



LISTEN

Hebrews 1:1-3 |

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RELATED SCRIPTURES

John 8:31-32 | Matthew 7:24-27 | Luke 10:38-42 | Hebrews 4:12

SUMMARY

Scripture, Saint Paul tell us, is able to “make you wise for salvation” because it is “breathed out by God” who is the source of salvation. The term “God-breathed” can be a little confusing, Kent Hughes explains, “More literally, all Scripture is **breathed into** by God.”

Think of it like this: When you speak, your word is “you-breathed” – your breath, conditioned by your mind, pours forth in speech. You quite literally breathe out your words. In fact, this belief that Scripture was “breathed into by God” perfectly expresses the view of the first-century Jews about the Old Testament writings. **Now the question becomes: *What do we do with these words that have been breathed into by God?***

First we must listen to them. Listening is more than simply perceiving and interpreting sound waves with our rather incredible auditory faculties. Listening is receiving. Encountering and contemplating. Tasting and savoring.

As we heard in the sermon, God speaks in lots of ways: CREATION (we look around and surmise that there is a God), CONSCIENCE (we look within and feel a moral compass); but more fully in CHRIST (Hebrews 1:1-3). Listening to what God says in Christ does 3 things:

- (1) **It sets us free** (John 8:31-32)
- (2) **It creates a firm foundation for life** (Matthew 7:24-27)
- (3) **It creates a life of peace** (Luke 10:38-42)

The Apostle Paul puts a finer point on how to receive these divine words and their eternal value: learn from, be corrected by, and receive from them training in **how to live according to our created design**. Knowing God’s word is one thing, but Revelation tells us that we have to “have an ear to hear what the Spirit says...the words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness.”

Theologian John Webster once wrote, “**We’re involved in a collision between the voice of God and our stubbornness and rejection of his ways.** In our easy-going ways as tolerant moderns, we tend not to see the Christian life in quite these terms...**the Church’s hearing is a gift of the Holy Spirit.** We are sinners; we do not know how to hear. Right hearing is not within the range of our competence. It’s given to us, given by the activity of God’s Spirit in which God opens the ears of the deaf, making it possible for us to become true hearers of God’s Word.”

GROUP QUESTIONS

- From the sermon, or your direct reading of Hebrews 1:1-3 (read aloud, sit with it), share something that surprises, encourages, or troubles you about how God speaks.
- 2 Timothy 3:10-17 describes how to live a godly life that is based on the gospel and makes right use of God's Word. What things was Timothy paying attention to and following in the Saint Paul's life? How does Paul describe Scripture?
- Hebrews 4:12 says that Scripture is living and active, it collides with us like a sword, *"piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart."* Have you collided with God's voice in His Word this week? How is God by His Spirit cutting through everything else to help you truly hear him?
- If there's one thing Jesus would want you to walk away believing and receiving as a result of these portions of Scripture, what is that thing?