

How to Hear God – 7

John 8:47

“He who is of God hears God’s words.”

The facts are that God is not silent, has never been silent. It is His nature to speak.

John 10:27 (NKJV)

²⁷ My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.

- Listening to God is one of the hardest things to do
- If we learn to listen, then we will learn to hear God’s voice

1 – Am I truly listening to Him?

Romans 10:17 (NKJV)

¹⁷ So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

- If you’ve ever met a person of great faith, you’ve met a person of great hearing by the word of God
- We need to truly listen to God
- Once we hear from Him we need to act
- Now is the time to move with confidence and boldness

2 – Am I responding to God’s voice in humility

- We can respond in pride or with closed ears
- Sometimes we respond favorably but then the cares of life choke the word

Parable of the sower and the soils

Luke 8:4–15 (NKJV) (Matt. 13:1–23; Mark 4:1–20)

Luke 8:4

⁴ And when a great multitude had gathered, and they had come to Him from every city, He spoke by a parable:

- “A sower went out to sow his seed.”
- Some fell by the wayside and was eaten
- Some fell on rock, sprang up, yet withered lacking moisture
- Some fell among thorns which choked it
- Some fell on good soil – 30, 60, and 100 fold yield

Luke 8:11-15

¹¹ “Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God.

¹² Those by the wayside are the ones who hear; then the devil comes and takes away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved. ¹³ But the ones on the rock *are those* who, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, who believe for a while and in time of temptation fall away. ¹⁴ Now the ones *that* fell among thorns are those who, when they have heard, go out and are choked with cares, riches, and pleasures of life, and bring no fruit to maturity. ¹⁵ But the ones *that* fell on the good ground are those who, having heard the word with a noble and good heart, keep *it* and bear fruit with patience.

- What kind of soil are you?
- Do you have thorns?
- Are you rocky?
- Are you parched and lacking spiritual nutrients?
- Are you receptive?

Luke 8:18 (NKJV)

¹⁸ Therefore take heed how you hear. For whoever has, to him *more will be given*; and whoever does not have, even what he seems to have will be taken from him.”

- Jesus is saying, watch how we receive His word
- Make sure our ground is tilled and free of thorns
- Even what we think we have may be taken
- Plenty of Christians fail to produce abundant growth
- Unless we water and weed the word we are listening to, even the maturity that seems to be evident can be lost

The story of Joseph

- His two dreams may have been from God but his reactions may not have been
- He was proud and braggadocios
- We must be faithful with the revelation we receive
- He squandered his dreams
- Mary pondered her dreams – **Luke 2:19**
- His brothers sold him
- God never spoke to him in a dream again
- God is always the God of comeback yet it's important how we receive and react to God's words

James 4:6–7 (NKJV)

⁶ But He gives more grace. Therefore, He says: “*God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.*” ⁷ Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

3 – We are Good Stewards When We Heed God’s Words

Remember Jonah?

- He clearly heard from God yet ran from God’s word to him
- If you’re wondering did God speak to me, look carefully at your circumstances
- What was the last thing you sensed the Lord say?
- Were you obedient?
- Repent, stop going your own way
- Obedience is so important in the life of a believer
- I’m not talking about trying harder
- I’m talking about receiving grace for the journey
- Obedience is mandatory in God’s economy

John 14:15 (NKJV)

¹⁵ “If you love Me, keep My commandments.

Luke 6:46 (NKJV)

⁴⁶ “But why do you call Me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and not do the things which I say?

- The Holy Spirit ultimately makes us holy
- His work and power transform our lives
- Our job is to continually align ourselves with Him and yield ourselves to His work and power

How to Hear God for a Breakthrough

Are you longing for a breakthrough?

- God invites us to a closer walk with Him
- That's where your breakthrough will be found

1 Chronicles 14:1–2, 8 (NKJV)

14 Now Hiram king of Tyre sent messengers to David, and cedar trees, with masons and carpenters, to build him a house.

² So David knew that the LORD had established him as king over Israel, for his kingdom was highly exalted for the sake of His people Israel.

⁸ Now when the Philistines heard that David had been anointed king over all Israel, all the Philistines went up to search for David. And David heard *of it* and went out against them.

- As soon as the enemy hears that something good is happening in your life he comes out against you
- We don't need to be afraid of opposition
- We have Christ for us and in us

1 John 4:4 (NKJV)

⁴ You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.

- What was David's response?
- He went out against the enemy
- Don't sit back and let the devil steal the promises of God from you

1 Chronicles 14:10 (NKJV)

¹⁰ And David inquired of God, saying, “Shall I go up against the Philistines? Will You deliver them into my hand?” The LORD said to him, “Go up, for I will deliver them into your hand.”

- The first thing David does is talk to God
- In the midst of his need for breakthrough he inquires of the Lord and asks to hear His voice about a specific matter
- Hearing from God builds our faith
- Faith comes by hearing – **Romans 10:17**

We have the Bible and we’re already reading it

- God seems to be silent on a specific issue in which the bible doesn’t speak specifically to
- What do we do?
- What direction should we turn?
- What decision would we make?

When we ask God, He answers – **Matthew 7:7-12 A.S.K.**

- Once God answers we are not moving on mere presumption
- We don’t need to dream or conjure up faith
- The word itself produces faith – **Mark 4:26-29**

God may speak in any number of ways

- He may tell us that we need to fight
- Faith is something that needs to be stood on
- We take God at His word
- When we get a word, we need to believe it and act upon it

1 Chronicles 14:9 (NKJV)

⁹ Then the Philistines went and made a raid on the Valley of Rephaim.

- Rephaim – (*Giants*)
- They were trying to scare David
- David could have responded in overconfidence and pride
- “Hey, I’ve killed giants before, this is no big deal”
- He could have responded in fear
- A nation of giants camping in the valley of giants

David was not a wimpy king

- He was an experienced combat warrior
- He knew where his strength came from

When stepping forward to defeat Goliath

1 Samuel 17:34–36 (NKJV)

³⁴ But David said to Saul, “Your servant used to keep his father’s sheep, and when a lion or a bear came and took a lamb out of the flock, ³⁵ I went out after it and struck it, and delivered *the lamb* from its mouth; and when it arose against me, I caught *it* by its beard, and struck and killed it. ³⁶ Your servant has killed both lion and bear; and this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, seeing he has defied the armies of the living God.”

- David was not afraid of a battle
- He not only killed Goliath but twice as many soldiers as required to earn the hand of the king’s daughter in marriage – 1 Samuel 18:25-27
- David had strength and skill but he knew that greater strength would come from relying on God

“We will not have breakthroughs in our own lives unless we have faith. And we will not have faith unless we hear God”

– Robert Morris – Frequency

Faith is not a blind leap

Psalm 119:105 (NKJV)

¹⁰⁵ Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

- God gives us a word to light the next step
- As well as a beacon for our future

1 Chronicles 14:11–12 (NKJV)

¹¹ So they went up to Baal Perazim, and David defeated them there. Then David said, “God has broken through my enemies by my hand like a breakthrough of water.” Therefore they called the name of that place Baal Perazim. ¹² And when they left their gods there, David gave a commandment, and they were burned with fire.

- David is calling God the “Master of Breakthroughs”
- A breakthrough from the pagan God of Baal
- The enemy had a temple there on the mount of Baal
- After the victory he destroys the idols
- Burns them and carts them away!
- The mountain (*stronghold*) of Baal had been broken through by the power of God almighty!

In the place where the enemy is strongest in our lives is the place where God wants to bring a breakthrough

- Is there a place you can’t gain victory?
- God can give you that victory
- What’s required is faith and obedience

Faith by itself is not enough, faith must produce works of obedience

James 2:17 (NKJV)

¹⁷ Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

- For faith to produce it must have “Good Works”

Ephesians 2:10 (NIV)

¹⁰ For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

When we moved from Ionia to Fremont

- Went to Newaygo Wednesday nights
- Tithed what we were believing God for
- Continued to move, settle, tithe and serve
- God was faithful

Faith, works, prayer and obedience produces results

After David destroyed the enemy’s idols the Philistines came back for another fight

Ephesians 6:12 (KJV 1900)

¹² For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

- Most people stop with “We wrestle not”
- The enemy will attack again and again

1 Chronicles 14:13–17 (NKJV)

¹³ Then the Philistines once again made a raid on the valley.

¹⁴ Therefore David inquired again of God, and God said to him, “You shall not go up after them; circle around them, and come upon them in front of the mulberry trees. ¹⁵ And it shall be, **when you hear a sound** of marching in the tops of the mulberry trees, then you shall go out to battle, for God has gone out before you to strike the camp of the Philistines.” ¹⁶ So David did as God commanded him, and they drove back the army of the Philistines from Gibeon as far as Gezer. ¹⁷ Then the fame of David went out into all lands, and the LORD brought the fear of him upon all nations.

- Strange word from the Lord
- Remember they had just attacked them and won
- Now the Lord is saying to attack in a different way
- It took not only faith but action
- They needed to listen and hear

Another word for good works is obedience

- When we inquire of the Lord and He directs our paths, we need to go in the direction He is leading
- Obey what you hear God telling you to do

Matthew 7:24–27 (NKJV)

²⁴ “Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: ²⁵ and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock.

²⁶ “But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: ²⁷ and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall.”

- Both men heard Gods voice
- One ignored
- One listened and obeyed

Faith requires action

If you want a breakthrough in finances

- Pray about getting out of debt
- Tithe and get on a budget
- Stay obedient to His instruction

Want a breakthrough in relationships

- Set aside time to invest in one another
- Work to communicate
- Listen and be understood
- Be gracious and forgive
- Love, be bold and don't walk away

If you want a breakthrough in addiction

- Be willing to be inconvenienced
- Set aside the pleasures of sin
- Pray for deliverance
- Align yourself with God's plan for your life

Faith and Works = Listen and Obey