



we see Jesus
MINISTRIES

GIVE US THIS DAY OUR DAILY BREAD

Hello again my friends. I pray that this article will both bless and enlighten you as you pursue a deeper relationship with Jesus. This article is about how to practically hear God. I will address things that hinder hearing, bad outcomes that came from not hearing, and things that can help sharpen your ears. I hope you enjoy it.

The Father has a really deep desire to partner with man in His purposes. He never wanted there to be distance between Him and us like the Israelites requested in the old testament, but wanted to speak clearly to everyone. Not just Moses or your pastor. My point in saying that is not for you to lose respect or devalue your leaders, but to provoke you to desire to get revelation from God in your alone time. In fact, God so deeply wants to partner with humanity, that the first miracle Jesus ever performed in the New Testament wasn't even done by His hands. He commanded servants to do something. They obeyed what He said, and a miracle happened. This is ministry: we hear God and we obey His voice. The miraculous happens by our hand but through His power, and like at the end of the wedding, Jesus gets all the credit.

There is a very serious issue in the church today. I see it in much of the churches I visit as an itinerate minister. This issue is the one issue that can make or break you. People don't know how to hear God's voice. God says in His word that, *"My people perish because they lack understanding."* This is not talking about just practical wisdom but hearing the Father's voice. Jesus even quoted the scriptures saying, *"Man shall not live on bread alone, but every word that*

proceedeth from the mouth of God.” David in Psalms 119:72 said, “the law of Thy mouth is better unto me than thousands of gold and silver.” David compared God’s voice to currency, thus we can conclude that the most valuable thing in all of existence is the word of God. This is true because it is His word that created everything, His word that keep all things together, and His word that release power for miracles and for us to be sustained physically, spiritually, mentally, and emotionally. Also according to Psalms 85:8, God’s words keep us from returning to past folly or bondage.

There are many factors that can seriously dull your spiritual senses. However, in this article, I will address four that I have seen to be major issues in my own life in the past, as well as in others I’ve seen more recently. The first that we will discuss is very straight to the point. This one is “pride”. Pride is a heart saying, “How I am is fine... the way I’m doing it is right...” and etc. With such an arrogant mind set it is very hard to hear God. Especially when His voice is coming through another person. God will often bring the answer you need in a package that offends you to see how much you really want the answer. An arrogant person will shove away what could be God’s provision through a person because they get offended easily. Even in 1st Peter 5:5 it says, *“God resists the proud, but giveth grace to the humble.”*

The second is also very straightforward. This one is “ingratitude”. This seems so small but its effects can be devastating. The Israelites wandered the desert for forty years partially because of this. One thing God cannot stand is ungrateful murmurings. They were supplied

generously every day with bread from heaven and water. All of their needs were fully taken care of. Yet because they complained, they missed out on their promise. Their murmurings came close to costing them their lives. It took Moses pleading with God to change His mind and prevent Him from destroying them. God doesn't seem to be a fan of ingratitude. Ingratitude naturally pushes you away from God, thus making it difficult to hear Him.

This one usually pertains to older people but it can still be an issue for younger believers. This one is known as "disappointment". Disappointment often occurs when someone thinks they heard from God, but it was actually their soul or the devil speaking to them and they didn't have the maturity yet to know the difference. So they think God is going to do something that He never even said to them and when it doesn't happen, they become frustrated with Him. This causes trust to break down and they start to make notions in their head about God that isn't true such as, "God only wants to heal certain people and not everyone... God only provides for others but not for me... God chooses certain people to love over others..." and etc. This issue is why the disciples were so devastated when Jesus died. They had bad theology and thought He was going to take over Rome. They didn't understand his mission at that moment. Another example is when Jesus was walking on the Emmaus road after He rose from the dead. He walked with total strangers for hours and asked them who this Jesus is. They asked, "Where have you been pal? Don't you know what's been going on here?" (Roughly translated) They went on to say how amazing this Jesus was and how they were upset

because they also thought He was going to free them from roman oppression. Later Jesus is talking to them about the Kingdom and they still had no clue who He was. Their disappointment blinded them to God Himself who was standing in front of them and they couldn't see it was he or understand the things he was saying. *Don't let disappointment settle in your heart.* Trust God, and lean not on your own understanding.

The final one I will discuss in this article in my opinion seems to be the most serious one that is running rampant though out the body of Christ and is ruining the lives of many. This one is known as "un-forgiveness". This issue is one of the most important topics in existence. This is the issue that decided if we're going to hell or to heaven. If God were not willing to forgive, we would all burn for eternity. In fact, this is such a serious issue that Jesus said, "If you don't forgive those who wrong you, my Father will not forgive you." This is very sobering. Un-forgiveness has the ability to cancel the effect of the cross. We could at one point accept Jesus, have someone hurt us, decide we can't forgive them, and by doing so forfeit the forgiveness we received earlier in life.

This is an illustration that I found helpful. But before I say this, I want to explain that this illustration being used is figurative and that if this is an issue for anyone physically, I am not suggesting that the reason is because they have un-forgiveness. That being said here is a thought. When a man and a woman are intimate, usually after some time a child is born. The child can also be thought of as fruit or proof of intimacy. If the two continue to be intimate and

no child after a very long time is conceived there are usually two possible issues. One is either with man's ability to impregnate the woman or His ability to give. Or the issue is with the woman's womb or her ability to receive. In the process of receiving revelation, the child is the revelation Christ gives us. There is never a lack in God's ability to give us gifts, both spiritual and physical. So if someone has been a Christian for many years and really has not seen any fruit to show for it, it may be un-forgiveness that is causing you to be barren instead of full of the Lord's revelation. Un-forgiveness causes spiritual infertility. It's like having a spiritual abortion; killing off what God wants to do in you because you're not willing to forgive your neighbor. Perhaps if there is anything you need to let go of, you should take a moment now and talk to the Lord and ask Him for grace to let go of your bitterness. It's far too costly to hold on to it. Forgiveness will release a very heavy weight off of you. Forgiveness in the Kingdom is much more than just letting something go. It is responding in the opposite spirit to honor or love the person. Saul for ten years attempted to murder David. After he died, David responded with sadness about his death and even wrote a song for Saul honoring him. People's flaws don't give you permission to view them differently than Christ does. That is what forgiveness looks like in the Kingdom. Like Jesus saying, "Father forgive them, they know not what they do." While those very people were mocking Him. Forgiveness is not two sided. It is not dependant on the other party. It is an expression of love, even when the other person is expressing hate.

Not hearing God can have some very devastating effects on your life. Not hearing God will distort your mind often causing you to forget what God has previously said. Here are some examples of what not hearing God did to people. Jesus says to people that He gives them a new commandment, to love both their neighbor and their enemy. The only issue here is that this isn't new. God and Solomon said it previously in the Old Testament. God was pretty much silent for four hundred years between the times of the old and New Testament. Not hearing God caused them to forget what He previously said. Here is another one. In John 8, Jesus is talking about the Son being able to set them free. One man replies to him by saying that they are free and have never been anyone's slaves. When I read that one day I was like, "um...HELLO!!!" What a foolish statement! They were in captivity to the Egyptians, the Babylonian, and now currently to Rome. Not hearing God blinded them so deeply, they could not see the bondage they were currently in. (Think deeply about that one). Also, While Jesus was on the cross He at one point cried out, *"my God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me"*? Although this is a very clear statement some people thought He called for Elijah. Which leads to my next statement. They thought Elijah might come and save Jesus. They thought this because they idolized him along with many other great forerunners and patriarchs. Not hearing God can cause someone to idolize a person by valuing a man or woman of god over hearing God personally. The Pharisees' minds were so distorted that they called themselves Moses' disciples. (John 9:28) They were followers of a man who wandered in circles for forty years and missed out on his

destiny. Not hearing God may cause you to follow people who aren't going anywhere instead of following Jesus who knows where He came from and where He is going.

Now that we have discussed hindrances to hearing God, I'll now explain how we can ways position ourselves to hear His voice. First I'll discuss two simple but very important characteristics that naturally attract God's presence and with that, His voice. The first one is very simple but rarely seen. This one is called, "humility." As I stated earlier, God resist the proud. However, He gives His grace to the humble. Grace is empowerment to obey God and it often comes in the form of His voice. Humility attracts God like a magnet to you and when He is close, hearing Him is the next logical step. Hunger is also a way humility is manifested, because in hunger you recognize your need to be filled.

The next one is known as, "gratitude." A thankful heart is detrimental to the growth of every believer. David in the psalms said statements such as, "I will enter His gates with thanksgiving in my heart and into His courts with praise." Praise is not the tempo of a song. It is the condition of a heart. David recognized that when he has gratitude for all the Lord has done for Him, it propels him into God's presence. This happens because God is enthroned on the praises of His people. In the atmosphere of a grateful heart, Jesus can manifest His lordship in you, so He can release it out of you, to the world. This is so important that Paul even says in 1st Thessalonians 5:18 to give thanks always and it's actually God's will for your life! This is like

stating that you never again have an excuse to be ungrateful. Looks like thanksgiving is a very important quality for us to have.

So now I'll talk about practically small steps that can have huge results in sharpening your spiritual ears. It says in Proverbs that the fear of the Lord is the beginning of understanding. When you fear God, He is able to trust you with the secrets of His heart. Submission to the Father is the first step to becoming His friend. This is brought about by God's kindness revealing to you whom He truly is, and also by practical outward steps of sanctification. In other words, "purity." To make it clear, there is no such thing as partial purity. Purity in its definition is to be without spot. Some are under the concept that there is grey in the Kingdom. This is not true. Grey is light and dark mixed. There is no mixture in God or His Kingdom. There are two kinds of offenses that offend God: outward sins, and wasting your time with activities that are worldly and don't benefit you, such as ungodly movies and music. Just think about your music collection or movies. Would you feel comfortable if Jesus in the flesh was in the room with you listening or watching them? You may want to consider that. Getting rid of ungodly influences such as music or certain friends, which will bring drastic results in your life quickly. I'm saying this from experience. I threw away stuff and I felt the Lord minutes afterwards in a way that was one of the most intense times in my life. God will empower you to live right if you pursue it. When Jesus commands you to do something, He is actually releasing grace to obey Him. In John 5, Jesus comes across a man at the Pool of

Bethesda who has been paralyzed for thirty-eight years. He says to the man, *“Rise up and walk.”* That seems like a pretty insensitive thing for Jesus to say to a paralyzed man. Unless when He says rise and walk He is empowering Him to do so. Perhaps when God tells us to *“be Holy as I am Holy”*, He is actually empowering us to do so (1st Peter 1:16). David in the psalms often said how much He loves the commands of the Lord. He understood that the commands of the Lord empower me, not condemn me.

The last thing I'd like to share is how when we hear God, it benefits the world. Jesus in many of the gospels talks about us being the salt of the earth. He says if we lose our saltiness we become useless. Salt in this context actually translates into a word used for wisdom. What Jesus is actually saying here is that we are the wisdom of the earth, we are the walking voice of God to a world that doesn't know Him and can't discern His voice. In Luke 14:25-35, He associates it with carrying your cross. God's voice empowers you to daily be crucified. He also associates this with a builder counting the cost to build a foundation, and with a king deciding if he should go to war. The builder represents personal victory and us hearing God and it building a deep foundation of Christ becoming our cornerstone. The king represents corporate advancement as we hear God as one united bride that subdues the earth for it to be on earth as it is in heaven. The world desperately needs us to hear God!

I hope that this article has given you insight on ways to position yourself to hear Jesus as well as shed some light on some issues that may have been closing your spiritual ears. I pray

that you were deeply encouraged by this and that it provoked you to love Jesus more and to hear and obey Him. My final advice to you, that is equally as important as all of the previous, is this; just spend time with Jesus. Nothing will help you hear Him more than hours upon hours of you giving Him your undivided love and attention. I promise you this, that your hunger will deeply move His heart. He wants to talk to you so very much. Are you ready to listen?

God Bless You Richly In Christ,

Aaron J LiVecchi

weseejesus
MINISTRIES