

## Power, Moments and Perspective

This article is a little different. It is part of God's story and my life. I am going to share with you a few moments where I felt God powerfully speak to me through the Bible and how it gave me perspective.

It is only as an example. It is not important for you to know how God has spoken to me. It is important that you learn and process what God says to you!

When I think about how I have heard God through His word three areas come to mind. I know there are more but most fit into these three buckets. Maybe your experience is similar.

As we have been learning applying what God says to my life it where transformation happens. No pastor or teacher can answer much for you. A good pastor or teacher will point you to God who is the answer! He speaks through His word.

The first thing that comes to mind is Gods' word speaks to me and **CONVICTS** me. Often people act like conviction is a bad thing. The worst thing we could do is feel bad about who we are or what we have done. That is a fatal misunderstanding. We are not good or right or holy apart from Jesus. When my life is out of step with Jesus I should feel bad!

When conviction leads to repentance it is a good thing. Jesus leads me to see how I am walking away, invites me to repent and sets me right with my Father. These are painful but good moments.

I distinctly remember reading **Matthew 23** where Jesus tells the pharisees how badly they are missing God as they judge others, show their pride and ignore God even though they are the religious leaders.

It broke my heart! Every word felt like hammer hitting my soul because I was guilty of the same things. My arrogance and condescending attitude was no different than theirs. Hearing Jesus denounce them (and me) was crushing. God used His word to point out my sin and call me to repent. He powerfully gave me perspective.

How has God's word convicted you? Can you think of a passage that has brought you face to face with your sin?

---

---

---

---

Another powerful but more pleasant experience is when God brings you a **CALM** or peace. I am no different from any parent. I have worried about my daughters, been angry about their choices, prayed for them, worried about them and even questioned their decisions. It is just a part of being a dad.

During one particularly intense season, feeling discouraged and frustrated about what was happening and even being fearful about the future, God spoke to me, calming my heart. Ephesians 2:1-10 God reminded me He can and does save and He is rich in mercy.

He brought me indescribable peace. He is in control, nothing is out of His reach and I can rest, not in my strength but in His. He brought power and perspective.

How has God's word brought you peace? Can you think of a passage He has used to calm your heart?

---

---

---

---

I would mention one other area. God has often used His word to speak **CLARITY** to my future.

Are you like me? Would you like God to give you the game plan for the next few months or few years? Yeah, He doesn't usually do that! I am talking about clarity not like a step by step guide but clarity of perspective when it comes to the future.

I remember very distinctly a dream I had about the future. I knew this dream was not like other dreams. I can't explain it other than to say I know it was from God. The very next day I was reading the Bible and I came to Zephaniah 3:1-5. The language matched my dream. It was a warning about lions and wolves who destroy. God's promise to me in the dream was that He would deal with the lions and wolves in my life. I should follow Him.

At the time I was working through leaving a career, going to school again and starting life as a pastor! He gave me clarity and perspective!

How has God brought you clarity? Can you think of a passage God has used to encourage or give you direction?

---

---

---

God speaks to us through His word! There are a couple of things to keep in mind:

- If you want to hear from God regularly you need to read His word regularly.
- When you read God's word ask a simple question, "God what are you telling me"?
- Most of the time a passage will cause you to 1) Worship/Praise God for who He is 2) Call you repent of sin 3) Encourage you to love/serve another 4) Remind you of a promise God has made.
- God expects you to respond to what He tells you! Don't wait, explain it away, or ignore it. Just like in any relationship if someone tells you something important, take it seriously!

I hope this is helpful. Be sure to share some of your experiences with your group this week!