

The First Element of Faith: Hearing

by Bishop Keith Butler | Bible Study Notes | Sunday, May 15, 2022

Text: Rom. 8:14-16, 1 Cor. 2:12 and 3:16

Opening Summary

Hearing what God says to you is fundamental to living a life of faith. Therefore, this teaching will inspire you to focus on what the Lord is saying to you so you can please Him. The five elements of faith are hearing, receiving, believing, speaking and acting. This study covers the first element, hearing.

- I. Heb. 10:38: You can't do anything without faith: trust, confidence and belief in God.
 - A. Heb. 11:6: Believe that God is right now, and that He is a rewarder for the future.
 - B. Rom. 10:8: Faith has 5 elements.
 - C. The first is hearing: "faith can only be exercised where the will of God is known."
 - D. The word "will" in the Bible means "choice." God's will is God's choice.

- II. God spoke to many famous men and women of God throughout man's time on earth: Adam, Cain, Noah, Abraham, Moses, Joshua, Apostles Peter and Paul and many others. God speaking and people hearing starts in Genesis and goes through to The Revelation.

- III. The Lord Jesus operated on hearing from the Father.
 - A. John 12:49-50: God commanded Jesus what to say and speak.
 - B. God spoke to Jesus to give Him His choice for His mission on the earth.

- IV. Some of the ways God gives us His choice is through the Holy Spirit, speaking, visions, dreams, angels, impressing the human spirit, thru the mouth of prophets, the written Word, peace in your spirit, tongues and interpretation of tongues in the public assembly (1 Cor. 14:13). Although, demons spoke to people too (Acts 19:13-15).

- V. Caution: Let me say right now! You don't seek these things!!
 - A. We don't seek voices.
 - B. Everything must be judged by the Word (1 Cor. 14:29, 33; 1 John 4:1).

- VI. Peter made wrong assumptions using fleshly means to ascertain God's choices (Acts 1:20-26; Psa. 109:8).

- VII. Acts 5:19-21: Angels brought God's instruction to the disciples (Heb. 13:2).
 - A. Acts 8:29-39: Phillip heard the Holy Ghost speak to him.
 - B. Acts 9:1-16: God spoke to Paul and Ananias.
 - C. Paul heard God speak while he was still a heathen; and Paul obeyed.

- D. Acts 9:10: Ananias heard the Lord speak and he obeyed.
 - E. God is a spirit, and you hear Him with your spiritual ears.
- VIII. Acts 22:7-10, 17-21: Saul was the only one who heard God's voice. He obeyed and it saved his life.
- IX. Acts 13:1-4: They ministered to the Lord through praise and worship.
- X. Here is my personal testimony about hearing from God and acting on what I heard concerning my call to pastor a church.
- A. When I was 8 years old, I told one of my classmates that when I grow up, I'm going to pastor a big church in Detroit. They wrote it down in their diary. Decades later, they showed it to me. But the first time I remember hearing God speak to me is when I was 15 years old. He said, "I have called you to preach." I said, "No!" I heard that with my spiritual ears.
 - B. Ministry Training: I was later born again at age 17. After I married Pastor Deborah, I prayed to find out God's choice for training in the ministry. Then the Lord gave me specific instruction. Then my mind got in the way. While I had in mind where I would go, I'm continuing in prayer. God spoke to me again. He said, "I didn't tell you to go there. I told you to go to a specific place." I had missed it when He previously told me that. This time I heard and obeyed. Many miracles happened after I obeyed.
 - C. Ferndale, MI: When we were looking for our first church building, my realtor had a place for me to see. I didn't think it would work at all. But just to shut them up, I went to see the building. When I drove onto the parking lot, the Lord spoke and said, "This is the building." It was outside of what I would have ever thought. So, we went with it. We had a financial miracle on the final day of the closing.
 - D. Redford, MI: Then God spoke to me about a church in Redford, MI. He gave me specific instruction on what to say to the pastor of this church and I followed His voice. Miracles happened in that transaction.
 - E. Southfield, MI: God spoke to me about our current church building. Again, God gave us specific instruction about this facility. And we obeyed His voice.

Closing Summary

Hearing what God says to you is fundamental to living a life of faith. The miracles happen after you've heard a word from God then acted on that word. As you take time to study this lesson, note the different ways God speaks to His people. Always pray. As a result of your prayer, expect God to speak to you through the various ways we have outlined in Scripture. Hearing with your spiritual ears is a key element to living by faith.