

## HEARING IMPAIRED (Mark 4:33)

Jesus spoke to His disciples according to their ability to “hear”, that is, according to their ability to understand. Today He speaks to us the same way. The last thing Jesus says to the seven churches in **Revelation Chapters 2-3** was “he that hath an ear to hear, let him hear what the Spirit sayeth unto the churches.” The question for us today is “what is the measure of our hearing?”

## PHYSICAL VS. SPIRITUAL

**Matthew 13:13** In this verse Jesus groups the three most important means of perception together: (1) seeing, (2) hearing, (3) understanding. Each of these are divided again into two categories: (1) physical or natural, (2) spiritual. Jesus is saying that the physical or the natural (unsaved) person can only see, hear, and understand whatever the physical or natural things of the world has to offer. Only the spiritual or the born again person can understand spiritual things. That is the meaning of Jesus statement to Nicodemus in **John 3:6-7** when he told him “that which is born of the flesh is flesh: and that which is born of the Spirit is Spirit.”

## HOW WE HEAR

**Mark 4:15** The indifferent hearer sits in the pew every Sunday, or maybe works beside a believer and the preacher preaches and the believer witnesses but the hearer lets it go in one ear and out the other.

**Mark 4:16-17** The emotional hearer has needs and hears the word of God and decides that is what they need and gets excited for a short time but does not commit himself to God and soon turns away.

**Mark 4:18-19** The worldly hearer listens to God's word and decides against any commitment because they are afraid of the sacrifices they would need to make in order to be saved.

**Mark 4:20-22** The receptive and responsible hearer believes and receives God's word with joy and begins to show fruit in their new Spiritual life.

## AFTER WE HEAR

**John 10:27** Notice exactly what the sequence is in this verse: it is only after we hear God talking to us that we can truly follow Him down the road of Spiritual life. \* Golden nugget in (**John 10:14-16**).

**Galatians 5:16** Paul emphasizes the need for the believer to “walk in the Spirit.” The only way we can do that is to allow God to speak to us and as we listen to His voice the Spirit will guide us.

**Acts 1:4, 8** Jesus lets us know that in order to get started on our believers walk we must wait for His guiding Holy Spirit to fill us and direct us in the will of God.

**Psalms 27:14** It is so important to listen to the great verses penned by Godly men of the bible. David knew what it was like to move too soon and so he learned to wait and meditate on God for guidance.

**Ephesians 2:10** In order to fulfill the will of God and get involved in His work we must learn to pray and to study the word of God and listen to the Holy Spirit speak to us concerning what to do.

## HARD TO HEAR

**Mark 6:47-52** Jesus tells us that our spiritual understanding is hindered through hardness of heart.

**Hebrews 5:11-12** Another means of not hearing and understanding God's word is immaturity.

**Hebrews 3:12-15** The writer is warning us against not hearing or understanding God through unbelief which is the evil sin that kept Israel from entering into the 'rest of God'.

