

Hearing from God Matthew 11: 15

Intro:

First of 13 times, this phrase is used in NT. 6 times in the gospels, 7 in Revelation. Do you have trouble with your hearing? A list of symptoms of hearing loss in the human ear are quite parallel to spiritual hearing loss:

1. You have trouble hearing people talking on the telephone.
2. You have trouble following a conversation when people are talking at the same time
3. The family complains that the TV is too loud.
4. You strain to hear conversations.
5. You have trouble hearing in noisy environments.
6. You say 'What?' a lot.
7. People don't speak clearly.
8. You misunderstand what people say.
9. You have trouble hearing children and women.
10. You become annoyed at others because you can't understand what they say.

Loss of hearing is associated with depression, anxiety, isolation and other emotional disorders.

I. How do I know I have a **hearing** problem?

1. Even when you're close to godly people and worshipful services, you feel you can't hear God.
2. You have trouble following spiritual principles.
3. All the worship/teaching just feels like noise to you.
4. Though you may try to hear, you just can't get spiritual clarity.
5. You are distracted by the various ministries of the church and don't know why they do what they are doing.
6. You say, 'I don't get it' a lot.

7. You have trouble understanding what the Bible says.
8. You miss what the pastor is really saying, or what a particular song is about.
9. You feel you are not on the same frequency as others around you spiritually.
10. You get annoyed with people you love being more involved in ministry and service than you are.

II. How can I hear **God**?

A. Focus **Up**

1. Choose to do **whatever** it takes to hear from God.

Ps 46:10 He says, "Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth."

2. Get in the **Word**.

2 Tim 3:16 All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,

3. **Worship** Him.

John 4:24 God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth."

B. Focus **In**

1. Set your **heart** on enjoying the Lord.

Ps 37:4 Take delight in the LORD, and he will give you the desires of your heart.

2. Expect the Holy Spirit to speak to you on **the inside**.

John 16:13 But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come.

John 14:15-17 "If you love me, keep my commands. the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.

John 10:27 My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.

3. Count on His peace to **confirm** His path for you and calm your **fears**.

Colossians 3:15 Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.

C. Focus Out

1. Seek Godly **counsel**.

Acts 1:15 For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”

2. Observe your **circumstances**.

Acts 18:1-3 After this, Paul left Athens and went to Corinth. There he met a Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus, who had recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla, because Claudius had ordered all Jews to leave Rome. Paul went to see them, and because he was a tentmaker as they were, he stayed and worked with them.

3. Walk by **faith**, acting upon what He has said to you.

2 Corinthians 5:7 For we live by faith, not by sight.

Romans 14:23 But whoever has doubts is condemned if they eat, because their eating is not from faith; and everything that does not come from faith is sin