

DEEP



WIDE

v GROUP STUDY



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Deep & Wide: vGroup Study

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DEEP-BIBLE READING & PRAYER

How many of us would say, "I want to hear from God?" Honestly, how many people within the world would say that? Many, if not most, believe in some higher power and therefore desire to hear from God. My assumption is that when most say, "I want to hear from God" they are referring to hearing an audible voice. We want to hear, "Thus saith the Lord!" But many probably, including you, have never heard the actual audible voice of God.

Despite the absence of an audible voice, Christians recognize our ability to hear from God. The apostle Paul in 2 Timothy 3:16 reminds us that "All Scripture is breathed out by God," meaning the written words on the page are the very words spoken by God. Still, most of us would probably admit we either don't read our Bibles enough or, when we do, we're not hearing God. What gives?

While actually reading Scripture is a problem, it comes with an easy solution—read it. The far more challenging issue arises with hearing God. How do we read Scripture in such a way that we not only learn about God but actually hear from God?

- How would you describe your Bible reading and prayer habit?

- How do (or should) Bible reading and prayer work together?

- Think back on your Bible reading and prayer. Has there ever been a time where you heard from God? What was that experience like and what did he tell you?

While we could turn to many places in Scripture to discuss Bible reading and prayer, few would be as challenging and inspiring as Psalm 119. Psalm 119 is an acrostic, meaning each section utilizes a letter from the Hebrew alphabet. This is why each section has a heading (i.e., Aleph, Beth, Gimel, Daleth, etc.). In each section in the Hebrew every line begins with that Hebrew letter. Psalm 119, however, is not only special for that reason. It is also a powerful testimony to the word of God! For our purposes, we are going to narrow in on Beth—verses 9-16.

⁹*How can a young man keep his way pure?
By guarding it according to your word.*

¹⁰*With my whole heart I seek you;
let me not wander from your commandments!*

¹¹*I have stored up your word in my heart,
that I might not sin against you.*

¹²*Blessed are you, O LORD;
teach me your statutes!*

¹³*With my lips I declare
all the rules of your mouth.*

¹⁴*In the way of your testimonies I delight
as much as in all riches.*

¹⁵*I will meditate on your precepts
and fix my eyes on your ways.*

¹⁶*I will delight in your statutes;
I will not forget your word.*

Psalm 119:9-16

- What are other words in this passage the psalmist uses for God's word?
- As you read this passage, how does the psalmist describe God's word?
- How does the psalmist feel about God's word? Why do you think this is important?
- What does the psalmist do with God's word? Why is this important for us?
- How does the psalmist connect Bible reading with prayer?

