

DISCERNING ACCORDING TO SCRIPTURE

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DISCIPLESHIP



WHAT DO WE NEED TO DISCERN

- Biblical principles of God's Word and those things related to the Spirit of God – 1st Corinthians 2:14
- Discern between good and evil – Hebrews 5:14
- Discerning the times (regarding Christ's purpose and return) – Luke 12:56
- Discerning that good and perfect will of God – Romans 12:2
- Discerning regarding your body's volition to the flesh or spirit – Romans 7:23
- Discerning of spirits – Gifting from the Holy Spirit – 1st Corinthians 12
- **Discerning the Voice of God – Mark 4:9**

DISCERNMENT IS A CHOICE: YOU C.H.O.O.S.E.

- **C**onnect – Are you connected to the Father, the Vine (Col 2:19)?
- **H**ear Appropriately – It is important as to “how” you hear as to “what” you hear
- **O**bey – Discernment and perfected hearing increases with obedience
- **O**bserve to do – Practice what you hear and understanding will increase
- **S**piritual mindset – Without a spiritual mindset, you can effectively receive from God
- **E**xamine, and investigate the spirits (1st John 4:1)

Job 34:4 - Let us choose for ourselves that which is right; let us know among ourselves what is good.



SCRIPTURE: THE NEED FOR “PERFECTED” HEARING

- Mark 4:9 - And he said unto them, He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.
- Mark 4:9 - And He said, He who has ears to hear, let him be hearing [**and let him consider, and comprehend**].
 - *“he that hath ears to hear, let him hear: observe, and take notice of what has been said, as being of the greatest moment and importance”*
- Revelation 2:7: He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God.
 - *“He that hath an ear, let him attend carefully as to what the Holy Spirit is saying.*

DO YOU HAVE EARS?

- We can assume that everyone that was listening to Jesus had an ear to listen, so why did Jesus make the request for those who have ears to hear?
- The term “ear” here means *“the faculty of perceiving with the mind, the faculty of understanding and knowing”*
- *In order to discern effectively, we must also perfect our hearing, with our eyes as well as our ears what is being said to us or revealed through us by the Spirit*
- It has become very obvious that most Christians do not have ears to hear what the Spirit is saying. God has never stopped speaking to His people; His people just stopped hearing Him speak.

WE WERE CREATED TO HEAR GOD'S VOICE

- **We were created to hear God's voice – However sin has impacted our relationship with the Father and many do not even desire to hear**
 - *Genesis 3:8 - And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden.*
 - **Then the eyes of both of them were opened:** Seemingly, it was only after the sin of Adam that they knew of their sinful state. *Once they became aware of their sinful state, the first thing they did was try to avoid the "voice of God."*
 - **They heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day:** Adam and Eve knew that when they heard the LORD coming, He would want to be with them. This was how the LORD had fellowship with Adam and Eve, in a very natural, close, intimate way.
 - **"Who told you that you were naked?"** – *Now a new voice is being heard by mankind, defining them and misguiding them*

BECOMING DULL IN HEARING

Hebrews 5:9-12:

And, [His completed experience] making Him perfectly [equipped], He became the Author *and* Source of eternal salvation to all those who give heed *and* obey Him, **10** Being designated *and* recognized *and* saluted by God as High Priest after the order (with the rank) of Melchizedek. **11** Concerning this we have much to say which is hard to explain, since you have become dull in your [spiritual] hearing *and* sluggish [even] slothful in achieving spiritual insight]. **12** For even though by this time you ought to be teaching others, you actually need someone to teach you over again the very first principles of God's Word. You have come to need milk, not solid food.

- **“Become dull of hearing.”** This indicates that they didn't start out that dull of hearing, but became that way due to carnality, complacency, spiritual sluggishness

WHO/WHAT ARE YOU LISTENING TO TODAY?

False Teachers

2nd Timothy 4:4: And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.



2 Timothy 3:7 - Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.

-They hear, repeatedly hear, what may even be good sermons, but they seldom meditate on it or apply what they hear to practice



Seducing Spirits

1 Timothy 4:1 - Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;



Being dull of hearing is not a problem with the ears, but a problem with the heart – Most people hear only what they desire to hear. If you have not inclined your ear to hear the Word of God then you already have a spiritual problem!

LET'S STATE THE OBVIOUS

- The natural man (1st Corinthians 2:14) cannot perceive the spiritual things of God. Therefore, he will not hear God's voice for he/she is not part of the Shepherd's fold
- **Discernment and Hearing the Voice of God is directly related to obedience**
 - Mark 8:17 - And when Jesus knew it, he saith unto them, Why reason ye, because ye have no bread? perceive ye not yet, neither understand? **have ye your heart yet hardened?**
 - Mark 6:52 - For they considered not the miracle of the loaves: for their heart was hardened.
- **Hardened:** to grow hard, callous, become dull, lose the power of understanding; render stupid or callous
- **Dull of Hearing** – (Matthew 13:15); Due to willful obstinacy and indifference
 - **Obstinate:** *stubbornly adhering to an opinion, purpose, or course in spite of reason, resisting change*
- Do Not Expect for a person such as this to hear from God

AIDS, FILTERS, AND DISTRACTIONS

Since before we can truly discern God's voice, we must first learn how to hear, then we need to know how we can hear better, utilize filters to remove impurities of things spoken by demons and false teachers, and to remove or limit distractors that keeps us from effectively hearing God's Word.



AIDS

- **Hearing Aids are utilize to help us hear better and to provide for clearer understanding**
- **The Word of God** – Meditation of the Word of God, brings light and understanding and is an effective tool in discerning what is that good and perfect will of God
 - Psalms 119:104: Through thy precepts I get understanding: therefore I hate every false way.
 - Psalms 119:130 **The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding** unto the simple.
 - In many ways God speaks to us through His word. His word is a more surer word of prophecy
 - *2 Peter 1:19 - We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day stars arise in your hearts:*

AIDS

- **Prayer, Fasting, Praise and Worship** – You must seek His face to hear His voice
 - **Acts 13:2** - As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them.
 - **1st Samuel 30:7,8**: And David said to Abiathar the priest, Ahimelech's son, I pray thee, bring me hither the ephod. And Abiathar brought thither the ephod to David.
8 And David enquired at the LORD, saying, Shall I pursue after this troop? shall I overtake them? And he answered him, Pursue: for thou shalt surely overtake *them*, and without fail recover *all*.
 - Daniel fasted until he heard the voice of His words. (**Daniel 10:11**)
 - **Daniel 10:11** - And he said unto me, O Daniel, a man greatly beloved, understand the words that I speak unto thee, and stand upright: for unto thee am I now sent. And when he had spoken this word unto me, I stood trembling.

FILTERS

- **Renewed Mind: (Romans 12:2)**

- *Ephesians 4: 22,23 - Strip yourselves of your former nature [put off and discard your old unrenewed self] which characterized your previous manner of life and becomes corrupt through lusts and desires that spring from delusion; And be constantly renewed in the spirit of your mind [having a fresh mental and spiritual attitude],*
- The Reprobate Mind does not receive or hear the voice of God because it rejects God (Romans 1:21-25)

- **We set our minds on what we want to hear or receive**

- Colossians 3:1 - If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.

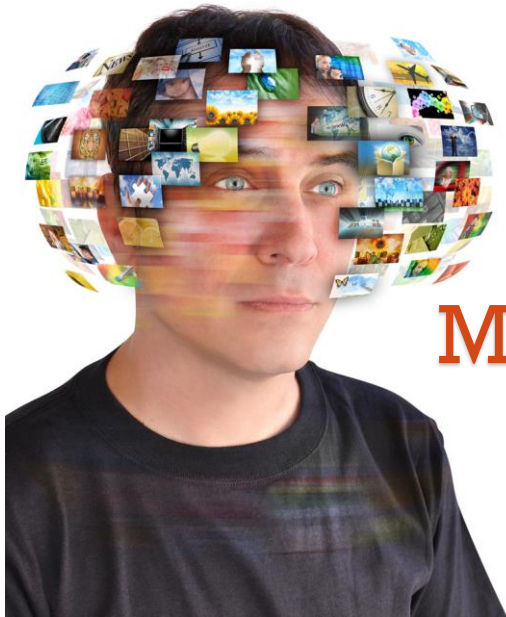
- **A mature and developed thought life also serves as a filter of what we allow ourselves to hear or receive**

- *Philippians 4: 8,9: Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things. 9 Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you.*

DISTRACTIONS

- *Proverbs 2:1-5: MY SON, if you will receive my words and treasure up my commandments within you, 2 Making your ear attentive to skillful and godly wisdom and inclining and directing your heart and mind to understanding [applying all your powers to the quest for it]; 3 Yes, if you cry out for insight and raise your voice for understanding, 4 If you seek [Wisdom] as for silver and search for skillful and godly Wisdom as for hidden treasures, 5 Then you will understand the reverent and worshipful fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of [our omniscient] God.*
- 1 Corinthians 7:35 - And this I speak for your own profit; not that I may cast a snare upon you, but for that which is comely, and that ye may attend upon the Lord without distraction.

DISTRACTIONS



Media

Demonic Activity
Guilt & shame
Activities
Jobs
Family
Carnality
Lusts
Relationships
Entertainment
Wounds
Finances
Health
Religion



Preoccupation



False Spirituality & Confusion



Spirit of distraction (a racing mind, can't concentrate, etc)

BE CAREFUL WHAT YOU HEAR

Mark 4:24 - And He said to them, Be careful what you are hearing. The measure [of thought and study] you give [to the truth you hear] will be the measure [of virtue and knowledge] that comes back to you—and more [besides] will be given to you who hear.

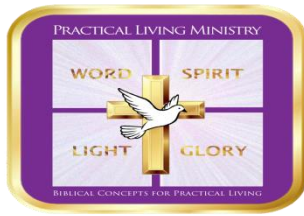
Blessings for Those Who Hear

- **And to you who hear, more will be given:** When we hear the word of God, and receive it with gladness, more will be given to us from God's spiritual riches.
- **More will be given:** Jesus reminds us that spiritual growth follows momentum, positive or negative. When we have the godly habits of receiving the word and living it, more is built on to that. (Guzik's Commentary)

ARE YOU IN A POSITION TO HEAR?

John 10:27 - My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:

- To perceive by the ear what is announced in one's presence
- *To comprehend, & to understand due to acquaintance and relationship*
- To be endowed with the faculty of hearing
- To perceive (discern) the distinct words of the voice
- *To perceive in the soul the inward communication of God; to be taught by God's inward communication*



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If you would like to contact Dr. Jones for a speaking engagement at your church or event concerning biblical leadership, mentoring, and Christian culture. Please contact Pastor Kenneth Jones at

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