

"What it means to Hear!!" (Slide 1)

Principles of God's Plan of Salvation

Reading: Romans 10:13-17

(Slide 2) Hearing is one of the 5 senses possessed by human beings. *Sight, touch, taste, smell, and hearing*. Each of the 5 senses enhance the human experience.

Sight-Being able to see allows one to view the magnificent creation of God's Handiwork. To escape impending danger, to drive a car, to see an expression from a loved one.

Touch-The human child learns a great deal about the world through touch. For example; the stove is hot, ice is cold, etc. Touch is one of, if not the most sensitive senses that man possesses. Touch can bring great comfort to someone in distress.

Taste-The sense of taste often brings with it pleasure and sometimes disdain. For example; biting into a candy bar typically brings pleasure for most whereas, taking a bite of a slice of grapefruit may generate a different reaction.

Smell-There are many pleasant smells and there are many unpleasant smells. We can actually close our eyes and in many cases, recognize what it is we are smelling.

Hearing-Hearing is essential for understanding. For developing a conclusion or opinion. We receive information through hearing and we develop comprehension from what we hear as our mind discerns and dissects the information.

I have a cousin who was born deaf but what is interesting and also to his credit, he has tremendous ability to hear, that is to understand. In fact, his understanding surpasses many who can hear perfectly.

He developed an uncanny ability to read lips and became a master of sign language. Because of his inability to hear, his speech was also affected. But I understood him completely.

Using his other senses, which were dramatically compensated for his loss of hearing, he became a Christian!!

When one loses one sensory ability others senses most often become more pronounced.

For example, someone who loses their sight can now see with what their ears hear or what they can feel with their fingertips. One can perceive the honesty or sincerity of another more easily with what they can detect with their hearing.

Yet, hearing, with whatever sense is available, is necessary for understanding. Therefore, hearing that is; understanding is essential for conversion.

Jesus said:

Mark 4:3-8 (Slide 3)

3 "Listen! Behold, a sower went out to sow. 4 And it happened, as he sowed, that some seed fell by the wayside; and the birds of the air came and devoured it. 5 Some fell on stony ground, where it did not have much earth; and immediately it sprang up (Slide 4) because it had no depth of earth. 6 But when the sun was up it was scorched, and because it had no root it withered away. 7 And some seed fell among thorns; and the thorns grew up and choked it, and it yielded no crop. (Slide 5) 8 But other seed fell on good ground and yielded a crop that sprang up, increased and produced: some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some a hundred."

Jesus goes on to explain that the seed is the Word and we can be assured that the Word is about Jesus. It is the spoken Word!!

Today, the Word spoken is the Good News, The Gospel of Jesus Christ who died on the Cross to save the souls of mankind.

As he further explains, that seed that was sown was the same seed that fell on the different areas of the ground. The different types of soil and terrain represent the heart of man. Some were receptive to the word, while others rejected it immediately or soon after it was sewn. Still others allowed something or someone else to take the seed away from them.

Mark 4:9 (Slide 6)

9 And He said to them, “He who has ears to hear, let him hear!”

Some might say; “Well I hear perfectly.” He is saying; “*Hear and Understand.*”

He goes on to explain that some hear and understand and some hear the same message and are without understanding.

(Slide 7) It is crucial for salvation to:

“hear His word,

understand His word,

accept His word and

recognize the power of His word!”

John 12:48 (Slide 8)

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.

As our lesson text states, *hearing produces faith*. Hearing produces evidence for our faith in the Word. Frankly, simple observation of what we can see in our world as stated in the Bible and in connection with faith, produces: **“Proof of the Authenticity of God’s Holy Word-The Bible.”**

For example; The *Intricate* and *complexity* of the earth and the creatures that inhabit it. Using the human heart as an example:

The human heart, located in the center of the chest, is about the size of the average man’s fist and weighs less than a pound, somewhere between 9 to 12 ounces.

It is considered the most powerful and hardest working muscle in the body. It beats around 100,000 times per day, that is; 60 to 100 beats per minute when we're resting in our easy chair.

Each day, everyday it pumps 5 liters that is 8 pints of blood through the body's 60,000 miles of blood vessels delivering nutrients and oxygen, the essentials of keeping human beings alive.

It works in direct correlation with the human brain to increase its production when we exert any type of energy. When we run a signal comes immediately from the brain for the heart to speed up and pump faster.

On average the heart produces enough energy everyday to power a truck for 20 miles.

Having heard all of this, I could never be convinced that the human body evolved from nothing or was displaced by chance or an explosion. It would take more faith to believe that than to believe the human body has a Supreme Spiritual designer and creator. This is where I place my faith.

Events of the world prove the authenticity of the Bible.

Isaiah 5:20 (Slide 9)

Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil;

Who put darkness for light, and light for darkness;

Who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!

This is what Isaiah saw in his day and we are seeing it now.

Paul tells Timothy in:

1 Timothy 3:1-5 (Slide 10)

1 But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: 2 For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, 3 unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, (Slide 11) without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, 4 traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, 5 having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!

These are the ones who have heard the word and have not comprehended the word!! *For all will be without excuse!* **Romans 1:20**

Hearing is essential for becoming a child of God. It is through hearing that faith is produced. The connection of hearing with faith will be the subject of our next lesson.

Invitation

In the Book of Acts we learn of a man who was guided by the Spirit to run to catch up with and overtake a very powerful man within Ethiopia who was traveling in a chariot and reading words from the prophet Isaiah. This man ran, sprinted to overtake the one riding in the chariot.

When he caught up with him he found he was reading the following:

Acts 8:32-33 (Slide 12)

32 "He was led as a sheep to the slaughter;

And as a lamb before its shearer is silent,

So He opened not His mouth.

(Slide 13) ***33 In His humiliation His justice was taken away,***

And who will declare His generation?

For His life is taken from the earth."

The man who was led by the Spirit, that is; the Apostle Philip, asked the one traveling in the chariot, the Ethiopian Eunuch, if he *"understood what he was reading?"*

"How can I understand unless someone explains it to me?" and that's exactly what Philip did!! The Eunuch wondered if the prophet was talking about himself or Someone else. Philip then, with this scripture, taught him about Jesus.

It is apparent in Philip's explanation that he taught him regarding contacting the Blood of Christ for the remission of sin through baptism, because when they approached a body of water, that became the Eunuch's desire after *"hearing"* the Word. And Philip baptized him there and he became a child of God!

Today, if you have heard and understood the Word of God about Jesus and can confess with your heart that he is the Christ and wish to be baptized for the remission of your sin, we can do that today. Be assured the Angels in Heaven will rejoice and Jesus Himself will add you to His church.

If you have once obeyed the Gospel call but need the prayers of the faithful, please let us know. We will pray for you and with you.

Please let your wish be known how we can assist you this day.

Reading:

Romans 10:13-17

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? 15 And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written:

***"How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace,
Who bring glad tidings of good things!"***

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.

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