

## 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:

- **II 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].*
- **BECAUSE WE LIVE IN DANGEROUS TIMES!!**
- **QUOTE:** *The foundational way that God leads us is through scripture*
- Here's another reason:
- **QUOTE:** *We need to "be listening" so we don't waste our lives*
- **Ephesians 5:15 – 17 (NLT)** *So be careful how you live. Don't live like fools, but like those who are wise. <sup>16</sup> Make the most of every opportunity in these evil days. <sup>17</sup> Don't act thoughtlessly but understand what the Lord wants you to do.*
- **TRANSLATION:** *Live a life of purpose, not a life of default.*
- **Ephesians 5:16 (ESV)** – *"making the best use of the time, because the days are evil."*

### Week #2 – FINE TUNING MY HEARING

**I Samuel 3:1 – 11 (NCV)** *The boy Samuel served the Lord under Eli. In those days the Lord did not speak directly to people very often; there were very few visions. <sup>2</sup> Eli's eyes were so weak he was almost blind. One night he was lying in bed. <sup>3</sup> Samuel was also in bed in the Lord's house, where the Ark of the Agreement was. God's lamp was still burning. <sup>4</sup> Then the Lord called Samuel, and Samuel answered, "I am here!" <sup>5</sup> He ran to Eli and said, "I am here. You called me." But Eli said, "I didn't call you. Go back to bed." So, Samuel went back to bed. <sup>6</sup> The Lord called again, "Samuel!"*

*Samuel again went to Eli and said, "I am here. You called me." Again, Eli said, "I didn't call you. Go back to bed." <sup>7</sup> Samuel did not yet know the Lord, and the Lord had not spoken directly to him yet.*

*<sup>8</sup> The Lord called Samuel for the third time. Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, "I am here. You called me." Then Eli realized the Lord was calling the boy. <sup>9</sup> So he told Samuel, "Go to bed. If he calls you again, say, 'Speak, Lord. I am your servant, and I am listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in bed.*

*<sup>10</sup> The Lord came and stood there and called as he had before, "Samuel, Samuel!" Samuel said, "Speak, Lord. I am your servant, and I am listening." <sup>11</sup> The Lord said to Samuel, "Watch, I am going to do something in Israel that will shock those who hear about it.*

- Jesus already established that HE IS SPEAKING TO HIS SHEEP and HIS SHEEP KNOW HIS VOICE.
- **Translation:** *You are hearing God speak to you, even if you haven't learned how to discern His voice.*

### Seven Keys to Improve Your Hearing

#### **1. Must BELIEVE that God is talking to you.**

- **QUOTE:** *One of the benefits of the cross is direct access to the Father. The veil has been torn in two.*
- **John 16:26, 27 (NIV)** – *In that day you will ask in my name. I am not saying that I will ask the Father on your behalf. <sup>27</sup> No, the Father himself loves you because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God.*

#### **2. Work Diligently to Develop Your Spirit**

- **Romans 8:5 – 8 (NKJV)** *For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. <sup>6</sup> For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. <sup>7</sup> Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. <sup>8</sup> So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God.*
- **QUOTE:** *Living a carnal life is probably the biggest hindrance to Christians hearing from God and proceeding in His purpose.*
- Unsaved man isn't carnally minded. They are purely sin-natured. The potential for carnality begins at the new birth with the old desires of the flesh warring against the appetite of the spirit. (Romans 7)
- **Romans 12:2 (NLT)** – *Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.*

### 3. Yield to the Voice of Your Conscience

- **John 16:7 – 9 (NLT)** *But in fact, it is best for you that I go away, because if I don't, the Advocate<sup>[a]</sup> won't come. If I do go away, then I will send him to you.<sup>8</sup> And when he comes, he will convict THE WORLD of its sin, and of God's righteousness, and of the coming judgment. <sup>9</sup> The world's sin is that it refuses to believe in me.*
- Holy Spirit convicts the world of **the sin** of refusing to believe in Jesus. And, it doesn't say that He brings conviction on the believer for committing sins. So where does our conviction come from??
- OUR OWN REBORN SPIRIT
- **I Timothy 4:1, 2 (GNT)** *The Spirit says clearly that some people will abandon the faith in later times; they will obey lying spirits and follow the teachings of demons. <sup>2</sup> Such teachings are spread by deceitful liars, whose CONSCIENCES ARE DEAD, as if burnt with a hot iron.*
- **KJV:** *Seared with a hot iron (Gr.) – To Brand (cauterize); to render insensitive.*
- **Ephesians 4:17 – 19 (NIV)** *So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking. <sup>18</sup> They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts. <sup>19</sup> HAVING LOST ALL SENSITIVITY, they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, and they are full of greed.*
- **GNT** – *“They have lost all feeling of shame...”*
- **NLT** – *“They don't care anymore about right or wrong...”*
- **MSG** – *“They can't think straight anymore...”*

### 4. Slow Down and REST

- Being TOO BUSY or TOO TIRED can affect our ability to be sensitive to God's voice.
- **QUOTE:** *We are **infinite** beings, who are subject to a **finite** body. That's why we must rest!*
- **Luke 14:28 (NCV)** – *If you want to build a tower, YOU FIRST SIT DOWN and decide how much it will cost, to see if you have enough money to finish the job.*
- **QUOTE:** *We must learn to live our lives with MARGIN – Room for Things to Go Wrong.*