

Hearing 2

Purpose of the Elders Discipleship Group: To Train and Equip Discipleship Group leaders to lead more effectively.

Key Theme: Hearing.

Key Truth: When we hear in the Spirit we increase in learning.

Read: Jesus teaches us that we are to come to Him and learn from Him. There is only One who can teach us the things we need to know, and this One is of the Spirit. Our learning comes through the ability to hear the words of the One of the Spirit through the Spirit.

Proverbs 1:5 A wise man will hear and increase in learning, and a man of understanding will acquire wise council.

There is a natural process of learning and then there is the spiritual process of learning. They are very different operating systems and do not produce the same life. To learn from the natural is to acquire your knowledge from the wisdom of man, known as demonic wisdom. To learn from the spiritual is to acquire your knowledge from the wisdom of God, known as the kingdom of Light.

How important is it that we hear the way Jesus instructs so we learn and grow? It is essential. As we looked at last week in John 6, failure to hear correctly leads disciples to walk away and follow Him no more. What a disastrous reality this is when Jesus teaches us to follow Him. If we can't hear and if we don't hear correctly, then we won't learn from Christ and be transformed.

It's only when we learn from Christ that we can walk in the manner in which Christ walked. The religious leaders made this comment about Jesus in John 7:15 "How has this man become learned, having never been educated?"

The Jews recognised that Jesus had knowledge even though He had not gone through the same educational system as they had. It was knowledge but not like their knowledge. His knowledge came with power and authority because He received His knowledge from the source we are all to receive our knowledge from, the Spirit.

This is why Jesus teaches us we must have an "ear to hear what the Spirit says to the churches"

Revelation 2:7 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, I will grant to eat of the tree of life which is in the Paradise of God.'

This is a spiritual ear and a spiritual hearing, because the Word of God is Spirit. Only when we are learning from the Spirit can we live out a life in the Spirit on earth. If we are not hearing, learning and living, then we are just existing and living the way we always have. This is not to be the case for disciples of Jesus.

Questions:

- 1. Why is spiritual hearing the key to learning in the Spirit?
- 2. How has your learning changed since you became a follower of Jesus because of the new learning operating system you live by?
- 3. Share with the group what you have learnt about the individual purposes of the 5 fold gifts that God gives to the church for her building?

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4. What have you learnt lately through hearing that is enabling and empowering you to live differently?

Action point: To not hear is to not learn and to not learn is to not live the way God intends us to as His church. What do you think you might need to put in place in your life so you are able to live like Christ did?