

Tuning In To God: 6

Having Ears To Hear

Proverbs 4.20

“My son, give attention to my words; Incline your ear to my sayings.” - Proverbs 4.20

We have been studying this verse in Proverbs for some weeks now and have seen

- the Bible is the usual way that God speaks to us
- practice of meditation
- communion and fellowship
- inner witness of the spirit
- distractions cause us to go out of tune

To conclude this teaching we are going to examine the phrase – *incline your ear*.

Previously we have said that this phrase means ‘to bend/turn the ear towards’ Solomon’s instruction, and we have this in many of his proverbs, was that we bend our ears toward his sayings.

Even though we may read our Bibles and pray, there are times that we may not hear God speaking.

I was reading an online article about hearing the voice of God, and a comment was made by one reader that he has never heard God speak, nor had any answers to his prayers for direction – God never speaks to me was his complaint. In a reply to his comment another reader asked him the questions, “do you read the Bible on a daily basis rather than just in church? Do you pray everyday? Assuming the answer is yes to both these, do you actually stop and listen?”

This is the reason why most people don’t hear the voice of God, they don’t actually take the time to listen to Him.

We have to ‘incline our ear’ to His sayings – that means listen.

Matthew 11.15

“He who has ears to hear, let him hear!”

This phrase is repeated 17 times in the Bible

- 1 in Ezekiel
- 8 times in the Gospels (Matthew, Mark & Luke)
- 8 times in Revelation
- 15 of these come directly from the mouth Jesus (and are coloured red!)

Why did Jesus put so much emphasis on listening and hearing. It was how He lived while on earth, He only said and did the things He heard from His Father - and it is essential for our living on earth. It is how we will be guided and led through this life.

Jesus connected our hearing His sayings to a wise man who built his house on rock. We build our house (life) on the Rock of the Word of God by hearing it (Matthew 7.24-26).

We live our lives by faith -

“For we walk by faith, not by sight.” **2 Corinthians 5.7**

“I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.” **Galatians 2.20**

That faith comes by hearing the word of God -

“So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.” **Romans 10.17**

“But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them, (15) and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. (16) All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, (17) that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.”

2 Timothy 3.14-17

“See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, (16) redeeming the time, because the days are evil. (17) Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is.” **Ephesians 5.15-17**

Wisdom hears and understands the will of God – we can hear, we should hear from God.

So it is vitally important that we take time to listen to the voice of God. Having ears that hear.

Revelation 2.7

"He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give to eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God."

Revelation 2.11, 17, 29; Revelation 3.6, 13, 22; Revelation 13.9

Who will hear?

He who has ears to hear – some have ears that aren't hearing, they aren't listening.

The Spirit is speaking – the problem is why people aren't hearing is that they aren't listening. They are not tuned in to the broadcast.

Isaiah 28.23

“Give ear and hear my voice, Listen and hear my speech.”

If you're listening you will hear His voice.

Isaiah 30.21

“Your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, "This is the way, walk in it," Whenever you turn to the right hand Or whenever you turn to the left. ”

We need to tune in and hear what He is saying. We need to incline our ear to His sayings

1 Corinthians 2.9-10

“But as it is written: "EYE HAS NOT SEEN, NOR EAR HEARD, NOR HAVE ENTERED INTO THE HEART OF MAN THE THINGS WHICH GOD HAS PREPARED FOR THOSE WHO LOVE HIM." But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God.”

Those who are not listening do not hear, those who are not looking do not see. But God reveals them to us by His Spirit – He is speaking. If you have an ear to hear listen to what the Spirit is saying..

We need to be careful what we hear -

“For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables. But you be watchful in all things....” **2 Timothy 4.3-4**

be watchful in all things – be vigilant, be sober, clear-minded.

Keep focused and tuned in.