

Hearing

**The First Step In God's Plan
Of Salvation**

“Hear” Has Many Different Uses:

- The audition of sounds
 - Acts 9:7 - “And the men who journeyed with him stood speechless, hearing a voice but seeing no one.”
 - John 12:27-28 - “Father, glorify Your name. Then a voice came from heaven, saying, I have both glorified it and will glorify it again. 29 Therefore the people who stood by and heard it said that it had thundered. Others said, An angel has spoken to Him.”

“Hear” Has Many Different Uses:

- To perceive by ear what is announced in one's presence
 - Acts 22:9 - “And those who were with me indeed saw the light and were afraid, but they did not hear the voice of Him who spoke to me.”
- To get by hearing, to learn from the mouth of a teacher
 - Matt 10:27 - “Whatever I tell you in the dark, speak in the light; and what you hear in the ear, preach on the housetops.”

“Hear” Has Many Different Uses:

- To learn by the hearing of others
 - Matt. 11:2 - “And when John had heard in prison about the works of Christ, he sent two of his disciples”
- To listen to, hear attentively
 - Luke 19:47-48 - “And He was teaching daily in the temple. But the chief priests, the scribes, and the leaders of the people sought to destroy Him, 48 and were unable to do anything; for all the people were very attentive to hear Him.”

“Hear” Has Many Different Uses:

- To comprehend, to understand
 - Mark 4:33 - “And with many such parables He spoke the word to them as they were able to hear it.”
- To yield to, to hear and obey, to heed
 - Acts 3:22-23 - “For Moses truly said to the fathers, 'The LORD your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your brethren. Him you shall hear in all things, whatever He says to you. 23 'And it shall be that every soul who will not hear that Prophet shall be utterly destroyed from among the people.'”

Hearing and the Plan of Salvation

- The scriptural role of hearing in salvation is that of being attentive, understanding, and obedient. It is hearing with the intention to heed.

What Is It That One Must Hear?

- The Word of the Lord
 - Isa. 49:1-3 - “Listen, O coastlands, to Me, And take heed, you peoples from afar! The LORD has called Me from the womb; From the matrix of My mother He has made mention of My name. 2 And He has made My mouth like a sharp sword; In the shadow of His hand He has hidden Me, And made Me a polished shaft; In His quiver He has hidden Me. 3 And He said to me, 'You are My servant, O Israel, In whom I will be glorified.’”

One Must Hear the Word of God

- Heb. 4:12 - “For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”
- Eph 6:17 - “And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God”

One Must Hear the Word of God

- Rev. 1:16 - “He had in His right hand seven stars, out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword, and His countenance was like the sun shining in its strength.”
- 2:12, 16 - “And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write, 'These things says He who has the sharp two-edged sword 16 Repent, or else I will come to you quickly and will fight against them with the sword of My mouth.’”
- 19:15, 21 - “Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. 21 And the rest were killed with the sword which proceeded from the mouth of Him who sat on the horse. And all the birds were filled with their flesh.”

Why Must One Listen?

- God requires it
 - Matt. 17:5 - “While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them; and suddenly a voice came out of the cloud, saying, This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!”
- Eternity depends on it
 - John 12:48 - “He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him--the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day.”

Why Must One Listen?

- Salvation begins with it
 - Rom. 10:8-18 - “But what does it say? The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart (that is, the word of faith which we preach) 13 For whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved. 14 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? And how shall they hear without a preacher? 16 But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, Lord, who has believed our report? 17 So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. 18 But I say, have they not heard? Yes indeed: “Their sound has gone out to all the earth, And their words to the ends of the world.”

Why Must One Listen?

- Security comes from it
 - Heb. 3:7-13 - “Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says: Today, if you will hear His voice, 8 Do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion, In the day of trial in the wilderness 11 So I swore in My wrath, 'They shall not enter My rest. 12 Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God; 13 but exhort one another daily, while it is called Today, lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.”

How Must One Listen?

- Scriptural listening requires action
 - Matt. 7:21-28 - “Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. 22 Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' 23 And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!' 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. 28 And so it was, when Jesus had ended these sayings, that the people were astonished at His teaching”

How Must One Listen?

- James 1:21-25 - “Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls. 22 But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. 23 For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; 24 for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. 25 But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.”
- Acts 10:22, 33 - “And they said, Cornelius the centurion, a just man, one who fears God and has a good reputation among all the nation of the Jews, was divinely instructed by a holy angel to summon you to his house, and to hear words from you. 33 So I sent to you immediately, and you have done well to come. Now therefore, we are all present before God, to hear all the things commanded you by God.”

How Must One Listen?

- Luke 8:16-18 - “No one, when he has lit a lamp, covers it with a vessel or puts it under a bed, but sets it on a lampstand, that those who enter may see the light. 17 For nothing is secret that will not be revealed, nor anything hidden that will not be known and come to light. 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.”
- 1Tim. 4:15-16 - “Meditate on these things; give yourself entirely to them, that your progress may be evident to all. 16 Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you.”

Hearing

**The First Step In God's Plan
Of Salvation**

Hearing

- The scriptural role of hearing is listening with the intention to heed.
- What Is It That One Must Hear?
 - The word of God
- Why Must One Listen?
 - God requires it
 - Eternity depends on it
 - Salvation begins with it
 - Security comes from it
- How Must One Listen?
 - Purposing to practice what is heard

What Are Some Hindrances To Hearing?

- Willful ignorance
 - **The Jews failed to hear out of ignorance**
 - Rom 10:1-3 - “Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved. 2 For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. 3 For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God.”
 - Acts 3:14-17 - “But you denied the Holy One and the Just, and asked for a murderer to be granted to you, 15 and killed the Prince of life, whom God raised from the dead, of which we are witnesses. 16 And His name, through faith in His name, has made this man strong, whom you see and know. Yes, the faith which comes through Him has given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all. 17 Yet now, brethren, I know that you did it in ignorance, as did also your rulers.”

What Are Some Hindrances To Hearing?

- Their ignorance was not God's fault
 - God had committed to them the oracles, the law and the prophets
 - Rom 3:1-2 - “What advantage then has the Jew, or what is the profit of circumcision? 2 Much in every way! Chiefly because to them were committed the oracles of God. 3 For what if some did not believe? Will their unbelief make the faithfulness of God without effect?”

What Are Some Hindrances To Hearing?

- God gave them the law to bring them to Christ
 - Rom 10:4 - “For **Christ is the end of the law** for righteousness to everyone who believes.”
 - Gal 3:24 - “Therefore **the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ**, that we might be justified by faith.”

What Are Some Hindrances To Hearing?

- The prophets bore witness of the Christ
 - Acts 10:43 - “To Him **all the prophets witness** that, through His name, whoever believes in Him will receive remission of sins.”
 - Acts 26:22-23 - “Therefore, having obtained help from God, to this day I stand, witnessing both to small and great, **saying no other things than those which the prophets and Moses said** would come-- 23 that the Christ would suffer, that He would be the first to rise from the dead, and would proclaim light to the Jewish people and to the Gentiles.”

What Are Some Hindrances To Hearing?

- Yet with all this, they ignorantly rejected Christ

- Acts 13:27-28 - “For those who dwell in Jerusalem, and their rulers, because they did not know Him, nor even the voices of the Prophets which are read every Sabbath, have fulfilled them in condemning Him. 28 And though they found no cause for death in Him, they asked Pilate that He should be put to death.”

What Are Some Hindrances To Hearing?

- Man's ignorance today is not God's fault. God has seen to it that His word has been preached to all the world.
 - Acts 8:26-29 - To an Ethiopian in a desert
 - Acts 10:9-16, 28-29, 33 - To a Gentile in Caesarea
 - Acts 16:9-10 - To Macedonians in Europe

What Are Some Hindrances To Hearing?

- Rom 15:19-21 - “In mighty signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God, so that from Jerusalem and round about to Illyricum I have fully preached the gospel of Christ. 20 And so I have made it my aim to preach the gospel, not where Christ was named, lest I should build on another man's foundation, 21 but as it is written: To whom He was not announced, they shall see; And those who have not heard shall understand.”
- Col 1:23 - “If indeed you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel which you heard, which was preached to every creature under heaven, of which I, Paul, became a minister.”

What Are Some Hindrances To Hearing?

- God has seen that all things necessary for man's salvation were recorded for posterity
 - 2Tim. 3:16-17 - “All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.”
 - Jude 3 - “Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.”
- Ignorance is not an excuse

What Are Some Hindrances To Hearing?

- Proving or protecting a cherished doctrine
 - Until one comes to love the truth, he can and will be deceived
 - 2Thes. 2:10-12 - “and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. 11 And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, 12 that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.”
 - One must hunger and thirst after righteousness
 - Matt 5:6 - “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, For they shall be filled.”

What Are Some Hindrances To Hearing?

- Prejudice (*“My mind is already made up!”*)
 - 2Kings 5:9-12 - “Then Naaman went with his horses and chariot, and he stood at the door of Elisha's house. 10 And Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, Go and wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored to you, and you shall be clean. 11 But Naaman became furious, and went away and said, Indeed, I said to myself, 'He will surely come out to me, and stand and call on the name of the LORD his God, and wave his hand over the place, and heal the leprosy.' 12 Are not the Abanah and the Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them and be clean? So he turned and went away in a rage.”

What Are Some Hindrances To Hearing?

- Prejudice

- Acts 7:54-58 - “When they heard these things they were cut to the heart, and they gnashed at him with their teeth. 55 But he, being full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God, 56 and said, Look! I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God! 57 Then they cried out with a loud voice, stopped their ears, and ran at him with one accord; 58 and they cast him out of the city and stoned him. And the witnesses laid down their clothes at the feet of a young man named Saul.”

What Are Some Hindrances To Hearing?

- Prejudice

- Acts 22:17-23 - “Now it happened, when I returned to Jerusalem and was praying in the temple, that I was in a trance 18 and saw Him saying to me, 'Make haste and get out of Jerusalem quickly, for they will not receive your testimony concerning Me.' 19 So I said, 'Lord, they know that in every synagogue I imprisoned and beat those who believe on You. 20 'And when the blood of Your martyr Stephen was shed, I also was standing by consenting to his death, and guarding the clothes of those who were killing him.' 21 Then He said to me, 'Depart, for I will send you far from here to the Gentiles.' 22 And they listened to him until this word, and then they raised their voices and said, Away with such a fellow from the earth, for he is not fit to live!”

What Are Some Hindrances To Hearing?

- Believing there is time to change later
 - Prov 27:1 - “Do not boast about tomorrow, For you do not know what a day may bring forth.”
 - James 4:13-14 - “Come now, you who say, Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, spend a year there, buy and sell, and make a profit; 14 whereas you do not know what will happen tomorrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away.”

When We Listen, What Will We Hear?

- That responsible beings who have sinned are under condemnation unless they hear and obey God's Word
 - Rom. 8:1-4 - “There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. 2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death. 3 For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh, 4 that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.”

When We Listen, What Will We Hear?

- That responsible beings who have sinned are under condemnation unless they hear and obey God's Word
 - 2Thes. 1:7-8 - “And to give you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, 8 in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

When We Listen, What Will We Hear?

- Christ's invitation for man to be saved
 - Matt. 11:28-30 - “Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29 Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.”

When We Listen, What Will We Hear?

- God's plan of salvation
 - Mark 16:16 - “He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.”
 - Acts 2:38 - “Then Peter said to them, Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”
 - Rom. 6:3-5 - “Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? 4 Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. 5 For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection”

When We Listen, What Will We Hear?

- God's approved manner of life
 - Titus 2:11-13 - “For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, 12 teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, 13 looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ”

When We Listen, What Will We Hear?

- The call to duty

- Matt. 9:37 - “Then He said to His disciples, The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few.”

- John 4:35 - “Do you not say, 'There are still four months and then comes the harvest'? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest”

When We Listen, What Will We Hear?

- John 15:2, 8 - “Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit. 8 By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.”
- 1Cor. 15:58 - “Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.”
- Phil. 2:12 - “Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling”

When We Listen, What Will We Hear?

- The promises to the faithful and the warnings to the disobedient
 - Rom. 2:6-10 - “Who will render to each one according to his deeds: 7 eternal life to those who by patient continuance in doing good seek for glory, honor, and immortality; 8 but to those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness--indignation and wrath, 9 tribulation and anguish, on every soul of man who does evil, of the Jew first and also of the Greek; 10 but glory, honor, and peace to everyone who works what is good, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.”
 - Rev. 2:10 - “Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.”

“He who has ears to hear, let him hear! But blessed are your eyes for they see, and your ears for they hear; for assuredly, I say to you that many prophets and righteous men desired to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it” (Matt. 13:9, 16-17).