

## How Are You Hearing God's Word?

It is possible to hear God's Word but not truly listen in order to obey

## Introduction

- Hearing, one of our five senses, is one of God's wonderful blessings
- Physical hearing is not an end in itself but a means for us to process information on which we make decisions
- When physical hearing is impaired, unless remedied, it can lead to problems of not accurately understanding what is said and not being able to act accordingly

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## Introduction

- Hearing God's Word goes beyond physically hearing including responding by believing leading to obedience
- Hearing God's Word is essential to knowing and submitting to God's will for our salvation
- How are we hearing God's Word - with a view to obey or disobey?

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## How Are You Hearing God's Word?

1. Preaching the gospel is God's means for saving man
2. Distinction between physical and spiritual hearing
3. Evil hearers of God's Word
4. Good hearers of God's Word

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## Preaching The Gospel Is God's Means For Saving Man

- Often we emphasize the necessity and manner in which the gospel must be preached
- This is important because the gospel is God's only means for saving humanity
- But, to be saved, all must hear the gospel to the point of obeying it from the heart

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## Preaching The Gospel Is God's Only Means For Saving Humanity

1Co 1:18 For the word of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

1Co 1:19 For it is written, "I WILL DESTROY THE WISDOM OF THE WISE, AND THE CLEVERNESS OF THE CLEVER I WILL SET ASIDE."

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## Preaching The Gospel Is God's Only Means For Saving Humanity

1Co 1:20 Where is the wise man? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?

1Co 1:21 For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not *come* to know God, God was well-pleased through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe.

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## Preaching The Gospel Is God's Only Means For Saving Humanity

Act 11:13 "And he reported to us how he had seen the angel standing in his house, and saying, 'Send to Joppa and have Simon, who is also called Peter, brought here;

Act 11:14 and he will speak words to you by which you will be saved, you and all your household.'

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## To Be Saved All Must Hear The Gospel To The Point of Believing and Obeying

Rom 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

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## To Be Saved All Must Hear The Gospel To The Point of Believing and Obeying

Rom 10:12 For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same *Lord* is Lord of all, abounding in riches for all who call on Him;

Rom 10:13 for "WHOEVER WILL CALL ON THE NAME OF THE LORD WILL BE SAVED."

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## To Be Saved All Must Hear The Gospel To The Point of Believing and Obeying

Rom 10:14 How then will they call on Him in whom they have not believed? How will they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how will they hear without a preacher?

Rom 10:15 How will they preach unless they are sent? Just as it is written, "HOW BEAUTIFUL ARE THE FEET OF THOSE WHO BRING GOOD NEWS OF GOOD THINGS!"

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## To Be Saved All Must Hear The Gospel To The Point of Believing and Obeying

Rom 10:16 However, they did not all heed the good news; for Isaiah says, "LORD, WHO HAS BELIEVED OUR REPORT?"

Rom 10:17 So faith *comes* from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.

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## To Be Saved All Must Hear The Gospel To The Point of Believing and Obeying

Rom 6:17 But thanks be to God that though you were slaves of sin, you became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching to which you were committed,

Rom 6:18 and having been freed from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.

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## Distinction Between Physical And Spiritual Hearing

- It is not enough simply to listen to the Word
- Listening that does not result in heartfelt obedient faith will not profit us
- Sinful attitudes when listening to God's Word must be overcome if we are going to hear in order to obey

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## Distinction Between Physical And Spiritual Hearing

Luk 8:4 When a large crowd was coming together, and those from the various cities were journeying to Him, He spoke by way of a parable:

Luk 8:5 "The sower went out to sow his seed; and as he sowed, some fell beside the road, and it was trampled under foot and the birds of the air ate it up.

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## Distinction Between Physical And Spiritual Hearing

Luk 8:6 "Other *seed* fell on rocky *soil*, and as soon as it grew up, it withered away, because it had no moisture.

Luk 8:7 "Other *seed* fell among the thorns; and the thorns grew up with it and choked it out.

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## Distinction Between Physical And Spiritual Hearing

Luk 8:8 "Other *seed* fell into the good soil, and grew up, and produced a crop a hundred times as great." As He said these things, He would call out, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

Luk 8:9 His disciples *began* questioning Him as to what this parable meant.

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## Distinction Between Physical And Spiritual Hearing

Luk 8:10 And He said, "To you it has been granted to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God, but to the rest *it is* in parables, so that SEEING THEY MAY NOT SEE, AND HEARING THEY MAY NOT UNDERSTAND.

Luk 8:11 "Now the parable is this: the seed is the word of God.

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## Distinction Between Physical And Spiritual Hearing

Luk 8:12 "Those beside the road are those who have heard; then the devil comes and takes away the word from their heart, so that they will not believe and be saved.

Luk 8:13 "Those on the rocky *soil* are those who, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no *firm* root; they believe for a while, and in time of temptation fall away.

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## Distinction Between Physical And Spiritual Hearing

Luk 8:14 "The *seed* which fell among the thorns, these are the ones who have heard, and as they go on their way they are choked with worries and riches and pleasures of *this* life, and bring no fruit to maturity.

Luk 8:15 "But the *seed* in the good soil, these are the ones who have heard the word in an honest and good heart, and hold it fast, and bear fruit with perseverance.

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## Evil and Good Hearers of God's Word

- Our attitudes we express as we hear Go's Word will determine whether we hear to the point of heartfelt obedience
- We do not have to be among the evil hearers as so many are who do not seek to fully obey His will
- Contrast various kinds of evil and good hearers of God's Word

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## Fans of The Preacher

Eze 33:28 "I will make the land a desolation and a waste, and the pride of her power will cease; and the mountains of Israel will be desolate so that no one will pass through.

Eze 33:29 "Then they will know that I am the LORD, when I make the land a desolation and a waste because of all their abominations which they have committed."

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## Fans of The Preacher

Eze 33:30 "But as for you, son of man, your fellow citizens who talk about you by the walls and in the doorways of the houses, speak to one another, each to his brother, saying, 'Come now and hear what the message is which comes forth from the LORD.'

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## Fans of The Preacher

Eze 33:31 "They come to you as people come, and sit before you as My people and hear your words, but they do not do them, for they do the lustful desires *expressed* by their mouth, *and* their heart goes after their gain.

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## Fans of The Preacher

Eze 33:32 "Behold, you are to them like a sensual song by one who has a beautiful voice and plays well on an instrument; for they hear your words but they do not practice them.

Eze 33:33 "So when it comes to pass--as surely it will--then they will know that a prophet has been in their midst."

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## Forgetful Hearers

Jas 1:22 But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves.

Jas 1:23 For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks at his natural face in a mirror;

Jas 1:24 for *once* he has looked at himself and gone away, he has immediately forgotten what kind of person he was.

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## Forgetful Hearers

Jas 1:25 But one who looks intently at the perfect law, the *law* of liberty, and abides by it, not having become a forgetful hearer but an effectual doer, this man will be blessed in what he does.

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## Forgetful Hearers

Jas 1:26 If anyone thinks himself to be religious, and yet does not bridle his tongue but deceives his *own* heart, this man's religion is worthless.

Jas 1:27 Pure and undefiled religion in the sight of *our* God and Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their distress, *and* to keep oneself unstained by the world.

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## How Are You Hearing God's Word?

1. Preaching the gospel is God's means for saving man
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## Distracted Hearers

Mat 13:19 "When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil *one* comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is the one on whom seed was sown beside the road.

Mat 13:20 "The one on whom seed was sown on the rocky places, this is the man who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy;

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## Distracted Hearers

Mat 13:21 yet he has no *firm* root in himself, but is *only* temporary, and when affliction or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he falls away.

Mat 13:22 "And the one on whom seed was sown among the thorns, this is the man who hears the word, and the worry of the world and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful.

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## Distracted Hearers

Luk 8:14 "The *seed* which fell among the thorns, these are the ones who have heard, and as they go on their way they are choked with worries and riches and pleasures of *this* life, and bring no fruit to maturity.

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## Immature Hearers

Heb 5:10 being designated by God as a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

Heb 5:11 Concerning him we have much to say, and *it is* hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing.

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## Immature Hearers

Heb 5:12 For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you have need again for someone to teach you the elementary principles of the oracles of God, and you have come to need milk and not solid food.

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## Immature Hearers

Heb 5:13 For everyone who partakes *only* of milk is not accustomed to the word of righteousness, for he is an infant.

Heb 5:14 But solid food is for the mature, who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good and evil.

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## Curious Hearers

Act 17:18 And also some of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers were conversing with him. Some were saying, "What would this idle babbler wish to say?" Others, "He seems to be a proclaimer of strange deities,"--because he was preaching Jesus and the resurrection.

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## Curious Hearers

Act 17:19 And they took him and brought him to the Areopagus, saying, "May we know what this new teaching is which you are proclaiming?"

Act 17:20 "For you are bringing some strange things to our ears; so we want to know what these things mean."

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## Curious Hearers

Act 17:21 (Now all the Athenians and the strangers visiting there used to spend their time in nothing other than telling or hearing something new.)

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## Hearers Who Always Agree

2Ti 4:1 I solemnly charge *you* in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom:

2Ti 4:2 preach the word; be ready in season *and* out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction.

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## Hearers Who Always Agree

2Ti 4:3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but *wanting* to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires,

2Ti 4:4 and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths.

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## Spiritually Deaf

Act 7:51 "You men who are stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears are always resisting the Holy Spirit; you are doing just as your fathers did.

Act 7:52 "Which one of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? They killed those who had previously announced the coming of the Righteous One, whose betrayers and murderers you have now become;

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## Spiritually Deaf

Act 7:53 you who received the law as ordained by angels, and *yet* did not keep it."

Act 7:54 Now when they heard this, they were cut to the quick, and they *began* gnashing their teeth at him.

Act 7:55 But being full of the Holy Spirit, he gazed intently into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God;

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## Spiritually Deaf

Act 7:56 and he said, "Behold, I see the heavens opened up and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God."

Act 7:57 But they cried out with a loud voice, and covered their ears and rushed at him with one impulse.

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## Good and Honest Hearers

Luk 8:15 "But the *seed* in the good soil, these are the ones who have heard the word in an honest and good heart, and hold it fast, and bear fruit with perseverance.

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## Eager Hearers

Mat 5:6 "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

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## Eager Hearers

Act 10:24 On the following day he entered Caesarea. Now Cornelius was waiting for them and had called together his relatives and close friends.

Act 10:33 "So I sent for you immediately, and you have been kind enough to come. Now then, we are all here present before God to hear all that you have been commanded by the Lord

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## Eager Hearers

Act 17:11 Now these were more noble-minded than those in Thessalonica, for they received the word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily *to see* whether these things were so.

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## Discerning Hearers

Mar 4:24 And He was saying to them, "Take care what you listen to. By your standard of measure it will be measured to you; and more will be given you besides.

Mar 4:25 "For whoever has, to him *more* shall be given; and whoever does not have, even what he has shall be taken away from him."

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## Discerning Hearers

Act 17:11 Now these were more noble-minded than those in Thessalonica, for they received the word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily *to see* whether these things were so.

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## Discerning Hearers

1Th 5:21 But examine everything *carefully*; hold fast to that which is good;  
Gal 1:8 But even if we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to what we have preached to you, he is to be accursed!

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## Discerning Hearers

1Jn 4:1 Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world.

1Jn 4:2 By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God;

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## Discerning Hearers

1Jn 4:3 and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God; this is the *spirit* of the antichrist, of which you have heard that it is coming, and now it is already in the world.

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## Reverent Hearers

1Th 2:13 For this reason we also constantly thank God that when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you accepted *it* not as the word of men, but *for* what it really is, the word of God, which also performs its work in you who believe.

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## Reverent Hearers

Heb 12:25 See to it that you do not refuse Him who is speaking. For if those did not escape when they refused him who warned *them* on earth, much less *will* we escape who turn away from Him who *warns* from heaven.

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## Reverent Hearers

Heb 12:26 And His voice shook the earth then, but now He has promised, saying, "YET ONCE MORE I WILL SHAKE NOT ONLY THE EARTH, BUT ALSO THE HEAVEN."

Heb 12:27 This *expression*, "Yet once more," denotes the removing of those things which can be shaken, as of created things, so that those things which cannot be shaken may remain.

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## Reverent Hearers

Heb 12:28 Therefore, since we receive a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us show gratitude, by which we may offer to God an acceptable service with reverence and awe;

Heb 12:29 for our God is a consuming fire.

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## Obedient Hearers

Act 2:36 "Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ--this Jesus whom you crucified."

Act 2:37 Now when they heard *this*, they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brethren, what shall we do?"

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## Obedient Hearers

Act 2:38 Peter *said* to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Act 2:42 They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

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## Obedient Hearers

Mat 7:21 "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven *will enter*."

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