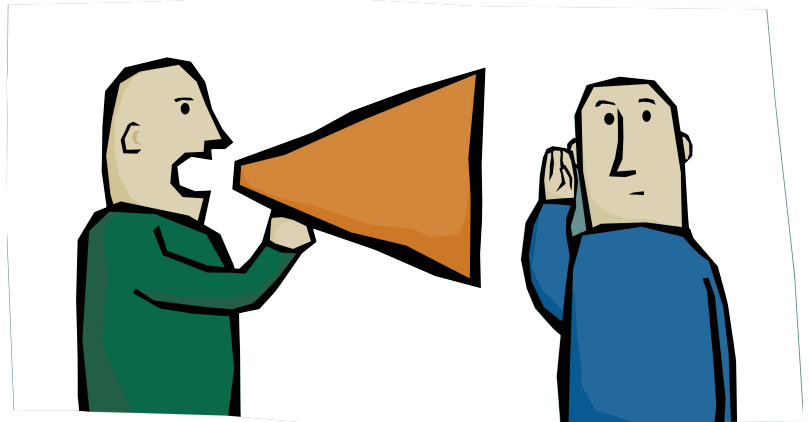


Can you hear me?

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Closed Ears

- The problem with many so called believers today is that they cannot hear. They see, and they think they hear, but really don't know how to listen. *John 8:43 Why are my words not clear to you? It is because your ears are shut to my teaching.*
- There are several things that block our hearing and cause us to make bad decisions that we end up regretting for a long time. When we make decisions based on misinformation, bad teaching, or bad counsel, we end up making our own way harder.
- God is not the author of confusion, but being spiritually deaf will bring chaos and confusion into your life. *1Cor. 14:33 For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints.* If you can't hear, then you can't be trusted by God.



some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:

Jezebel's Curse

- God gives us preachers of the Gospel that stand before us and proclaim the way of God and teach his word. If we cannot hear them, then we cannot hear. *Rom. 10:14 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?*
- God speaks through his preachers that preach His word. But not all preachers are of God so we have to check the fruit to know which is which. *2Cor. 11:14 And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.*
- But ultimately, the Word needs the preacher. The New Testament preachers proclaimed an unwritten word and the people had to trust them. Now we have the written word, but folks should still trust the Words of God's preachers. This isn't to say that we should not read the word for ourselves. But we should learn from those that God has set before us. *Eph. 4:11 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and*

Blocking your hearing:

1. **Pride** - The element of Pride, especially when mixed with religiosity, will stop a person from hearing. When a person is prideful, they do not want to submit or humble themselves for fear of what people will think of them. They always fight for spiritual equality and cannot submit to those God bring to help them. They use religion for a show and they use God to boost their own ego. *Prov. 11:2 Pride leads to disgrace, but with humility comes wisdom.*
2. **Posture** - When people are hurt by ministries or leaders, they carry grudges, unforgiveness, and pain. These usually equate to a bad attitude toward leadership and distrust in God's preachers. So, they decide to go on a quest to find Jesus without preachers. There is nothing wrong with finding Jesus without men, but if your motivation is tainted with hurt, then you will lose respect for God's men in the process. You will then try to prove that you don't need men and thus, you mess up God's order. God's blessing is in his order and we are to be respectful of those that we place over our lives. *Heb. 13:17 Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.*

3. **Past** - The way you were raised has a lot to do with the way you hear. If you were abused, then you don't respond well to commands or shouting. If you were abandoned, then you try hard to please others. If you were raised in an emotional church, then you need to "feel" a certain way to function spiritually. All these things define who you are. And when you have not healed from these issues, it's very hard to accept the words from someone that you feel has not been through what you experienced. You may feel your situation is different, or that folks can't understand you, but the bottom line is, if you don't hear, you will never change. *Phil. 3:13 Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before,*

Enhancing your hearing:

1. **Patience** - Rom. 15:4 Being slow to speak or act on a situation can help you in the long run. If you exercise patience, you can hear things more clearly. It's almost impossible to correctly hear while you are speaking.
2. **Placement** - 2Cor. 6:14 When you plant yourself in the right place, you put yourself in an environment that is conducive to hearing. The wrong place usually has the wrong voices. And you will hear the wrong thing if you are not in the right place.
3. **Perseverance** - Heb. 11:6 There will be times when our hearing is impaired. When the cares of this life try to muffle our spiritual ears. But we must endure and keep pressing to hear. Even when it makes us uncomfortable, or hurts our feelings, we must hear. Without hearing there is no knowing. And without

knowing, there is no faith. And without faith, pleasing God is impossible.

Summary - Many of us have questions and the answers are right before us. Many of us have issues that we are dealing with, but the solution has been preached to us every Sunday. Many of us hear the word, but still choose our own way, even though our way has been in our way for a long time. It just doesn't make any Godly sense to sit under the word, hear the word, and yet do our own thing, but then cry about the bad results. If God led you to a place to be fed, why not eat? Or why eat the dessert before eating the valuable nutrients of the main course? If you trust the word that is being preached, then you should put it into action. Otherwise, things won't change and you will not grow.

Rev. 3:20 Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.

Rev. 3:21 To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.

Rev. 3:22 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

