

BE LISTENING

Mark 4:23 (AMPC) - *If any man has ears to hear, let him BE LISTENING and let him perceive and comprehend.*

WHY WE NEED TO BE LISTENING:

- **2 Timothy 3:1 (AMP)** - *But understand this, that in the last days dangerous times [of great stress and trouble] will come [difficult days that will be hard to bear].*
- We are living in the “dangerous times” that Paul wrote about
- But we don’t need to *be stressed* and we don’t need to *be afraid*, we simply need to **BE LISTENING**
- **Proverbs 22:3 (NCV)** - *The wise see danger ahead and avoid it, but fools keep going and get into trouble.*
- **Deuteronomy 28:2 (NLT)** – *You will experience all these blessings if you obey the Lord your God.*
- **QUOTE:** *Hearing & obeying God is the master key to true success and fulfillment in life!*

WEEK #1 – KNOW GOD’S VOICE

John 10:3 – 6 (NIV) *The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognize a stranger’s voice.” ⁶Jesus used this figure of speech, but the Pharisees did not understand what he was telling them.*

- Then Jesus explained the metaphor to them:
- **John 10:14,27 (NIV)** - *I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me... My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.*
- **QUOTE:** *Faith to hear from God is confidence in Jesus’ ability to lead His sheep.*
- **CONFESSION:** *Jesus is my Shepherd. I am one of His sheep. I know Him and He knows me. I listen for His voice, I hear His voice, I recognize His voice, and I follow His voice.*

The #1 Way To Become More Sensitive to God’s Voice:

Scripture:

- **II Timothy 3:16,17 (NLT)** - *All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work.*
- **QUOTE:** *The foundational way that God leads us is through scripture. The Bible is God’s language.*
- **Matthew 7:24-27 MSG** - *“These words I speak to you are not incidental additions to your life, homeowner improvements to your standard of living. They are foundational words, words to build a life on. If you work these words into your life, you are like a smart carpenter who built his house on solid rock. Rain poured down, the river flooded, a tornado hit—but nothing moved that house. It was fixed to the rock. “But if you just use my words in Bible studies and don’t work them into your life, you*

are like a stupid carpenter who built his house on the sandy beach. When a storm rolled in and the waves came up, it collapsed like a house of cards.”

- **QUOTE:** *The #1 way to become more sensitive to God’s voice is to work the Bible into your daily life*
- **Three Ways to “work the Word into your life”:**
 1. Start a daily Bible reading plan
 2. Find a good church and get connected
 3. Show up to church with a “hearing ear”

SIX WAYS THAT PEOPLE HEAR THE WORD OF GOD

1. Entertaining Ear (Style Motivated)

2. Itching Ear (Flesh Appeasing Word)

3. Defensive Ear (Pastor’s Talking About Me)

- **Hebrews 4:12, 13 (NKJV)**
- Quick (Gr. Zao) – alive
- Powerful (Gr. Energes) – active, operative; English word – ENERGY

4. Critical Ear (Picking the Message Apart)

- **Matthew 23:23, 24 (NKJV)**

5. Intellectual Ear (Too Smart for their Own Good)

6. Hearing Ear (Speak Lord, for thy Servant Hears)

- **Luke 5:15** – “...came to hear & be healed”
- **Hearing Ears = RESULTS!!**
- **John 8:31, 32 NASB** – *So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, “If you continue in My word, then you are truly My disciples; and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”*