

Hearing the Word of God

Introduction

Luke 8:18 "Therefore **take heed how you hear**. For whoever has, to him more will be given; and whoever does not have, even what he seems to have will be taken from him."

1. Hearing the word of God has always been a very important matter.

Joshua 3:9 So Joshua said to the children of Israel, "Come here, and **hear the words of the LORD** your God."

Luke 6:46 "But why do you call Me 'Lord, Lord,' and **do not do the things which I say?**"

2. However, some might question the fact that God has spoken, so let's begin at this point.

God Has Spoken and Does Speak Today

1. He spoke to the fathers and the prophets long ago and speaks through his Son Jesus to us today.

Hebrews 1:1-2 God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days **spoken to us by His Son**, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds;

2. Jesus clearly said: **John 12:48-50**

3. God has spoken, telling us to listen to His Son.

Matthew 17:5 While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them; and suddenly a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. **Hear Him!**"

4. When we REJECT His Son, we reject God!

Luke 10:16 "He who hears you hears Me, he who rejects you rejects Me, and he who rejects Me rejects Him who sent Me."

5. Jesus spoke through the apostles.

John 17:8 "For I have given to them the words **which You have given Me**; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came forth from You; and they have believed that You sent Me.

A. The Holy Spirit guided the apostles in what to say.

John 16:12-13 "I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. "However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but **whatever He hears He will speak**; and He will tell you things to come.

B. Then the apostles committed those things to us.

2 Timothy 2:2 And the things that you have **heard from me** among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.

God Has Spoken So That We Will Hear

1. Paul's ministry was to the end that we might hear and know about Jesus.

Ephesians 3:2-5 if indeed you have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which was given to me for you, how that by revelation He made known to me the mystery (as I have briefly written already, by which, **when you read**, you may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ), which in other ages was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to His holy apostles and prophets:

Some Contend That the Sinner Can't Hear

1. It is not that the sinner can't hear but in many cases WON'T hear!

A. God's Word is plain in its teaching that all can hear and understand the gospel of Christ.

Romans 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.

Mark 16:15 And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.

2. Those that contend that they can't hear simply contradict the Word of God.

Matthew 18:1-3 At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Who then is greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" Then Jesus called a little child to Him, set him in the midst of them, and said, "Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and **become as little children**, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.

A. Even the little children can understand.

3. There are those that say they have direct operation of the Holy Spirit and that is how they know what they should do.

A. This would then make God responsible for the lost.

B. There would then be no need to preach the gospel if a select few will get what they need by the Holy Spirit anyway!

C. We do not read of any conversions where the Word had not first been preached to them.

So Why Is it That Some Don't Hear?

1. Possibly because of ignorance.

Romans 10:1-3 Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved. For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have **not submitted to the righteousness of God.**

2. Some simply have a lack of interest.

Matthew 22:1-5 And Jesus answered and spoke to them again by parables and said: "The kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who arranged a marriage for his son, "and sent out his servants to call those who were invited to the wedding; and they were not willing to come. "Again, he sent out other servants, saying, 'Tell those who are invited, "See, I have prepared my dinner; my oxen and fatted cattle are killed, and all things are ready. Come to the wedding.'" "But they made light of it and went their ways, one to his own farm, another to his business."

3. Religious prejudice also closes many ears. People do not listen to anything that contradicts their set theory - even when its clearly stated.

A. One note here: This prejudice is not always confined to denominationalism. The Lord's church has split because of religious prejudice!

Motives That Induce Us to Hear

1. Curiosity.

Acts 17:19-21 And they took him and brought him to the Areopagus, saying, "May we know what this new doctrine is of which you speak? "For you are bringing some strange things to our ears. Therefore we want to know what these things mean." For all the Athenians and the foreigners who were there spent their time in **nothing else but either to tell or to hear some new thing.**

2. A desire for gain or business expediency.

Acts 24:24-27 And after some days, when Felix came with his wife Drusilla, who was Jewish, he sent for Paul and heard him concerning the faith in Christ. Now as he reasoned about righteousness, self-control, and the judgment to come, Felix was afraid and answered, "Go away for now; when I have a convenient time I will call for you." Meanwhile he also hoped that money would be given him by Paul, that he might release him. Therefore he sent for him more often and conversed with him. But after two years Porcius Festus succeeded Felix; and Felix, wanting to do the Jews a favor, left Paul bound.

3. A genuine love of the truth.

Acts 8:29-31 Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go near and overtake this chariot." So Philip ran to him, and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah, and said, "Do you understand what you are reading?" And he said, "How can I, **unless someone guides me?**" And he asked Philip to come up and sit with him.

How Should We Hear God's Word?

1. To make sure it is "THE" Truth.

1 John 4:1 Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but **test the spirits**, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world.

Matthew 7:15 "**Beware of false prophets**, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves.

2. With an "OPEN" heart and frequently!

Acts 17:11 These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and **searched the Scriptures daily** to find out whether these things were so.

Psalms 1:1-2 Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful; But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and in His law **he meditates day and night**.

3. With reverence, understanding that the Bible should be heard with great respect because it is God's instructions to us.

1Thessalonians 2:13 For this reason we also thank God without ceasing, because when **you received the word of God which you heard from us**, you welcomed it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which also effectively works in you who believe.

Results of Hearing the Word Correctly

1. We learn of God.

John 17:1-3 Jesus spoke these words, lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said: "Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You, "as You have given Him authority over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as You have given Him. "And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.

2. It increases our faith.

Romans 10:17 So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

John 20:30-31 And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.

3. Hearing arouses the guilty conscience.

A. Some will respond and obey.

Acts 2:37 Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?"

B. Some will respond and rebel.

Acts 7:51-54

4. Hearing God's Word and acting properly brings happiness, blessings, makes one fruitful, faithful, and prosperous.

5. How have you responded to the hearing of God's Word in your life?

Date

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