**Our Spiritual Senses (Part 1)**

**Our Sense of Spiritual Hearing**

**Physical Aspects of Hearing Related to Spiritual**

* **Just as a baby knows his mother’s and father’s voice, so do we know our father’s (John 10).**
* **Just as there are physical sounds so high we cannot hear, so it is with the spiritual. We have to have ears that can hear that high, just as his thoughts are not our thoughts, so is our spiritual hearing not the same.**

**Tools for Hearing Spiritually**



* By softening our heart, we hear the voice of God

“To day **if ye will hear** his voice, **harden not** your hearts.” (Heb. 4:7)

The Lord says **we will hear** his voice if we do this. It is not a wished for possibility. We can hear it **TODAY** as he says. The more we harden our hearts, the less we hear him. We must soften our hearts every day or risk hardening and not hearing the Lord very well.

**?** How can we go about softening our hearts?

* Crying out to God causes him to hear us and we then hear from him

And when we **cried** **unto** **the** **LORD**, he heard our voice Numbers 20:16

And when we **cried** **unto** **the** **LORD** God of our fathers, the LORD heard our voice (Deut 26:7)

I **cried** **unto** **the** **LORD** with my voice, and he heard me out of his holy hill. Selah. (Psalm 3:4)

* “hearing *comes* by the word of God”

“So then faith *cometh* by hearing, and **hearing by the word of God.”**

**“**When thou goest, it shall lead thee; when thou sleepest, it shall keep thee; and *when* thou awakest, **it shall talk with thee**. For the commandment *is* a lamp; and the law *is* light; and reproofs of instruction *are* the way of life:” **(Rom. 10:17) and Proverbs 6:22-23**

The Lord specifically gives his words the power to speak to us in the same manner as he would talk to us. The word of God is also called his voice in many passages. (Read Deut 13:18; Deut. 15:5). Jesus says in John 6:63 that “the words that I speak unto you, *they* are **spirit**, **and** *they* are **life**.”

**?** Are we hearing from the written words just as we are other means? Are we placing giving it just as much importance in our hearing?

* **By realizing we are sheep that need to hear their shepherd**

“**My sheep hear** **my voice**, and they know me, and follow me” John 10

Sheep don’t know which way to go. They have to hear their shepherd’s voice or will wander. But if we have the attitude that we know the way, our shepherd’s voice won’t be as necessary.

* We hear God through the church

**“He** **that** **hath** **an** **ear**, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches” (Rev. 2:7)

We are of God: **he that knoweth God heareth us**; he that is not of God heareth not us. Hereby know we the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error. (1 John 4:6)

This passage in Revelation is the most repeated verse in the New Testament. Jesus says it seven times in Revelation. The Lord speaks directly and specifically to the body of Christ as a whole and individually.

Johns says our brothers will hear us which also means we will hear our brothers and what God is saying through them. We must respect and listen to our brothers and sisters to hear what the Lord is speaking through them. We must listen to the spirit and the heart of what they say as well. We must not treat lightly listening to them speak, for God speaks through them, and that is a main way we hear the Lord.

**? How can we hear our brothers and sisters better**

* We hear through the “hearing of faith”

“This only would I learn of you, Received ye the Spirit by the works of the law, or by **the hearing of faith**?” (Gal. 3:2)

Faith itself helps us hear the Lord. There is a “hearing of faith” that only comes through faith so that **we can and will hear** the Lord speaking to us.

* Honesty with ourselves helps us hear

“But that on the good ground are they, which in an **honest** and good **heart**, having **heard** the word, **keep** *it*, and bring forth fruit with patience.” Luke 8:15

Being honest with the Lord increases our hearing. He sees our hearts and everything in them, so it is senseless to hide or avoid the issues of our hearts with him.

* **Meditation and prayer to hear the “still, small voice”**

“And after the earthquake a fire; *but* the LORD *was* not in the fire: and after the fire a **still** **small** **voice**.” (1 Kings 19:12)

In order to hear the “still small voice” of the Lord, we must be “still” and be “small” and that is no small matter.

* **Can you hear him knockin? (Not Mick Jagger, but Jesus)**

“Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if **any** **man** **hear** **my** **voice**, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.” (Rev. 3:20)

If we don’t hear the knock, we won’t open the door. If the TV’s too loud, we won’t hear the knock.

* **“Incline” our ears to hear the Lord Ps. 78:1**

(incline means to “lean towards, be drawn to, tend to an opinion”). We must make a purposeful effort to listen and to reach out to him.

* **Trusting to hear words and direction**

“And **thine ears shall hear a word** behind thee, saying, **This *is* the way**, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left.” (Isaiah 30:21)

The Lord gives us specific direction as to the right way to go. It may be just “a word” as Isaiah says.

* We hear through nature and creation

“The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork. Day unto day **uttereth speech**, and night unto night sheweth knowledge. *There is* no speech nor language, *where* **their voice** is not heard. Their line is gone out through all the earth, and **their words** to the end of the world. In them hath he set a tabernacle for the sun” (Psalm 19:1-4)

But ask now the beasts, and they shall teach thee; and the fowls of the air, and **they shall tell thee**: Job 12:7

We should be making concerted efforts to observe God’s creation and how it speaks to us about him.

**How do we know that we or others have heard his voice?**

**A Spiritual Hearing Test**

* **Are we following him and walking in the light?**

“and the sheep follow him: **for they know his voice**.” (John 10:4)

* **Is our faith increasing?**

“So then faith *cometh* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”(Rom. 10:7)

* **Are we trusting him more?**

“In whom ye also *trusted*, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation” Eph. 1:13

* **Are we avoiding and not heeding false teachers?**

“All that ever came before me are thieves and robbers: but the sheep did not hear them**”** (John 10:8)

* **Are we hearing and loving the brethren?**

“We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us” 1 John 4:6

* **Are we bringing forth fruit?**

And these are they which are sown on good ground; such as hear the word, and receive *it,* and bring forth fruit (Mark 4:20)

**Preventative Hearing Problems**

* **Unclog our ears. Get the wax of worldliness out.**
* **Take Heed to What and How we hear Mark 4:24 Luke 8:18**