



Everyone Needs to Be Led

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Introduction

A. A Call in Urgent Times

1. There is a urgent cry from the heart of God for us to recognize who we are and to recognize our role in reaching the harvest. We are called, “the light of world”, “the salt of the earth”, and “His ambassadors”. We are told in His Word that we will do “mighty works”, “that signs and wonders will follow us. God has a BIG plan for us. We are to tell everyone, everywhere...

[Mark 16:15](#) Go into all the world and preach the Good News to everyone, everywhere.

2. Unfortunately, what we have been destined to be and do, is a far cry from what many of us are doing with our lives. Our deeds don't always match our declarations. Confess vs. possess.
3. On the flip side, people are more open than ever to God and spirituality. There is great pressure in our country, which is pushing people to ask questions and look for divine assistance.
4. We, His people, need to be ready to receive and respond to His voice. God is stirring His Church. People are open and we need to be ready. Everyone NEEDS TO BE LED.
5. In order to respond to His voice, we must first learn how to even hear His voice.

B. God Speaks to His People

1. There is clear evidence in the Bible, from Genesis to Revelation that God speaks to His people. He speaks in a variety of ways. He speaks through His Word, through others, through your conscience, through prayer, as well as through the Holy Spirit.
2. We receive THOUSANDS OF THOUGHTS DAILY! Some God, some flesh, some devil, some pizza.
3. Our ability to discern His voice determines whether we are used by Him or not! If we don't hear, we miss many opportunities. Our destiny & the destiny of others lies in our ability to discern.
4. As a young Christian, I learned this principle in a very special way. Never will forget.
5. One of the many challenges Christians face today is just how to discern the voice of God. With literally thousands of thoughts and emotions racing through the mind in a day, one can be perplexed to interpret which thoughts are from God, from the flesh, or from the devil.
6. Jesus knew this attribute was needed in the lives of His followers if they were to be effective in reaching the lost. So in the account with the blind man, Bartimaeus, he carefully models to His disciples how to receive, discern, and respond to the voice of God.

GOD SPEAKS TO HIS PEOPLE

Mark 10:46-52

Then they reached Jericho, and as Jesus and his disciples left town, a large crowd followed him. A blind beggar named Bartimaeus (son of Timaeus) was sitting beside the road. When Bartimaeus heard that Jesus of Nazareth was nearby, he began to shout, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" "Be quiet!" many of the people yelled at him. But he only shouted louder, "Son of David, have mercy on me!"

EVERYONE

GOD SPEAKS TO HIS PEOPLE

Mark 10:46-52

...When Jesus heard him, he stopped and said, "Tell him to come here." So they called the blind man. "Cheer up," they said. "Come on, he's calling you!" Bartimaeus threw aside his coat, jumped up, and came to Jesus, "What do you want me to do for you?" Jesus asked. "My rabbi, the blind man said, "I want to see!" And Jesus said to him, "Go, for your faith has healed you." Instantly the man could see, and he followed Jesus down the road.

EVERYONE

I. Hearing, Yet Not "Hearing"

In this Scripture, we have Jesus and His disciples leaving Jericho with a great crowd following. Great ministry events just took place and now the "J-team" is on to Jerusalem, final week, triumphal entry; much on His mind. The disciples are feeling pretty good about themselves and the streets are lined with people watching them march. Their attention is drawn to a few blind beggars which, in their opinion, were a major distraction.

A. The Disciples Response

Mark 10:47-48 When Bartimaeus heard that Jesus of Nazareth was nearby, he began to shout, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" "Be quiet!" many of the people yelled at him.

1. They heard but they didn't hear.
2. They missed an opportunity to touch a life of a man that needed God.

B. Jesus' Response

Mark 10:48 When Jesus heard him, he stopped and said, "Tell him to come here."

1. The disciples heard a cry in the natural and Jesus heard a cry of the Spirit.
2. Jesus uses this opportunity to school his disciples in being Led by the Holy Spirit.

C. Two Ways to Hear

There is really only two ways to live our Christian lives- Led by our natural man or to be led by the Spirit. Walk like Jesus or missed it like the disciples.

1. NATURAL - Hearing through the Ears of the Crowd.
 - a. All heard the man's cry through their 'natural' filter, resulting in the wrong response. Much like many of us today who get caught up in living in the natural realm.
 - b. The devil's greatest strategy is to keep you thinking and living in the natural, temporal and carnal and drown out the voice of God, who speaks all day long.

TWO WAYS TO HEAR

1. **In the Natural**
"Hearing through the ears of the crowd."
2. **In the Spiritual**
"Hearing through the ears of the Spirit."

EVERYONE

Q- If the devil can't make you bad, he'll just make you busy.

Q - "If I can't defeat them, I'll distract them." - Devil -

2. SPIRITUAL - Hearing through the Ears of Jesus.
 - a. Jesus doesn't get caught up in the circumstance, past accomplishments, future pressures of final week, the praise of the crowd or the insensitivity of the disciples. He doesn't allow his circumstances to dictate His destiny; He allows His destiny to dictate His circumstance.
 - b. We are not natural beings having a temporal supernatural experience; we are supernatural beings having a temporal natural experience. WE must be led by the Spirit!! Jesus models this in this important story. I remember one time where this important truth was revealed to me.

II. Defining the "Ear"

The ear, from a **natural perspective**, is simply a physical organ, the chief instrument by which man receives sound from external sources.

However, the Bible is clear in defining the ear metaphorically as the organ of **spiritual perception**.

A. Vines Dictionary

1. Refers to the ear as "the faculty of perceiving with the mind, understanding & knowing; being slow to understand & then obey.

B. Removing Filters of Natural Influences:

Knowing this to be true, we need to make it a priority to give our spiritual ear pre-eminence and learn to disengage from natural realm! Although God does use your natural environment to speak to you, you must be very careful to not allow them to hinder your ability to hear and respond properly.

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|-------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Five Senses: | See, Hear, Taste, Feel and Smell |
| 2. Surroundings: | Environment, Climate, Culture |
| 3. Emotions: | Fear, Anxiety, Arrogance, Pride |
| 4. Thoughts: | Analyzing, Intellect, Procrastination |
| 5. Pre-conceived Ideas: | Past Experiences, Learned Behaviors |

DEFINING THE EAR

- **The Natural Ear** -
"A physical organ; the chief instrument by which man receives sound from external sources.
- **The Spiritual Ear** -
"The organ of spiritual perception."

DEFINING THE EAR

- **Spiritual Perception of the Mind**
"the faculty of perceiving with the mind, understanding and knowing; being slow to understand and then obey.

REMOVING FILTERS OF NATURAL INFLUENCES

- **Your Five Senses**
- **Your Surroundings**
- **Your Emotions**
- **Your Thoughts**
- **Any Pre-conceived Ideas**

III. Hearing Through the Ears of the Spirit - Three Ingredients to be Led!

God never intended that it be difficult to hear His voice. His desire is that we all would hear His voice and respond accordingly. Although we are barraged daily with literally hundreds of distractions from the Devil, the world, and the flesh, thank God we are also inundated with the combative voice of the Holy Spirit speaking to us.

A. Ingredient #1: Be Willing to Receive His Leading

Mark 10: 49, " So Jesus stood still..."

In this Scripture and in the life of Jesus, we see Him model some important principles that we all must follow in order to receive His leading. His was willing, ready and able. There are certain things that are a prerequisite to being led! Our lives need to be in order for us to hear His voice properly and clearly.

1. You must have an insatiable desire to be used by His Father.

John 15:9 I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by Himself; He only can do what He sees the Father doing.

Luke 2:39 "But why did you need to search?" he asked. "Didn't you know that I must be in my Father's house?"

2. You must live a life of whole-hearted devotion. No compromise -

1 Corinthians 6:19 Don't you realize that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who lives in you and was given to you by God? You do not belong to yourself,

3. You must be willing to adjust your agenda to meet the needs of others-

Meeting the needs of others is a sacrifice. We need to have proclamation AND demonstration.

4. You must not care about what others think about His radical acts or statements-

"I would rather offend man than God." Often times, people may think you are crazy.

5. You must expect to be used at anytime, anywhere, with anyone-

When you least expect it, expect it. God speaks at the most inconvenient times.

6. You must not be preoccupied with temporal things that cloud your ability to hear-

What are you filling your mind and heart with? What are you watching and listening to?

7. You must display prompt, implicit obedience to the voice of God-

Tomorrow may be too late. God speaks now because they are ready now. REMEMBER, if God has told you to speak, He has already prepared the heart of the person to receive what you will say.

#1 - BE WILLING TO RECEIVE HIS LEADING

- You must have an insatiable desire to be used by the Father. (John 15:9; Luke 2:39)
- You must live a life of whole-hearted devotion; no compromise. (1 Cor. 6:19)
- You must be willing to adjust your agenda to meet the needs of others.

EVERYONE

#1 - BE WILLING TO RECEIVE HIS LEADING

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EVERYONE

B. Ingredient #2: Discern His Voice

1. Let's go back to our story of Jesus with Bartimaeus. One can only imagine what took place at that moment. The multitudes were marching forward and their Captain suddenly stopped dead in His tracks.

Mark 10: 49 ... and commanded him to be called.

2. Jesus knew exactly what this guy needed at this moment. Bartimaeus was just scorned by the crowd. He didn't spit in his ear, or put a mud-pie in his eye, he met him right where he was at.

3. In 199 recorded ministry situations Jesus never approaches a person the same way. Each person and circumstance is unique and requires the leading of the Holy Spirit.
4. You might be asking, “How do I hear like that? How do I know that God is speaking? I have thousands of daily thoughts, and I just don’t know which ones are from God.”

Hebrews 5:14 Spiritual maturity belongs to those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern between good and evil.

5. Greek work for exercised is ‘gymnasu’ where we derive the word Gymnasium. WE have to work it for it to work. Hearing His voice takes practice. If you don’t use it, you’ll lose it.

6. Eight Types of Distinct Leadings (Very practical)

- a. You hear an inner voice –
You have a strong sense that God is speaking to you to do something specific; unusual.
- b. You have an exceptionally clear thought –
- c. A thought comes to mind that you didn’t initiate –
- d. You have a distinct intuition –
- e. You get a mental picture –
- f. You focus on one person in a crowd –
- g. People are drawn to you for no apparent reason –
- h. Meeting someone’s eyes and you feel a leading –

#2 – DISCERNING HIS VOICE

EIGHT TYPES OF LEADINGS

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EVERYONE

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EIGHT TYPES OF LEADINGS

- You focus on one person in the crowd.
- People are drawn to you for no apparent reason.
- Meeting someone’s eyes and you feel a leading.

EVERYONE

C. Ingredient #3: Respond to His Request

Finally, once we have received His leading and discerned His voice, we must apply the final step; respond to His request.

1. The very word, “hear,” means to understand and obey.
2. Vine’s Expository Dictionary gives us this great definition: “being slow to understand and obey; put the words into your ears, take into your mind and carry it through into your actions.”
3. So hearing is synonymous with obedience.”

#3 – RESPOND TO HIS REQUEST

Hear means, “to understand and then obey.”

- **Luke 11:28** He replied, “But even more blessed are all who hear the word of God and put it into practice.”
- **John 8:47** Anyone who belongs to God listens gladly to the words of God. But you don’t listen because you don’t belong to God.”

EVERYONE

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D. Conclusion

1. What the world needs is Jesus. WE are His mouth, hands and feet, and He is crying out for those that will hear His voice and respond; will you? We finish where we began...
2. Big Idea "God desires to Speak to me so that I might fulfill is purposes in my life."

