

# Listening

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FRIDAY, MAY 08, 2020

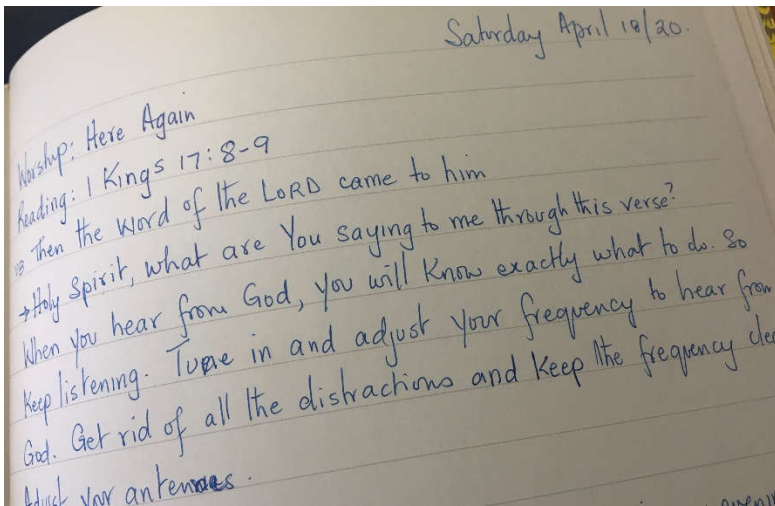


## LISTENING

I wish I could tell you that every time God speaks to me, I clearly hear his voice or that I always get it right when I believe I've heard from God. I wish I could tell you that I know when God gives me a word for someone, and that I eagerly relay that message with confidence and conviction. Unfortunately, I can't; more often than not, I get it wrong.

Over the past few weeks, I've been sensing that God is asking me to listen to him and to tune out the distractions around me – and let me quickly say, there are many! For starters, I'm always working on multiple projects at the same time. Then, I spend too much time on my smartphone, scrolling through Social Media, discovering new playlists, responding to those annoying alerts, etc. I also thrive on staying in touch with people, and I *occasionally* watch too much Netflix.

As I journal my thoughts each morning, I normally get the process started by writing this question in my journal: "*Holy Spirit, what are You saying to me today?*" On Saturday, April 18<sup>th</sup>, here is part of what I believed I heard the Holy Spirit say to me:



*"When you hear from God, you will know exactly what to do. So keep listening. Tune in and adjust your frequency to hear from God. Get rid of all the distractions and keep the frequency clear. Adjust your antennas."*

Now, I wish I had edited that entry for grammar and spelling but that was what I captured. A few days later, on April 25<sup>th</sup>, I received a similar message.

Imagine my reaction when our leader at Nightly Prayer on Tuesday, May 5<sup>th</sup>, instead of starting with the usual Scripture reading, made this announcement: *I believe God wants for us to hear his voice and he is asking us to listen to him.*

Wow, God! I thought.

You see, I firmly believe that God is preparing us for a great harvest that is going to come out of this season of global hardship. But, he needs his people to be mature and ready for those whom he will send to us.

The question is not; is God still speaking but rather, are we listening? This is the essence of [John 10:3-5](#), that as we grow closer to God, we will recognize his voice.

As I began delving deeper into this topic, I was led to the parable of the sower that Jesus told and was recorded in [Matthew 13:3-23](#), [Mark 4:2-20](#), and [Luke 8:4-15](#) where Jesus says *"who has ears, let them hear."* This is one of the few parables that Jesus took the time to explain, which is quite significant, as it removes any doubt as to its meaning - that we need to have prepared hearts to "hear" God clearly. Take some time to read this parable again and get a fresh perspective.

Here are my takeaways from that parable as it pertains to the obstacles that prevent us from clearly hearing God speak:

1. **A Polluted Heart** - We may have too much stuff in our hearts to hear God clearly – these may be self-inflicted, unconfessed sin or they may be relationships that we need to restore. ([James 1:21 NLT](#))
2. **A Distracted Heart** - Hell is determined to keep us from hearing from God so we may need to turn down the world's volume that keeps us distracted from hearing God's voice. ([Luke 10:39-40 AMP](#))
3. **A Neglected Heart** - We may need to stop making excuses and start making changes in our life and our worship that helps us to mature in our relationship with God. ([Heb 12:1-2 GNT](#))

**Ultimately, God is looking for a Prepared Heart** - We can prepare our hearts when we offer true repentance, refocus our priorities, and ask God to bring a revival in our lives. ([2 Cor 7:1 MSG](#))

In this current global crisis, many are calling on God to *hear us from heaven and heal our land*. I submit that God is listening to us and waiting for us to get our hearts set right and make ourselves truly humble and available ([2 Chron 7:14 ESV](#)).

One of the new releases from Elevation Worship - "Available" speaks to this issue.

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