



CONNECTING WITH GOD.

Have you ever felt your phone buzzing in your pocket, looked at who was calling, and promptly put said phone back in your pocket? It may not even be because you don't like that person - it could be you're simply too tired to have a conversation, or perhaps too busy. But the reality is, we all do it. We've all cut communications short, gotten distracted, or avoided people entirely.

God never does. Not only does He always *want* to talk to each and every one of us, He wants to hear from us too. He asks us to pray; He gives us prayers to pray; He says He can hear us at anytime, from anywhere. And He gives us His Word in the Bible - direct communication to get to know Him better, give guidance, provide strength. Even in a world where oral communication reigned supreme, the early Christian church had the foresight to write this Word down, so that we could learn and grow and connect with God for years and years to come.

IN THE BIBLE.

Ephesians 4:11-16

11 And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, 12 to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, 13 until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, 14 so that we may no

longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. 15 Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, 16 from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

John 20:30-31

30 Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; 31 but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

QUESTIONS.

- 1.) What are some reasons God gave us the Bible?
- 2.) Do you ever feel like you can't trust the Bible? Why or why not?
- 3.) What stops you from connecting with God? What are some dangers of not connecting with God/growing spiritually?
- 4.) What does it mean to you that God doesn't make us look for Him? That *He* seeks *us* out?

Whenever you read the Bible, ask yourself these three questions:

1. What does this tell you about God?
2. What does this tell you about yourself and the world?
3. How is this going to change who you are and how you live?

Challenge from Pastor Matt: Read the Bible for 10 minutes a day, talk with God for 5 minutes a day, (that's just 15 minutes a day!) and see what God does.