



How God Speaks Today
Matthew 7:24-27

Longer passages are not quoted in the study sheet, but they can be read in the accompanying transcript.

Where do you turn for spiritual _____? Many people think that God _____ to them through their thoughts and feelings. Can you _____ your feelings or is there something more certain? Today, we're going to _____ how God speaks to us today. We go to the Holy Scriptures because we know that they are from God and are utterly _____.

If you listen to religious radio or TV, you've probably heard someone say, "The Lord spoke to me and said...." or they'll say "let God speak to your heart....," suggesting that God speaks _____ to people today. Other people feel that the _____ they possess are evidence of God's will for their lives.

We're asking, how does God speak to us today? Is it through _____, or through feelings, or through councils and creeds, or maybe through the living _____? We believe the Bible is God's _____ of truth to us today. The Word of God says, "God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world" (Hebrews 1:1-2). God gave all _____ to Christ, who promised the Holy Spirit to the apostles and prophets to _____ them into all the truth. They _____ this truth into the pages of the New Testament. If we want to know the truth that sets us _____, we must go to the Word of God found in the New Testament.

Our reading comes from Jesus' lips in the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 7:24-27.

Those are Words of Jesus, Words to be listened to.

Because God speaks through His Son, we need to recognize the Lord Jesus as the _____ and _____ authority in religious matters. He has more authority than anyone, any group, or any church. He is the Son of God. Paul said God "raised Him (that is, Jesus) from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly *places*, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all" (Ephesians 1:20-23). The church is _____ to Jesus, not to any man or any council.

Jesus said before He ascended into heaven, "All authority has been given to me in _____ and on _____" (Matthew 28:18). Jesus doesn't need a representative on earth, because He himself is the one and only _____ of His church on this earth. John the Baptist said of Jesus, "The Father loves the Son and has given _____ things into His hand. He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not _____ the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him" (John 3:35-36). There's no person in all the earth that's not _____ to Jesus Christ. Jesus is Lord of all, and we need to listen to Him very closely.

We shall be _____ one day by the Words of Jesus. Jesus said, “He who rejects Me and does not receive My sayings, has one who judges him; the word that I spoke is what will judge him at the last day. For I did not speak on My own initiative, but the Father Himself who sent Me has given Me a commandment as to what to say and what to speak” (John 12:48-49).

We’re not going to be judged by opinion _____, by the _____ of men, or by some denomination’s beliefs. We will be judged by the Words of Jesus found in the New Testament, so we truly _____ to know what the Bible says; don’t we?

Jesus, by the Holy Spirit, gave His _____ the Word that His Father had given to Him. In John 14:25-26, Jesus told the apostles, “These things I have spoken to you while abiding with you. But the Helper, that is the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you (that is, the apostles) all things, and bring to your remembrance (that is, you apostles) all that I said to you.” God determined that the Words that He had given Jesus would be _____ by the Spirit to the apostles for their time and for all time. The Words of Jesus were not merely for the first century, oh no; but for _____ century as long as this world stands! God “in these last days has spoken to us in His Son.” God is speaking to us in the _____!

Read what Jesus promised His apostles in John 16:12-15. The apostles knew the truth of God—the whole truth of God. They were the spokesmen for God in their own day and really for _____ time.

Jude, the brother of Jesus, wrote, “Beloved, while I was making every effort to write you about our common salvation, I felt the necessity to write to you appealing that you contend earnestly for the _____ which was once for all handed down to the saints” (Jude 3). Jude, who wrote sometime between 65 and 80 AD, was already speaking of “the faith,” that is, that body of doctrine, which was “once for all time” handed down to the saints. What the Word said in the first century, it also says and _____ today in the 21st century. Jude wanted Christians not only to believe that faith but also to “contend” for it, to _____ it and to keep handing it down.

Paul told Timothy, his true son in the faith, “The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, you entrust these to faithful men who will be able to _____ others also” (2 Timothy 2:2). Paul wanted the truth to be passed down from generation to generation. This is why Paul said, “There is one body and one Spirit, just as also you were also called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all” (Ephesians 4:4-6). There is indeed just one _____, and we are to contend for it. When people get away from the one faith, they abandon the revealed will of God.

The writers of the New Testament _____ with the authority of God. In 1 Corinthians 2:12-13, Paul said, “Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the things freely given to us by God, which things we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, combining spiritual thoughts with spiritual words.” Paul said what he taught didn’t come from _____ but from the Holy Spirit. God was _____ his teachings and his writings. That’s why we can say whatever Paul said, we can also say God said it, because both statements are true. God moved Paul to say the things he

_____.

Later in his epistle, Paul deals with women speaking out in the church. **Read what Paul said in 1 Corinthians 14:34-38.** Paul would not be ignored; he had spoken the _____ commandment.

On another occasion, Paul defends himself by explaining where he got his gospel. Paul said, “For I would have you know, brethren, that the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man. For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but I received it through a revelation of Jesus Christ” (Galatians 1:11-12). It was because of this that he could be so _____ about his gospel—that his gospel was true and right! It was actually the gospel of _____! In fact, the apostle Paul warns everyone to stay with his gospel and not _____ it. Anyone who changes his gospel risks _____ his soul and the souls of those he teaches.

Read Galatians 1:6-10. God’s written Word is _____ and unchangeable. When you get away from the Bible, you also _____ God! Paul spoke well of the Thessalonians because of their faith and obedience. He said, “For this reason we also constantly thank God that when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but for what it really is, the word of God, which also performs its work in you who believe” (1 Thessalonians 2:13). God’s Word can work in our lives, when we are willing to _____ to it and _____ it to our lives. Unless we humbly _____ God’s message, we cannot receive its blessings.

God said, “So then, brethren, stand firm and hold to the traditions which you were taught, whether by word of mouth or by letter from us” (2 Thessalonians 2:15). God has always _____ his people to stay with what they have learned from Jesus and his apostles, not moving from those things or getting involved in human traditions or human ideas. There truly is but one gospel, so please, please hold to it!

With so many _____, so many denominations, so many non-denominational community churches saying so many different things, do they all speak for God when they contradict each other? When they contradict themselves and argue with each other, are they really from God?

The Lord Jesus Himself distinguishes people, and here’s how He does it. He does it by how they _____ and _____ His Word. He said to the Jews, “If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you _____” (John 8:31-32). To continue in Jesus’ Word means to _____, abide, or stay there. Jesus said “_____” disciples do that. Some people say that they’re disciples, but they go _____ to other sources of information. Some believe they hear from God _____; some trust in their _____; some merely look to whatever is _____ and “happening.” The unfortunate thing is that when they get away from the Word, they _____ God, too.

Read what the Lord Jesus said in Matthew 7:21-23. It’s not speaking religious language or doing religious things that make us _____ with God, no! A true Christian is one who _____ and one who _____ the will of the Father who is in heaven.

These people talked and acted like good, religious people, but Jesus rejected them because they did not _____ what God wanted and commanded. They stepped outside the will of God; and

they were _____. They did what they wanted to do; they did what they thought was _____. God was not subject to the cultural whims of anyone, and He's not subject to the cultural whims of people _____. A thousand people can say something different than what God says, but what God says is _____, and they will find themselves building their house upon sand if they make up stuff, and change or try to change the will of God. God hasn't changed, and you can't change Him.

If the "true" disciples remain in the Word, how do you _____ the church that you attend? Let me ask you, does your church _____ with the Bible or does it _____ from the Bible? There are an awful lot of _____ this day and time that tell an awful lot of stories and do all kinds of things, and maybe throw in one verse at the end. Let me tell you, if you've got a preacher like that, he's not a preacher! There are a lot of churches today that have preachers that will not preach against _____. Let me tell you something, if you've got a preacher like that, he's not a preacher of the _____, because the gospel speaks about sin and the answer to sin. You and I, one of these days are going to be _____ by the Words of Jesus, not by how we feel about things. The only _____ we have is the Word, the written Word of God, found in this book, the Bible. So let's stay with what we know to be _____ and _____. We have no _____, no blessing when we substitute our own ways for the Word of God. We truly become "lawless" because we aren't listening to God but to our own _____. The very best thing we can do is to _____ God's Word every single day and see whether or not the things we're hearing are so. Don't be fooled by religious people who are not giving you God's Word, but their own _____. Stay with the Bible, and stay with God!

The Bible taught in the first century some things we too need to _____. Hebrews 2:1-3 says, "For this reason we must pay much _____ attention to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away from it. For if the word spoken through angels proved unalterable, and every transgression and disobedience received a just penalty, how will we escape if we neglect so great a salvation?" It's very easy for us to become neglectful and _____ away from the things we have heard from the Scriptures. That's where the truth is! Not in our feelings, not in what makes us happy, not in some council or creed or human tradition. Go to the Word for the Truth!

Feelings can deceive and men can be _____, but God's Word has stood _____ for centuries. It says today what it said from the beginning. You can _____ it. Why not trust it and become a Christian? You do that by trusting and loving the Lord; by turning away from sin in _____; by confessing your _____ in Jesus as the Son of God before all; and by being _____ into Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. When you're baptized in water, God will _____ away your sins; He'll add you to His _____. So keep studying and growing in the Word every day of your life. My friend, do you have a close, peaceful, loving relationship with God? The greatest need of our time is to know God and to draw close to Him again by listening and obeying His Word. Won't you do that?