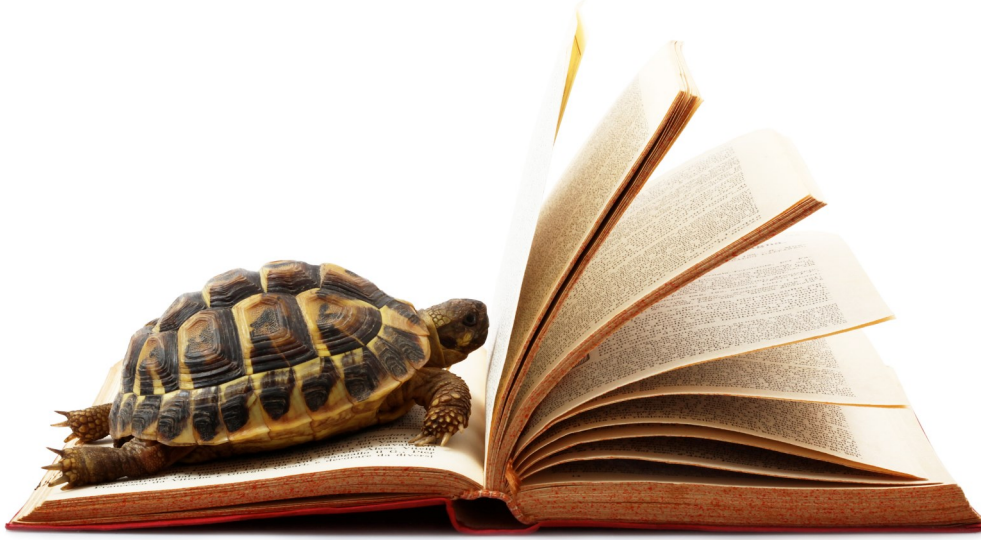


# Provisions

“until Christ is formed in you”



This is what the LORD says:  
“Stop at the crossroads  
and look around.  
Ask for the old, godly way,  
and walk in it.  
Travel its path, and you will  
find rest for your souls.”  
But you reply, “No, that’s not  
the road we want!”  
Jeremiah 6:16

## Slow Read; Deep Listen

a soul care resource from LifePoint Resources



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When we read those words from Jerimiah 6:16, if we are wise we will change our pace. We will slow down - stop and look around and ask questions - so that we are taking in the Word of God for more than the accumulation of data. We will read slowly and listen deeply so that we are no longer just casual observers or factfinders. A slow read, deep listen means experiencing the words from God so that we savor them and are nourished by them.

Savoring and nourishing cannot be done quickly.

It may help to be aware that there are two very different Greek words used to convey communication (words) from God. And this matters because ... if we are stuck on just one way of receiving his words, our relationship with God will be stunted.

First: LOGOS - spoken or written.

We find that in Matthew 7:24. “Therefore, everyone who hears these words of mine (the actual words I’m speaking) and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock.”

Also: RHEMA – a word applied with specific meaning to a person

That’s what we find in John 6:63. “The words I have spoken to you (hearing the Scriptures and the voice of the Spirit in a personal way) —they are full of the Spirit and life.”

The LOGOS is foundational to our faith. We must know what God has said about Himself, the world, us, and the relationship between us. But our love relationship with God will only grow as we experience the RHEMA, as we mature by responding to the unique insights and invitations He crafts for us.

It is vital to slow down and listen deeply for the personal word from God. Savor the promises found in John 15 where both Greek words are used close together. “You are clean because of the word [logos] I have spoken to you.” (John 15:3) and “If you remain in me and my words [rhema] remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.” (John 15:7).

# The Practice of Slow Read, Deep Listen

If we are truly hearing from God, we can be confident that the rhema we receive will never contradict the logos that has been set forth in His inerrant Word. And we can be confident that His words are coming to us in very personal ways to draw us near and to transform us.

From the time sin disrupted relationship in Eden, God has always sought out His children asking the loving question, “Where are you?”

God continues to seek out His children asking, “Where are you?” and invites us to come closer into a deeper relationship with Him. When we encounter words from God, we, just like Moses at the burning bush, have an invitation to turn aside, come near, be curious, and bow down to receive personalized words from our God.

The practice of Slow Read, Deep Listen offers us the chance to know the logos of God and to experience the rhema of God to enrich our relationship with Jesus, the Living Word.

The purpose of spiritual practices is to make space for the Holy Spirit to do transforming work so that Christ may be formed in us. The point is an ever-increasing union with God—loving God for God’s sake—overflowing the banks of our hearts for the sake of the world. We hope that these quotes, prayers, ideas, and resources will help you practice the way of Jesus.

## Steps of Slow Read, Deep Listen

- 1– Big Picture: read the whole passage slowly and thoughtfully
- 2– Little Details: read again; listen for a word or phrase that stands out
- 3– Come Closer/Be Curious: read again; explore the passage with many questions; notice your feelings
- 4– Personal Invitation: read again; listen for God’s answers and respond to specific invitations from Him related to what you have heard

For the word [logos] of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. Hebrews 4:12

... the word [rhema] of the Lord remains forever. And this word [rhema] is the good news that was preached to you. I Peter 1:25

This God—his way is perfect; the word of the LORD proves true; he is a shield for all those who take refuge in Him. Psalm 18:30

Note: a slow read, deep listen takes time. Start by sitting in silence for at least a full minute so that you can unplug from everything that is pulling at you. If you are doing this with other people, you might find it helpful to take turns being the reader so that you have a chance to just listen to the sounds of words from God. Consider each step individually and then share your insights and thoughts.

Recommended Resource: Sacred Rhythms by Ruth Haley Barton