

**Deeper**  
**“Deeper in God’s Word” – James 1:22-25**  
**January 27, 2013**

**Our Sermon Series**

<b>Deeper</b> <i>“Deep calls to deep” – Psalm 42:7</i>		
<b>Date</b>	<b>Message</b>	<b>Text</b>
Jan 13	Deeper in My Spiritual Life	1 Corinthians 2:10-3:3
Jan 20	Deeper in Victory Over Sin	Galatians 5:16-25
Jan 27	Deeper in God’s Word	James 1:22-25
Feb 3	Deeper in Prayer	Acts 8:26-40
Feb 10	Deeper in Relationships	1 Corinthians 13
Feb 17	Deeper in Spiritual Gifts	Ephesians 4:7-16
Feb 24	Deeper in Serving Others	Luke 22:24-30
Mar 3	Deeper in Reaching the World	Matthew 28:18-20

**Deep Relationship**

- In order to have a deep relationship, a person must share and listen.
- In our relationship with God...
  - We share with God through prayer.
  - We listen to God through His Word – the Bible.

**How to Listen to God Through His Word**

**H – \_\_\_\_\_ of listening**

- In order for Lisa and I to have relationship...
- **Psalm 1:1-2** – *Blessed is the man... whose delight is in the law of the Lord, and on His law he meditates day and night.*
- **Joshua 1:8** – *Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.*
- **Psalm 119:148** – *My eyes stay open through the watches of the night, that I may meditate on Your promises.*
- **1 Timothy 4:13** (NLT) – *Until I get there, focus on the reading of the Scriptures....*
- **Romans 10:17** – *Faith comes from hearing the message.*

- DL Moody: “I prayed for faith and thought that someday faith would come down and strike me like lightning. But faith did not seem to come. One day I read in the tenth chapter of Romans, ‘Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.’ I had up to this time closed my Bible and prayed for faith. I now opened my Bible and began to study, and faith has been growing ever since.”
- **Application #1** – Three excellent habits of listening to God through His Word:
  - A daily time of reading the Bible
    - Bible reading plan (found in SOAP Journal)
    - YouVersion App on iPhone
  - A weekly time of hearing God’s Word taught in church
  - A regular time of meeting with a small group to study the Bible together
    - GroupLink today at 12:30 in Vista
    - Alpha starts Tuesday, January 29, at 6:30pm in Vista
- Jim’s SOAP journaling from January 15, 2013

Read: Matthew 10:24-11:6

**S** – *Matthew 10:31 – So don’t be afraid; you are more valuable to God than a whole flock of sparrows.*

**O** – *Jesus was assuring His disciples of God’s care for them as He sent them out on a mission trip as sheep among wolves. If God cares about the sparrows to the extent that not one falls to the ground without Him monitoring it, then how much more will He care for me! Note that sparrows actually DO fall to the ground. God is not promising no harm will come to me. He is promising that we are under ultimate love and ultimate care. God is working for my long-term (billion year) good.*

**A** – *Trust God with my life, family, ministry, and present circumstances.*

**P** – *Lord, I trust You with my life and my family and my ministry and everything that is going on right now....*

- Video: “Wycliffe, Kimyal People Receive Bible” [5:48] at YouTube

## E – \_\_\_\_\_

- In Jewish culture, to “listen” meant more than just to intellectually understand someone else’s words – it meant to actually act on those words.
- **Matthew 7:24-27** – *Therefore everyone who hears these words of Mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. 25 The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. 26 But everyone who hears these words of Mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. 27 The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash.*
- **James 1:22-25**
- **James 1:21-22** (The Message) – *In simple humility, let our gardener, God, landscape you with the Word, making a salvation-garden of your life. Don’t fool yourself into thinking that you are a listener when you are anything but, letting the Word go in one ear and out the other. Act on what you hear!*
- **James 1:22-25** (NLT) – *And remember, it is a message to obey, not just to listen to. If you don’t obey, you are only fooling yourself. For if you just listen and don’t obey, it is like looking at your face in a mirror but doing nothing to improve your appearance. You see yourself, walk away, and forget what you look like. But if you keep looking steadily into God’s perfect law – the law that sets you free – and if you do what it says and don’t forget what you heard, then God will bless you for doing it.*
- Howard Hendricks: “The church today suffers from a severe deficiency of Vitamin A (application).”
- **Application #2** – Is there anything that I have already heard from God that I have not put into practice yet?
  - Go tell so-n-so that you are sorry (Matthew 5:23-24)
  - Forgive so-n-so (Ephesians 4:31-32)
  - Other

## A – \_\_\_\_\_ view

- The Bible is best understood when you step back and see the big picture of the entire Bible.
- Video: “Bible in a Minute” [0:53] by Barats and Bereta (YouTube) [FYI: these guys are not Mormon]
- Jim’s presentation of “Two Trees”
- **Application #3** – Today, I choose to start reading the Bible out of the tree of life (versus the tree of knowledge of good and evil).

## R – \_\_\_\_\_ to God

- Reach out to God in the midst of your doubts and pain
- Philip Yancey: “Doubt always coexists with faith, for in the presence of certainty who would need faith at all?”
- Faith is not the absence of doubt, but rather believing in spite of doubts.
- Billy Graham’s story of doubting the Bible
- Video: “Billy: The Early Years Trailer” [1:44] found at YouTube
- **Application #4** – I choose to accept the Bible despite some of my unanswered questions.
- **Psalms 119:71** – *It was good for me to be afflicted so that I might learn Your decrees.*
- Five afflictions that have taught me God’s Word:
  - (1) College break-up (Matthew 6:33)
  - (2) Infertility (Romans 8:28)
  - (3) Marriage difficulties (Ephesians 5:25-27; Hosea)
  - (4) Church planting (Proverbs 3:5-6)
  - (5) Fall of a friend (1 Corinthians 5)
- **Application #5** – Lord, I choose to reach out to You and press in to You in the midst of my pain. With the psalmist I say, “It was good for me to be afflicted so that I might learn Your decrees.”
- **1 Thessalonians 5:18** – *Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.*

### Questions to Discuss with My Family, Friends, and Small Group

1. What habits of listening do you have in one of your significant human relationships?
2. Read James 1:22-25 aloud and discuss its meaning and applications using these notes. Share your applications with each other and pray for one another.