his own face in a mirror. <sup>24</sup> For he looks at himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of person he was. <sup>25</sup> But the one who looks intently into the perfect law of freedom and perseveres in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer who works—this person will be blessed in what he does.*

James 1:22-25

## CLOSE:

- God's Spirit gives us the Word and works in us as we read His Word so we will be transformed into Christlikeness.
- Are you open to the God who speaks in the written Word?