

209. Hearing & Confession

By Arland Steen

Mark 4:24 (New King James): *Then He said to them, 'Take heed what you hear. With the same measure you use, it will be measured to you; and to you who hear, more will be given.'*

(New International Version): *Consider carefully what you hear,"*

(New Living Translation): *And be sure to pay attention to what you hear.*

You cannot believe without hearing words. How can I believe you if I do not hear you say something?

Faith for salvation comes by hearing words.

Romans 10:14 (New King James): *How 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?*

Acts 11:14 (New King James): *who will tell you words by which you and all your household will be saved.'*

Faith for the Holy Spirit comes by hearing words.

Acts 19:2,5-6 (New King James): *2he said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" So, they said to him, "We have not so much as heard whether there is a Holy Spirit." 3And he said to them, "Into what then were you baptized?" So they said, "Into John's baptism." 4Then Paul said, "John indeed baptized with a baptism of repentance, saying to the people that they should believe on Him who would come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus." 5When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. 6And when Paul had laid hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke with tongues and prophesied.*

Faith for healing comes by hearing words.

Acts 14:7-9 (New King James): *7And they were preaching the gospel there.8And in Lystra a certain man without strength in his feet was sitting, a cripple from his mother's womb, who had never walked. 9This man heard Paul speaking. Paul, observing him intently and seeing that he had faith to be healed,*

MENTAL AGREEMENT

When you really hear with your heart, results like these occur. But many times, people mentally agree with God's Word but they do not exercise true heart faith. Mental agreement believes only what it sees or feels. This causes believers to lose their rights and privileges in Christ. Mental agreement is one of the most subtle enemies to faith there is. Mental agreement goes so far as to say, "I believe in the verbal inspiration of the Bible." Yet these same individuals will not dare to act upon the Word. That's how you can tell if you are in faith or mental agreement. Faith acts upon the Word while mental agreement will not. It is very easy to declare that God's Word is true when everything is running fine but if we really believe God's Word, we will be just as steady when the crisis comes. Faith will say: "I'm not moved by what I see. I'm not moved by what I feel. I'm only moved by what I believe and I believe God's Word."

MOVING FROM MENTAL AGREEMENT INTO FAITH

Hearing God's Word with your heart will move you from mental agreement into faith. Scripture repeatedly tells us to *hear* God's voice:

Deuteronomy 5:1: *Hear, O Israel, the statutes and judgments which I speak in your hearing today.*

Deuteronomy 6:4: *Hear, O Israel, The Lord our God, the Lord is one!*

Deuteronomy 9:1: *Hear, O Israel: You are to cross over the Jordan today.*

Isaiah 28:23: *Give ear and hear my voice, listen and hear my speech.*

Jeremiah 2:4: *Hear the word of the Lord, O house of Jacob.*

Jeremiah 10:1: *Hear the word which the Lord speaks to you, O house of Israel.*

Jeremiah 11:2: *Hear the words of this covenant.*

Jeremiah 17:20: *Hear the word of the Lord, you kings. Jeremiah 31:10: Hear the word of the Lord, O nations.*

Amos 3:1: *Hear this word that the Lord has spoken.*

HEARING AIDS

Aid #1 – You must have an ear.

In the book of Revelation, it says repeatedly, *He who has an ear, let him hear.*

Had Jesus meant the natural ear this phrase would be odd. But He says to hear *what the Spirit says*, so it must refer to the spiritual faculty of perception. When you become a believer you not only get ears that *can* hear

but eyes that can see that the Lord is good and a mouth that can taste that He is good. A mark of maturity is diligently exercising the spiritual faculties of perception. Daily meditation in the Word and prayer primes the pump of your inner ear.

1 Timothy 4:7 (New King James): *But reject profane and old wives' fables, and exercise yourself towards godliness.*

Isaiah 50:4-6: Jesus heard the voice of God daily for His life.

Without that you can become "dull of hearing" (Hebrews 5:11).

Aid #2 – Be willing to hear.

Revelation 3:6 (New King James): *He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.*

Not all who have a spiritual ear are willing to use it. If we are to hear, we must be *willing* to hear. The main obstacle to this is our selfish will. Self will is subtle, religious and selfish. God tells us to do things many times that are contrary to our desires. So, we must daily die to what we desire and yield to Him.

This is the reason Jesus was able to hear – John 5:30.

He said, "I hear because I do not seek My own will."

This is a major reason why we are unable to hear God's voice.

Aid #3 – Total dependence on God.

The purpose behind not seeking your will is to seek the will of God. When we are set free from self-will, we are suddenly very inclined to the Father's will. This produces complete dependence upon Another than ourselves. John 5:30: *I can of Myself do nothing.*

REASON WHY WHAT JESUS SAID IS IMPORTANT

1. Your hearing controls your thinking.

2. Your thinking controls what you believe.

What we believe is a result of our thinking. If we think wrong, we will believe wrong. And if we believe wrong our confession will be wrong. The Bible has a lot to say about our minds and the thoughts we think. Romans 12:2 (New King James): *And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.*

(Barclay): *Your whole mental outlook must be radically altered.*

Our minds are renewed as we meditate the Word. Philippians 4:8.

Realize that thoughts can come from two different sources: the devil or our spirit. The more time you spend with God the more thoughts will come from Him.

Proverbs 23:7 (New King James): *For as he thinks in his heart, so is he.*

One of the most important things you do is **think**.

We are to bring every thought into captivity – 2 Corinthians 10:5 (New King James): *Casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ.*

It takes three things to do this: first is desire, second is being alert to recognize bad thoughts and third is to capture them with your mouth.

3. Your believing controls your confession.

Matthew 12:34 (New King James): *For out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaks.*

Jesus is saying that what you believe will control what you say. This is why we are to guard our hearts.

Proverbs 4:23 (New King James): *Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life.*

(New English Bible): *Guard your heart more than any treasure, for it is the source of all life.*

Your heart is valuable so guard it.

4. Your confession controls your life.

Confession is an affirming of something we believe; testifying something we know; witnessing for a truth that we have embraced. We must hold fast our confession of redemption from Satan's dominion over us because that is his defeat.

Proverbs 13:3 (New King James): *He who guards his mouth preserves his life.*

Proverbs 21:23 (New King James): *Whoever guards his mouth and tongue, keeps his soul from troubles.*

James 3:6 (New International Version): *The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole person, sets the whole course of his life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell.*

James 3:2 (New International Version): *We all stumble in many ways. If anyone is never at fault in what he says, he is a perfect man, able to keep his whole body in check.*

Your LIFE is controlled by your CONFESSON which is controlled by your BELIEVING which is controlled by your THINKING which is controlled by your HEARING. So, consider carefully what you HEAR.