



Hearing 9

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

Key Theme: Hearing.

Key Truth: No understanding means no hearing!

John 8:43 *Why do you not understand what I am saying? It is because you cannot hear My word.*

If we can not hear the Word of God through the power of the Spirit, then we will have no understanding of what is being declared through the scriptures. At best we will come up with our own understanding of what is being declared and this is dangerous to ourselves and everyone around us who listens to what we say.

This is how important it is that we are able to hear the Word of God. Jesus clearly heard from His Father and articulated what He heard into the earth for all those who had, and have, ears to hear.

John 8:26 *I have many things to speak and to judge concerning you, but He who sent Me is true; and the things which I heard from Him, these I speak to the world."*

Jesus was the man from above and He spoke the words of His Father who also is from above. Those who are of the earth speak and hear words from the earth. Those of the earth don't understand the words that are spoken from above because they are spiritually appraised, and the natural man does not understand the things of the kingdom of God.

Ephesians 2:6 says we are to be raised up with Christ and seated in heavenly places. When this is our reality we start to hear, understand and see from this perspective. Trying to understand the things of God without being born of the Spirit, is literally like attempting to enter into your mother's womb again as an adult to be born again - impossible.

As we have already looked at in resource number 5, we don't hear to understand. It's only when we receive understanding in our hearts from the Spirit through hearing His living Word, that we can start to grasp and understand God's incredible Truth and demonstrate this authentic, real and tangible Christ like life, from the inside. We are no longer copying Christ, but we have become true imitators of Christ.

When we have unbelief in our hearts we can't expect to hear His Word, because the heart is the place of understanding. As soon as His Word is spoken, our minds get activated and this reveals the unbelief that is in our hearts, through the words we speak. Out of the heart the bible says a man speaks.

The mind can never be renewed to the mind of Christ when the heart doesn't believe and is full of unbelief. This is why the Jews in Hebrews 3-4 never entered into the rest God had promised them, because the Word that they heard they didn't believe. Even though they saw miracles for 40 years they had hardened their hearts to the Word God spoke to them, hence they had no understanding.

This is not to be us. We are to be able to hear and understand and see all that God has prepared for those who love Him, because all these promises are being revealed to us by the Spirit. How many of these promises can you speak of due to your ability to hear and understand what the Spirit is declaring? This is the evidence that we are hearing what is being declared.

Questions:

1. The bible says God doesn't despise a broken and contrite heart and that the sacrifices of God are a broken spirit. What role do you think this posture of heart plays in being able to hear the spiritual Word of God?



2. Being born of the Spirit is essential if we are to hear and understand God's spiritual Word. Describe your being born of the Spirit experience?
3. How difficult do you find it to hear the Word of God when it is being declared through your own reading or through someone preaching?
4. Why is having unbelief in one's heart so destructive to hearing the Word of God?
5. To not be hearing is to not be made aware of what exists in God for us for our preparation as His people. This can have us stilted in our spiritual growth and ultimately have us staying the same. What must one do who finds themselves in this state?

Action point: What is one thing you may need to put in place from going through this resource?