



# THE PASTOR'S VOICE

## Encouraging A Christian Worldview

The Pastor's Voice Podcast Season 2: Episode 5

Transcript: Overcoming the Noise

**Reuel Sample:** How do you how do you deal with people who are so reluctant to open up their scriptures?

**Terry Nightingale:** Yeah, I mean, maybe they've had, you know, maybe part of their history is that, you know, they haven't had a good experience of hearing the word of God preach well. Or maybe, yeah, maybe they've struggled with the translation of their Bible. I'm going to be careful here because I don't want to upset anybody. But you know, some translations can be unhelpful. So I would encourage people today to get a good, modern English translation just simply so that there's there's access to greater access to understanding, you know what, what the stories are saying and what the words mean. Personally, I use an NIV and an ESV when I read the Bible, and I find that they are very clear in what those stories are saying. I mean, one of the reasons why I wrote the why I do the blogs and I wrote that book *Bite-Size Devotions* was to help people who are struggling and understand that. I mean, I did a series at my church last year. I think it was called *A Quiet Place*, just encouraging people to find a place, find it a time of the day when it's just them and God where they can be alone and God. And we looked at, you know, ways of engaging with God through the scriptures as one of the one person that really inspired me in terms of allowing the good, the word of God to help us in our prayers.

**Terry Nightingale:** So to have a devotion that's, you know, communicating with God. A writer that really helped me was Tim Keller, Timothy Keller. Oh yeah. He's written some

amazing stuff on engaging with the word of God and allowing that to fuel your prayers. I found him very helpful. And so I used a little bit of his material when I was teaching on this last year and particularly, you know, looking at the Psalms, he's he and his wife, I think together wrote a book on the Psalms and very helpful, you know, particularly, you know, look, just looking a little bit at the historical context of the Psalm, understanding why it was written and what was being expressed at the time. And then, you know, beginning to use some of those words as my own prayers to God. In fact, I did that with my congregation. Recently, I chose a Psalm and said, we're going to use this for our own prayers this morning. And some of it we allowed the words to inspire our own words of prayer and some of it we just read as prayers to the Lord. You know, and I think that's I find that really helpful in developing my own personal devotion.

**Terry Nightingale:** Life is to actually see the Bible as a connection to God. You know, he gives us words to help us pray, and it gives us words to feed our souls. So I would say for, you know, for somebody perhaps who's struggling, you know, maybe go through the Psalms. And if you have a Christian bookshop or something near you, you know, sometimes there can be some really helpful devotional material going through the Psalms or another one I suggest is going through a book like Mark. So one of the Gospels Mark is kind of written as a sort of an ordinary bloke wrote it kind of thing, you know, not an academic, but a, you know, just just an ordinary guy, if you like. I like to think of Mark as a bit like that. And so it's kind of plain language, you know, and there's a lot of exciting stories in the Book of Mark and just to take a little chunk each day. And what I suggest to people is, you know, read it and then read it slowly. I actually find reading a Bible story out loud. I find that I see things in there that I haven't seen before. If I've just read it in my head. I was

**Reuel Sample:** Reading. I have suggested that to people, and at times I've done that myself just to kind of get back to what this is all about. And it really does change how you read the scriptures.

**Terry Nightingale:** Yeah, definitely, definitely. And the great thing about going through a book slowly like that is that you then remember some things that you've read before and you start to put links between the stories and you think, Oh, yeah, I know, you know, I can see now why Mark put that story here, because it relates to something that happened back then. And you begin, you know, it's like the excitement of

reading a novel, really. You know that you built up a Whole picture of a story rather than just little bits, you know.

**Reuel Sample:** And one of the things that you also said that that's sticking in my brain is encouraging people to find a time to be quiet. Yeah. We live in, we live in a world where we are surrounded by noise and we're surrounded by cacophony. And it's just it's not just audio is that. We've got a cacophony of of visual stuff. You wake up in the morning and the first thing we do is check the cell phone and then we go check the computer. And there's just so many things that will take up our time. And what you're saying is that one of the disciplines that we can get into is finding time to be quiet.

**Terry Nightingale:** Yeah, yeah. I think that's really, really important. That's right. And so I mean, we have to find our own kind of rhythms, really, don't we? And how we've got to recognize how God's made us individually. So for me, I'm an early I'm an early morning person, so I tend to get up around 5:00. That's just the way my body works. And so for me to to have it some time with the Lord fairly early in the morning is is quite natural. And I'm kind of happy to be made that way because it means I can really pray about everything at the beginning of the day before it happens. If you are. Now some people, I was talking with one of the young guys at my church over the weekend and you were saying that, you know, he's more of a late night sort of person, you know, so he reads his Bible late at night, you know, and so he's he's recognizing how God made him. And for him, that's his quiet time. You know, when, when it's dark and the house is quiet and you know, he can he can get into the scriptures then. So for others, it may be that, you know, family life and work life make it difficult at either end of the day. So for some people, it may be that their work allows them to have maybe an hour in the middle of the day where they can take off to a park or something, or find a quiet space and do it then. But I think it's I think number one, we have to we have to make a a an intentional decision that says this is important.

**Terry Nightingale:** I need to find a time and place every day to do this because it's important. And so then you work at you, look at your day and you look at your responsibilities and you say, right, well, what's the best, best time to do this? And the other thing somebody said to me was was, you know, the scriptures encourage us to give, don't they? You know, I mean, I don't want to get into the principle of tithing necessarily on your podcast, but you know, you know, the scriptures talk about tithing

giving of what we have first to God. Now, I think he wants us to give of our time to him to in terms of being with him, in prayer and in his work. And so if we if we take a step back and look at a typical day and say, right, what do I give to God first in my day? Because I think probably most of us, if we're honest, the day dictates us rather than us dictating our day. And I think it's a good exercise to just step back and say, OK, yeah, I have a responsible job, I have a family, I have this and I have all these things I need to do. But actually, the Bible tells me that God comes first. So how do I put God first in a typical day? Where do I need to spend? Where do I block out time so that I'm spending time with him? It's good. Good thing to do.

**Reuel Sample:** And I agree with you. I thoroughly agree to you. You probably heard and most people have is the whole hierarchy of things God, first, family second and others third. I I think we need to take out the next two things and just say God is first, and everything else after that will fall in line. And then sometimes you've got to put family first, sometimes you've got to put others first. But if we're focusing on God first and foremost, the first and last, then everything else will fall in line, including getting into a habit of a daily devotion, a daily, a daily time with God.

**Terry Nightingale:** Yeah. May I tell you a story years ago when I was working in a Christian school and I think I'd become head of head of the science department or something. Anyway, my my work life had accelerated and I was putting a lot of hours into the job and we just had our first child come along as. Just been born and we were busy at church and I realized that I was just doing too much. And I also realized that a lot of my time was being taken up with my new responsibilities at my word. And I came to a point where I thought that things are upside down here. This is not right. You know, I'm giving so much time to work and therefore less time to this and less time to that. And I realized that my priorities weren't right. They were, you know, there were things that weren't in the right place. And so I came to a point prayerfully where I made the decision. I am going to spend X number of hours at my place of work every day, and then I'm going to give this amount of time to this, this amount of time to that and, you know, obviously time with God as well.

**Terry Nightingale:** But I decided that I would, by faith, restrict the number of hours that were right to give to my children. I needed to give time to my family and to God as well. So I said, right, I'm going to give X number of hours to my job, and that's it. I'm going to

do that by faith. And so I made that decision. And you know, what happened was I kept to that and I found that everything I needed to do, I was able to do within that time frame. Yeah. Now I'm not saying that will work for everybody, but that was something that was I had to make a decision that I wasn't going to allow work to rule me. I had to make a decision that I was going to. I was going to list my priorities according to how how I felt, you know, it was right before God. And so I said, No, I'm going to give that amount of time to work and got on with that. And I got everything done. Every day I was able to come home and then spend time with my, my wife and my new son, and that was great.

**Reuel Sample:** It really comes back to that whole issue of tithing. And if you look at tithing, you're right. It's not just about money, it's about everything and recognizing that everything that we have is a gift of God. And the whole idea of tithing is making God a priority in those gifts, including the gift of time. And so if we make God a priority, he will reward that one way or another. I'm not, as you're right, you you might not be as as productive as you were, but you might be. But yeah, what God wants is, as C.S. Lewis, another science fiction Christian author, once said, is that God always reward you with more than what you intended. I wanted to give you some time to share with the people of God a message today, whether it is your latest four minute devotion or something that has come to your mind as our discussion has gone on tonight. What is your word for the people of God today?

**Terry Nightingale:** Well, I shared a devotion recently on another podcast and it was about Timothy. You know, Paul's help her and something really struck me about Timothy that, you know, he was, he was. And he's kind of an unimpressive guy, if you like with with normal problems, you know, Paul writes to him, encouraging him to take a little wine for his stomach because of the sort of stomach upsets he has. And and there's a kind of hint in there that maybe he suffered a bit from anxiety, you know, that kind of thing. And when Paul writes to the Corinthians, he writes and says something like, Make sure that Timothy, I'm sending Timothy to you soon, he writes. Make sure he has nothing to fear. You know, and I think, wow, you know, imagine. Imagine sending somebody to another church, you know, and you're just writing a letter of recommendation for that person and saying, you know, when he visits, you just make sure he's not scared of you, you know, so that's kind of. But you know, what does that say, you know, trying to read between the lines of that statement? And, you know, it

sounds to me like Timothy was a guy that was, you know, a bit nervy, you know, got a bit scared, sometimes maybe suffer from anxiety.

**Terry Nightingale:** And yet, you know, he was Paul's closest work. Paul speaks highly of him. And you know, one of the things that he says about Timothy is, well, he says two things about him that really struck me. One was, he describes Timothy as faithful. So even though you know, he's he's not a superstar, even though he might struggle with some anxiety or or some fear issues. He's faithful. He doesn't give out, you know? But the other thing Paul describes him as is a man with the Holy Spirit, you know, and remember, there's that passage where he says in a famine fanning to flame the Holy Spirit that's in you through the laying on of my head and so support. Timothy was faithful, but he also had the Holy Spirit, and he had the encouragement to keep fanning into flame the life of the Holy Spirit inside of him. And I think why I find that encouraging is because I'm not a superstar like Timothy. I'm a bit fearful. Sometimes, you know, some some things scare me, but I know I can be faithful and I know I have the power of the Holy Spirit. So I find that encouraging.

**Reuel Sample:** What a wonderful word, because oftentimes Christians are are cowed by things. I can't. I can't do that. I'm afraid of getting out in front of people, or I'm just too nervous to do that. And God says, basically, yeah, I made you that way. Be faithful and I will use you the way that I want to use you. Yeah, yeah. And Timothy was a powerful, powerful voice in the early church.

**Terry Nightingale:** Yes. Yes, that's right. Yes, at the end of his life, actually, he was he became Bishop of Ephesus. And, you know, he died sharing the gospel.

**Reuel Sample:** Terry Nightingale, pastor in Australia, he is the host of four minute Devotion podcast, which can be found on all the major podcast hosts Apple Podcasts, Spotify and others. He is also the author of Looking Back to Move Forward and Bite-Size Devotions for the Busy Christian. He is also revamping a new science fiction book coming out next year.

**Terry Nightingale:** Ton't know. Don't know. Still working on it.

**Reuel Sample:** So and from all of our conversations, he has the heart of a pastor. So, Terry, thank you very, very much for being here on the pastor's voice.

**Terry Nightingale:** My pleasure. Thanks for having me.