

The Voice

“Hearing God’s Voice”

Luke 8:8 “... Whoever has ears to hear, let them hear.”

God is a speaking God

He speaks to us through the Bible; the Spirit; Dreams and Visions; Experiences and our Leaders... but we can miss it if we don’t have ears to hear.

How do we get our “ears to hear”?

Our spiritual ears are connected to our hearts

Luke 8:4-8 NIV While a large crowd was gathering and people were coming to Jesus from town after town, he told this parable: **5** “A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path; it was trampled on, and the birds ate it up. **6** Some fell on rocky ground, and when it came up, the plants withered because they had no moisture. **7** Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up with it and choked the plants. **8** Still other seed fell on good soil. It came up and yielded a crop, a hundred times more than was sown.” When he said this, he called out, “Whoever has ears to hear, let them hear.”

Preparing Your Heart

1) The Polluted Heart.

Luke 8:12 NIV Those along the path are the ones who hear, and then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved.

a) What we do to ourselves.

b) What others do to us.

James 1:21 NLT Get rid of all the filth and evil in your lives, and humbly accept the message God has planted in your hearts, for it is strong enough to save your soul.

2) The Distracted Heart.

Luke 8:13 NLT The seeds on the rocky soil represent those who hear the message and receive it with joy. But since they don’t have deep roots, they believe for a while, then they fall away when they face temptation.

Luke 10:39-40 AMP And she had a sister named Mary, who seated herself at the Lord’s feet and was listening to His teaching. But Martha [overly occupied and too busy] was distracted with much serving.

It is possible to be so busy serving the Lord you are not listening to the Lord.

3) The Immature Heart.

Luke 8:14 “The seed that fell among weeds stands for those who hear, but as they go on their way, they are choked by life’s worries, riches, and pleasures, and they don’t mature.”

a) WEEDS; I hate weeds --- weeds speak to neglect

Proverbs 24:30,31 NIV I went past the field of a sluggard, past the vineyard of someone who has no sense; **31** thorns had come up everywhere, the ground was covered with weeds, and the stone wall was in ruins.

b) Why don’t we weed?

- i) Because its hard!
- ii) We already dealt with that!
- iii) Other people need it more!
- iv) Because its hard!
- v) Because we don’t like to get down on our knees

4) The Prepared heart.

Luke 8:15 But the seed on good soil stands for those with a noble and good heart, who hear the word, retain it, and by persevering produce a crop.

- ✓ Repent
- ✓ Refocus
- ✓ Renew

God’s voice is clearest in a prepared environment.