

## **EARS TO HEAR**

We want to hear God's voice. But how? Sometimes, it seems so difficult. But is it? There are some keys Jesus has given that will help.

**Mark 4:9 (NKJV) <sup>9</sup> And He said to them, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear!"**

Jesus used this phrase to describe those who would stop and listen more deeply to hear Him. It's more than hearing words. It's far more than physically having ears. Hearing God's voice, receiving His teaching, means willing to set aside time for Him: to listen, to respond, to let Him speak to your heart.

Here are some keys to help us understand how to hear God.

### **1. THE HEART OF THE HEARER.**

**Hearing begins with a listening heart.**

1 Samuel 3:7-11 **Speak Lord for Your servant is listening**

Samuel was a child who hadn't yet learned to hear God's voice. He was humble—with the same teachable spirit that Jesus tells us to come with. He said Your servant. He wasn't full of himself but his heart was saying, "I'm WANTING to hear what YOU say—not fight, not struggle, not push away Your Word, not wrestle with You for control. I just want to hear You."

### **2. THE EARS OF THE HEARER.**

**EAR CONSECRATION. You understand you are devoted to God.**

You make purposeful choice about that to which you will listen; you turn away from distractions. **SINCERE SURRENDER.**

How you hear is crucial. If you only want to hear what you WANT to hear—with a preconceived notion and desire rather than what God is truly saying-- then you will be in distress and difficulty. Come to an end of wanting YOUR OWN WAY.

See Isaiah 30. The first part, the people say to their spiritual leaders, **"Just bring a word we want to hear."** Prophecy what makes us feel good. But our RESTORING GOD hears those who **CRY OUT TO HIM, ADHERE TO HIM, who FASTEN THEMSELVES to HIM with a hunger to hear His voice.** IS. 30:18-21

**Is 30:21 You'll hear a word behind you saying this is the way walk ye in it**

### **3. THE COMMITMENT OF THE HEARER**

Your hearing ear is tied to your commitment to do what He's saying

**Isaiah 50:4-5 (NKJV)** <sup>4</sup> "The Lord GOD has given Me The tongue of the learned, That I should know how to speak a word in season to *him who is* weary. He awakens Me morning by morning, He awakens My ear to hear as the learned. <sup>5</sup> The Lord GOD has opened My ear; And I was not rebellious, nor did I turn away.

**Isaiah 50:4-5 (MSG)** <sup>4</sup> The Master, GOD, has given me a well-taught tongue, So I know how to encourage tired people. He wakes me up in the morning, wakes me up, **opens my ears to listen as one ready to take orders.** <sup>5</sup> The Master, GOD, opened my ears, and I didn't go back to sleep, didn't pull the covers back over my head.

### **4. THE SURRENDER OF THE HEARER**

**THE "HUNGRY TO HEAR" PRAY, "GOD, OPEN MY EARS"**

**Psalm 40:6—my ears You have opened. (literally DIGGED).** In the context, it's not about my works and offerings You desire Lord, but a heart to respond. Literally, like taking a cue tip to clean out your ears. Sometimes it takes help to clean and clear out our ears to help us hear more clearly. Lord, whatever is choking out my ability and opportunity to hear YOU and YOUR VOICE, by Your grace, dig that out.

That surrender to Him, to whatever He might say, releases your your hearing heart to be able to hear His voice.

#### **SOME SIMPLE WAYS TO HEAR**

1. Through the BIBLE, His Word; specific verses
2. Through hearing His voice to you personally
3. Through people—pastors, leaders, sermons, friends.
4. Through life events—changes can lead to new directions
5. Through subjective dreams, visions, prophetic words that **AGREE WITH THE WORD OF GOD.**

Remember, His Old Testament name is Jehovah, which literally means the Self-Existent One who REVEALS HIMSELF. He reveals Himself through JESUS. His Holy SPIRIT speaks to us, teaches us, leads us. HE WANTS TO SPEAK TO HIS LISTENING, loving people.