**..."HE WHO HATH AN EAR TO HEAR, LET HIM HEAR"**

**Let me see the hands of those who came to have their faith elevated to a higher level in Christ Jesus!!!**

**Now I want to see the hands of those who came to hear a word from God!**

**Before I deliver to you Gods Word.......**

Let us all Give God the Praise in the house today as I play this worship song........

**"Every Praise is to our God"**

**Praise Him! Praise Him! Praise Him! Praise Him! Praise Him!**

1. Prayer.....Thank you Father for being in our midst today for hearing our praises for we know that if our praises go up the blessing will come down, thank you for .sharpening our hearing and enlightening our understanding today...thank you for making us a Royal Priesthood and a holy nation that will show praises unto you...have your way today let sinners come to your presence, and give them the joy we enjoy in being your sons and daughters. once again father we praise you glorify you and magnify the wonderful and matcheless name of your son Christ Jesus ...Open our ears to hear your word and our minds to understand and apply to our walk your devine truths...as we say thanks in Jesus name /....AMen

My Hearing experiences......at home!!!!!

**SCRIPTURE** [**Romans 10:17**](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans+10:17&version=KJV) So **then** **faith** **cometh** by **hearing**, and **hearing** by the word of God.

**MESSAGE**...**"HE WHO HATH AN EAR TO HEAR, LET HIM HEAR"**

During Jesus' earthly ministry, Jesus often concluded a lesson by crying

 out, **"He who has ears to hear, let him hear!"**

**Three examples of this are found in the Bible....**

 a. **Concerning John the Baptist** -

[**Mt 11:15**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Mt%2011.15)  **And it came to pass, when Jesus had made an end of commanding his twelve disciples, he departed thence to teach and to preach in their cities.2Now when John had heard in the prison the works of Christ, he sent two of his disciples,3And said unto him, Art thou he that should come, or do we look for another?4Jesus answered and said unto them, Go and shew John again those things which ye do hear and see:5The blind receive their sight, and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the gospel preached to them.6And blessed is he, whosoever shall not be offended in me.7And as they departed, Jesus began to say unto the multitudes concerning John, What went ye out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken with the wind?8But what went ye out for to see? A man clothed in soft raiment? behold, they that wear soft clothing are in kings' houses.9But what went** **ye out for to see? A prophet? yea, I say unto you, and more than a prophet.10For this is he, of whom it is written, Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee.11Verily I say unto you, Among them that are born of women there hath not risen a greater than John the Baptist: notwithstanding he that is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.12And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, andthe violent take it by force.13For all the prophets and the law prophesied until John.14And if ye will receive it, this is Elias, which was for to come.15He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.**

 b. **The parable of the sower -**

[**Mt 13:9**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Mt%2013.9)**...** **The same day went Jesus out of the house, and sat by the sea side.2And great multitudes were gathered together unto him, so that he went into a ship, and sat; and the whole multitude stood on the shore.3And he spake many things unto them in parables, saying, Behold, a sower went forth to sow;4And when he sowed, some seeds fell by the way side, and the fowls came and devoured them up:5Some fell upon stony places, where they had not much earth: and forthwith they sprung up, because they had no deepness of earth:6And when the sun was up, they were scorched; and because they had no root, they withered away.7And some fell among thorns; and the thorns sprung up, and choked them:8But other fell into good ground, and brought forth fruit, some an hundredfold, some sixtyfold, some thirtyfold.9Who hath ears to hear, let him hear**.

 c. **the explanation of the parable of the tares** -

[**Mt 13:43**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Mt%2013.43)**... 10And the disciples came, and said unto him, Why speakest thou unto them in parables?11He answered and said unto them, Because it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given.12For whosoever hath, to him shall be given, and he shall have more abundance: but whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken away even that he hath.13Therefore speak I to them in parables: because they seeing see not; and hearing they hear not, neither do they understand.14And in them is fulfilled the prophecy of Esaias, which saith, By hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing ye shall see, and shall not perceive:15For this people's heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, and should understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them.16But blessed are your eyes, for they see: and your ears, for they hear.17For verily I say unto you, That many prophets and righteous men have desired to see those things which ye see, and have not seen them; and to hear those things which ye hear, and have not heard them.18Hear ye therefore the parable of the sower.**

2. In His letters to the 7 churches of Asia, Jesus concludes each with a

 similar saying: **"He who has an ear. let him hear what the Spirit**

 **says to the churches." -**

[**Re 2:7**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Re%202.7)**,**[**11**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Re%202.11)**,**[**17**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Re%202.17)**,**[**29**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Re%202.29)**;** [**3:6**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Re%203.6)**,**[**13**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Re%203.13)**,**[**22**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Re%203.22)**,,,EPHESUS, SMYRNA,PERGAMOS, THYATIRA, SARDIS, PHILADELPHIA, LAODICEANS,**

3. What is the point of these sayings?

 a. It is similar to saying "What is being said is very important, so you

 had better pay attention and listen!".

[**Mk 4:23-25**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Mk%204.23-25).... 23If any man have ears to hear, let him hear.24And he said unto them, Take heed what ye hear: with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you: and unto you that hear shall more be given.25For he that hath, to him shall be given: and he that hath not, from him shall be taken even that which he hath.

 b. It illustrates that Jesus had a problem that often exists today

 1) Many people simply don't listen

 2) Or don't listen so as to understand

4. I am convinced that many today don't appreciate the importance of

 listening well...

 a. It concerned Jesus...

 b. So I believe it is appropriate to ask, **"How Well Do You Listen?"**

[It might be profitable to begin by pointing out there are...]

**I. THREE TYPES OF LISTENERS....IT'S TIME FOR SELF EXAMINATION.....**

 **A. THE "DULL OF HEARING"...**

 1. Some of the Hebrew Christians were like this....

[**He 5:11**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/He%205.11)**.....** For every high priest taken from among men is ordained for men in things pertaining to God, that he may offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins:**2Who can have compassion on the ignorant, and on them that are out of the way; for that he himself also is compassed with infirmity.3And by reason hereof he ought, as for the people, so also for himself, to offer for sins.4And no man taketh this honour unto himself, but he that is called of God, as was Aaron.5So also Christ glorified not himself to be made an high priest; but he that said unto him, Thou art my Son, to day have I begotten thee.6As he saith also in another place, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec.7Who in the days of his flesh, when he had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto him that was able to save him from death, and was heard in that he feared;8Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered;9And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him;10Called of God an high priest after the order of Melchisedec.11Of whom we have many things to say, and hard to be uttered, seeing ye are dull of hearing.**

 a. Note that when a person has this problem, it is hard for

 others to explain things to them!

 b. The fault is not with the **"subject" material**, nor the

 **"presenter"**, but with the **"listener"!**

 2. Isaiah wrote of such people, and Jesus applied it to many in

 His day -

 a. People are this way because they are dull of heart!

 b. Which in turn prevents them from:

 1) **Understanding God's truth**

 2 **Prevents them from turning from sin to God**

 3) **Prevents them from being healed (saved) by God!**

**Listen if your heart is not right then your hearing will be affected!!!**

 **B. THOSE WITH "ITCHING EARS"...**

 1. Paul describes these in

[**2Ti 4:3-4**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/2Ti%204.3-4)**...** 3For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;4And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.

 2. Such people listen only to that which is pleasing!!!!

 a.They don't like **"sound doctrine"** (which often requires

 the kind of preaching mentioned in

[**2Ti 4:2**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/2Ti%204.2)) 2Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long suffering and doctrine.

 b. They will find the teachers they want...but then they turn

 from the truth to fables

 **-- Many today are often afflicted with this major... "hearing" problem!**

 **C. THOSE WHO HEAR WITH "A NOBLE AND GOOD HEART"...**

 1. Jesus speaks of these in

[**Lk 8:15**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Lk%208.15)**....** 15But 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.

 2. The Bereans were listeners of this kind -

[**Ac 17:11**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Ac%2017.11)**....** 11These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.

 a. They were "fair-minded" willing to give Paul a

 fair hearing

 b. It showed that they "received" (or listened to) the word:

 "with all readiness"

 **-- This is the kind of listener we all should be!**

[Why is it so important to be this kind of listener? There are several

reasons...]

**II. THE IMPORTANCE OF GOOD LISTENING**

 **A. ESSENTIAL TO BEING BLESSED...**

 1. For those willing to listen properly, there are wonderful

 things to learn -

[**Mt 13:16-17**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Mt%2013.16-17)**... 16But blessed are your eyes, for they see: and your ears, for they hear.17For verily I say unto you, That many prophets and righteous men have desired to see those things which ye see, and have not seen them; and to hear those things which ye hear, and have not heard them.**

 2. Many things which great people (David, Daniel, etc.) did not

 have the opportunity to learn

 3. Things pertaining to wonderful blessings that are now available

 in Christ! - cf.

[**Ep 1:3**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Ep%201.3)**... 3Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:**

**We miss out on these blessings if we do not carefully listen!**

 **B. ESSENTIAL TO SAVING FAITH...**

 1. God has ordained that we be saved through faith in Christ - cf.

[**Ro 1:16-17**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Ro%201.16-17)**....****16For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.17For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.**

 2. Such faith comes through proclaiming the gospel, often

 involving listening to a preacher - cf.

[**Ro 10:14**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Ro%2010.14)**...****14How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?**

 a. One reason faith is often lacking is because people simply

 are not good listeners

 b. They miss out on the evidence in God's Word which produces

 faith!

**-- Does your "listening" hinder the development of your faith?**

**C. ESSENTIAL TO BEARING FRUIT..and understanding the grace of God.**

 1. In the parable of the sower, the only kind of soil (heart)

 capable of bearing fruit was the one which listened properly

 -

[**Lk 8:15**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Lk%208.15)**15But 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.**

 2. That is because bearing fruit comes from "understanding" the

 grace of God! - cf.

[**Col 1:6**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Col%201.6)**...Which is come unto you, as it is in all the world; and bringeth forth fruit, as it doth also in you, since the day ye heard of it, and knew the grace of God in truth:**

 **-- Only by listening well can we "understand" God's grace, and be**

 **thus motivated to bear fruit to His glory!**

 **D. ESSENTIAL TO PREVENTING APOSTASY...**

 1. There is a real danger of drifting, by neglecting "so great a

 salvation" -

[**He 2:1-3**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/He%202.1-3)**...** **Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip.2For if the word spoken by angels was stedfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompence of reward;3How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him;**

 2. The only solution is to "give the more earnest heed to the

 things we have heard"

 **Poor listening is often the first step to apostasy!**

How then can we improve our ability to listen effectively?

\*\*\*\*\*Listen........For as speakers need to learn to speak so as to be understood, people need to learn to listen so as to understand!

**III. STEPS TO BETTER LISTENING**

 **A. MAKE LISTENING AN ACT OF WORSHIP...**

 1. How you listen to God's word being read or preached is as much

 an indication of your devotion to God as to how you pray or

 sing

 2. So when you have opportunities to listen, do it with "a

 worshipful attitude"

 a. Think of how you would listen if some great person were

 speaking

 b. Imagine your undivided attention if you were listening to some

 famous person

**-- Does not the proclamation of God's Word deserve as much attention?**

 **B. LISTEN FROM FIRST TO LAST...**

 1. Speakers must follow certain rules of speech so as to be

 understood:

 a. Introduce the subject

 b. Present main points with supporting arguments

 c. Conclude with a summary

 **-- So listeners must listen to ALL the parts to truly understand**

 **C. LOOK AT THE SPEAKER...**

 1. This greatly aids your concentration

 a. Looking elsewhere makes it easy for your mind to wander

 \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*b. Don't allow yourself to be distracted...by satan. Satan wants to

 cause you to be distracted so that you can be retracted.

 c. Closing your eyes makes it easy for you to nod off!

 2. All this requires self-discipline, but it is conducive to

 developing a longer attention span.

 **-- Try it, and see if it doesn't make a difference!**

 **D. READ ALONG IN YOUR BIBLE...**

 1. You remember more of what you both see and hear over what you

 simply hear

 a. Which is why visual aids are often used in sermons

 b. But the greatest visual aid is your own Bible!

 2. Your knowledge of the Scriptures can be greatly improved by

 doing this

 **E. LISTEN WITH FAITH...**

 1. I.e., listen with a willingness to accept and believe what is

 shown in God's Word

 2. Notice ....those who died in the wilderness did not

 listen with faith!

[**He 4:1-2**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/He%204.1-2)**; 4 Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left us of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it.2For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it.**

 **-- If we don't listen "with faith," the same sort of thing will**

 **happen to us; i.e., fall short of our heavenly rest!**

 a. They loved to hear him, but for the wrong reason

 b. Do we love to hear sermons because of how well the speaker

 presents them?

 2. Hearing must be accompanied by doing to be of any profit - **Ja**

 **1:22-25**

 **-- As important as good listening may be, the blessedness comes**

 **only if we are doers as well as hearers!**

**CONCLUSION**

1. To be blessed in what we do...

 a. That is my goal in presenting these thoughts on listening

 b. For it all begins with listening in the proper way

2. How important, then, is listening?

 a. When it comes to listening to God, I say very important!!!! -

[**Isa 55:2-3**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Isa%2055.2-3)**2Wherefore do ye spend money for that which is not bread? and your labour for that which satisfieth not? hearken diligently unto me, and eat ye that which is good, and let your soul delight itself in fatness.3Incline your ear, and come unto me: hear, and your soul shall live; and I will make an everlasting covenant with you, even the sure mercies of David.**

 b. It is essential for the good of our soul!

3. Is there ever a time when GOD does not listen?

 a. Yes, when our sins are between us and God - cf.

[**Isa 59:1-2**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Isa%2059.1-2)**...** **Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear:2But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.**

 b. But we can take care of that problem by receiving God's Mercy

[**Isa 55:6-7**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Isa%2055.6-7)**... 6Seek ye the Lord while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near:7Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon**

Today, that mercy is offered through Jesus Christ, God's Son. And as

God said:

 **"This is My beloved Son. Hear Him!" (**[**Lk 9:35**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Lk%209.35)**)** **And there came a voice out of the cloud, saying, This is my beloved Son: hear him.**

Have you heeded Him by obeying His word? Or does the following cry of

Jesus apply to you...?

 **"But why do you call Me 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do the things**

 **which I say?"**

**(**[**Luke 6:46**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Luke%206.46)**) !!!!LET US STAND IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD!!!!**