



Hearing God's Word

Foundation One S-L2

Where does Faith come from? According to Romans 10:17

"Faith comes from hearing the Word of God." Romans 10:17

The definition of **Faith** is (*Pistis*): Belief, Assurance, and Reliance upon God.

"Hearing the Word of God" is the easiest way to receive God's Word, however it's also the way we lose the most content, meaning the amount of what we hear.

The **problem** is we tend to forget _____ of what we **hear** within a 72- hour period.

Unless you _____ you're going to forget **95%** of what was said today within the next few days.

That's why people can go week after week, year after year to church and not really mature or grow up spiritually, because they don't really remember. How can you apply it, if you don't even remember it?



Write this statement down:

TWO BIG HINDRANCES TO HEARING FROM GOD

1. _____

Confessing sins in your life helps you _____ God's Word.

Sin regardless of its degree always has a consequence and an effect,
_____.

Our sins separate us from God, preventing us from hearing from Him.

*"Don't think that the Lord is too weak to save you or too deaf to hear your call for help! It is because of your **sins** that he doesn't hear you. It is your **sins** that separate you from God..." Isaiah 59:1-2 (GN)*

Sin starts as a temptation. Where does temptation come from?



Notes

Faith – (*Pistis*) – Belief, Assurance, Reliance upon God.

Does anyone remember what shoes they wear 72 hr. ago?

The next time you hear a sermon or attend a Bible study write down something that speaks directly to your spirit. Don't forget to date it.

What is sin?

Sin is missing the mark that God has established for your life.

Sin is disobedience to God and His Word.

Sin is the opposite of righteousness.

Sin is to step across the line.

For example: One who steps across a property line is trespassing, and the enemy will penalize you every time you step across that line.

“Temptation comes from our own desires, which entice us and drag us away. These desires give birth to sinful actions. And when sin is allowed to grow, it gives birth to death.” James 1:14-15 (NLT)

The companion scripture to Isa. 59:1-2 is 1 John 1:9.

It says, ***“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” 1 John 1:9 (KJV)***

“Come and listen, all you who fear God, and I will tell you what he did for me. For I cried out to him for help, praising him as I spoke. If I had not confessed the sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened. But God did listen! He paid attention to my prayer. Praise God, who did not ignore my prayer or withdraw his unfailing love from me.” Psalm 66:16-20 (NLT)

Confession is the key to opening the lines of communication between you and God.



“Get rid of every filthy habit and all wicked conduct. Submit to God and accept the Word that He plants in your hearts which is able to save you.” James 1:21 (GN)

The 2nd hindrance that prevents us from hearing God is our, _____

2. Deal with _____ that prevent you from *hearing* God.

Attitudes are feelings that get in the way of us hearing God. Examine yourself to make sure you have the right attitude to hear from God.

We can't hear from God if we have a _____ which is usually blocked by something or stopped.

Q. What do you think the number one reason is, for a closed mind?

_____ is the number one reason for a closed mind, it prevents us from listening. When someone is angry, they are usually annoyed, irritated, or mad, all feelings that prevent us from hearing.

We can't hear from God if we have a _____, which is usually blocked by fear about something or lost in thought.

Q. What do you think the number one reason is, for a preoccupied mind?

_____ is the number one reason for a preoccupied mind, it prevents us from listening. When someone is worried, they usually are very concerned, anxious or easily distracted.

Notes

What does it **drag us away** from?

Why **confess** if God already knows everything?

Bible Reading
1 Peter 3:8b

To **submit** is a voluntary action. To **accept** means to obey.

Last week was **Discipline Yourself**, this week is **Examine Yourself**.

*"We **must** pay more **careful attention** to what we've heard, so that we do not **drift** away!" Hebrews 2:1 (NIV)*

What Hebrews is saying is, if you don't pay careful attention to the things you've heard, you will drift away. You will not be able to recall the Word when you need it. It's simple, pay attention to God and God will pay attention to you!

This Week's Memory Verse

"Do not deceive yourselves by just listening to his Word; instead, put it into practice." James 1:22 (GN)

_____ comes from thinking you have done all that is necessary by just attending church, when actually listening to the Word is only the first step.

*"Whoever keeps on **paying attention** to it and does not simply listen and then **forgets it**, but puts **it** into practice that person will be **blessed** by God in what he does." James 1:25 (GN)*

What's the difference between hearing and **listening**?

Two words _____



Hearing means that I am within earshot or audible range. Just because I can hear someone talking doesn't mean I am listening to the conversation. Listening requires *paying attention*; it requires us to take note. It starts our brain's recorder. When you begin to listen, your brain begins recording.

Jesus' Answer to Improving Your Hearing

Read Matthew 13:1-13 (NLT)

*"Later that same day Jesus left the house and sat beside the lake. A large crowd soon gathered around him, so he got into a boat. Then he sat there and taught as the people stood on the shore. **He told many stories in the form of parables**, such as this one:*

The whole Bible is full of parables.

What is a parable? A _____ of the Kingdom of Heaven or an _____ with a Heavenly meaning.



v3.

***"Listen!"** A farmer went out to plant some seeds. As he scattered them across his field, some seeds fell on a footpath, and the birds came and ate them. Other seeds fell on shallow soil with underlying rock. The seeds sprouted quickly because the soil was shallow. But the plants soon wilted under the hot sun, and since they didn't have deep roots, they died. Other seeds fell among thorns that grew up and choked out the tender plants. Still other seeds fell on fertile soil, and they **produced** a crop that was thirty, sixty, and even a hundred times as much as had been planted! **Anyone with ears to hear should listen and understand.**" V10. "His disciples came and asked him, 'Why do you use parables when you talk to the people?'"*

Notes

There is a time clock ticking on the things you have heard.

What does this scripture mean? How are we deceived by just listening to the Word?

Every time I read the word **"it"** I want you to say, **"The Word"**

The word **"blessed"** includes happiness, favor, and abundance. The favor of God means doors open on your behave.

Proverbs 1:2-6, tells us the purpose for Proverbs, Parables, & Riddles.

Bible Reading

*"Their purpose is to teach people **wisdom** and **discipline**, to help them understand the insights of the wise. Their purpose is to teach people to live **disciplined** and **successful** lives, to help them do what is right, just, and fair. These proverbs will give insight to the simple, knowledge and discernment to the young. Let the wise **listen** to these proverbs and **become** even wiser. Let those with understanding receive guidance by exploring the meaning in these **proverbs** and **parables**, the words of the wise and their **riddles**." Proverbs 1:2-6 (NLT)*

People are still asking that same question today. **“Why does the Bible have so many parables in it?”** To understand the Bible, you must understand what parables are.

Last week’s memory verse was 2 Peter 3:18, **“Continue to grow in the grace and knowledge of our savior, Jesus Christ.”**

Grace means favor and knowledge means understanding. You have been given favor to understand.

Who is permitted? _____

V11. He replied, **“You are permitted to understand the secrets of the Kingdom of Heaven, but others are not. To those who listen to my teaching, more understanding will be given, and they will have an abundance of knowledge. But for those who are not listening, even what little understanding they have will be taken away from them. That is why I use these parables, for they look, but they don’t really see. They hear, but they don’t really listen or understand.”**

V19. The seed that fell on the _____ **represents:**
Those who hear the message about the Kingdom and don’t understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away the seed that was planted in their hearts.

These represent the non-believers, and the new believers that have no understanding. These are our responsibility to make sure that they are a part of a learning ministry.

V20. The seed on the _____ **represents:**
Those who hear the message and immediately receive it with joy, but since they don’t have deep roots, they don’t last long. They fall away as soon as they have problems or are persecuted for believing God’s word. (offended in some way)

These represent a lot of Christians. They receive the Word with joy, but they have no roots to stabilize them, No consistent Bible study, No small group studies and no personal fellowship time with God.

V22. The seed that fell among the _____ **represents:**
Those who hear God’s Word, but all too quickly the message is crowded out by the worries of life and the pursuit of wealth, so no fruit is produced.

These Christians have a preoccupied mind; they are usually very, very busy with life. They have very little or no time at all for fellowshiping with the body of Christ or with God.

V23. The seed that fell on _____ **represents:**
Those who truly hear and understand God’s Word, and produce a harvest of thirty, sixty, or even a hundred times as much as had been planted! These are the Disciples.

Jesus’ answer to improving your hearing is to listen with an understanding. Our ears hear many different sounds but there is a deeper type of listening that results in spiritual understanding that produces Spiritual Maturity.

Hearing God requires us to listen closely and _____.

Notes

Continue to grow in what you are permitted to **understand**.

Are you a disciple?

What are the **secrets** of the Kingdom called?

More - is a comparison word **More** means extra, additional

For **homework** reread Matthew 13:1-23 (NLT) and ponder what you read.



Personal Application

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In this space write about what you learned during this lesson. _____

In the parable about the farmer that planted seeds in Matthew 13, which group do you think you are in? ***On the foot path, shallow soil, thorns, or fertile soil.*** Take a minute or two to think about your answer, and then answer this question. What is it about your lifestyle that you are willing to change right now? Write your answer in the space below.

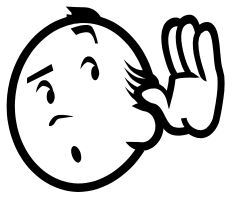
Write out this week's memory verse in this section. Read the memory verse 3 times a day and try to memorize it or its meaning.

✓ Off each day that you exercise self-discipline by not displaying any negative attitudes. **Remember attitudes are feelings that get in the way of us hearing from God.** "...discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness;" 1 Timothy 4:7b (NASB)

☐ Monday ☐ Tuesday ☐ Wednesday ☐ Thursday ☐ Friday ☐ Saturday ☐ Sunday

Take a moment to write a prayer request for the week.

Today's Date _____



L-2 Hearing God's Word

Home Assignment

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Fill in the blanks

Name _____

Group Lead _____

1. We tend to forget _____ of what we _____ within 72 hours.
2. You cannot apply what you do not _____.
3. Name the two biggest hindrances to hearing from God? _____ and _____.
4. According to James 1:14, where does temptation come from? _____.
5. What's the difference between hearing and listening? _____.
6. The seed that fell on the **footpath** represents: Those who **hear the message** about the Kingdom and...

7. The seed on the **shallow soil** represents: Those who **hear the message** and... _____

8. The seed that fell among the **thorns** represents: Those who **hear God's Word**, but...

9. The seed that fell on **fertile soil** represents: Those who **truly hear and understand God's Word**, and...

10. Hearing God requires us to listen closely and _____.

- Reread Matthew 13:1-23 and ponder what you read.