

August 29th - September 4th

Clarity in Confusion: Pastor Mark Kresge

In this lesson you learn three ways to gain clarity in the midst of confusion.

Intro: With so many voices and media outlets vying for our attention on a constant basis it is easy to get caught up on information overload. It seems like every day there is something new on the news that is causing an uproar and stirring up offense among the court of public opinion. With all of the different opinions coming at you on so many different topics and issues, things can get confusing very quickly. There is one voice of truth that can cut through all the noise and confusion of our time. It is the voice of the Holy Spirit. His voice is available to his own.

I. His Voice is Known by those He Knows

- A. John 10:27- my own sheep will hear my voice and I know each one and they will follow me. Jesus is the good shepherd and we are the sheep that make up his flock. He calls us and knows us by name. As God's children, we have the ability, capacity, and the right to receive communication from him. All we have to do is incline our ears and listen for his voice. The Holy Spirit inside of us guides us, prompts us, and teaches us where to go.

II. Clarity Requires Closeness

- A. We can get closer to God through prayer, the Bible, and through community. In prayer we take time to talk to Him, magnify Him, and petition Him as our heavenly father (Psa 27:7-8). Through the word of God, we get to know his heart and his manual for living out this Christian life. In community with other believers we can experience encouragement and hear testimonies of what God is doing in the lives of others. The atmosphere of faith among a gathering of believers inspires everyone to pursue God more.

III. God's Word is God's Voice

- A. The Hebrew word Shama means to hear with the intent to obey. James tells us that we should not be just hearers of the Word, but doers also (Jam 1:22). As we read the Bible, we must take on that heart attitude of hearing with the expectation of following through on what we hear. Every scripture in the word of God is profitable to us and was written to train and instruct us. The more familiar you are with the word of God, the more you will recognize the voice of the Holy Spirit in your life.

Discussion Questions

1. Do you ever have trouble recognizing the voice of God in your life?
2. What do you think pulls you away from intimacy with God the most?
3. Has the Holy Spirit ever highlighted a scripture to you before?