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**2 Corinthians 2:1-16 (CSB)**  
<sup>1</sup> When I came to you, brothers and sisters, announcing the mystery of God to you, I did not come with brilliance of speech or wisdom.  
<sup>2</sup> I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified.

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**2 Corinthians 2:1-16 (CSB)**  
<sup>3</sup> I came to you in weakness, in fear, and in much trembling.  
<sup>4</sup> My speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of wisdom but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power,

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**2 Corinthians 2:1-16 (CSB)**

<sup>5</sup> so that your faith might not be based on human wisdom but on God's power.  
<sup>6</sup> We do, however, speak a wisdom among the mature, but not a wisdom of this age, or of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing.

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**2 Corinthians 2:1-16 (CSB)**

<sup>7</sup> On the contrary, we speak God's hidden wisdom in a mystery, a wisdom God predestined before the ages for our glory.

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**2 Corinthians 2:1-16 (CSB)**

<sup>8</sup> None of the rulers of this age knew this wisdom, because if they had known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

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**2 Corinthians 2:1-16 (CSB)**

<sup>9</sup> But as it is written,  
*What no eye has seen,  
no ear has heard,  
and no human heart has conceived—  
God has prepared these things  
for those who love him.*

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**2 Corinthians 2:1-16 (CSB)**

<sup>10</sup> Now God has revealed these things to us by the Spirit, since the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God.

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**2 Corinthians 2:1-16 (CSB)**

<sup>11</sup> For who knows a person's thoughts except his spirit within him? In the same way, no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God.

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**2 Corinthians 2:1-16 (CSB)**

<sup>12</sup> Now we have not received the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who comes from God, so that we may understand what has been freely given to us by God.

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**2 Corinthians 2:1-16 (CSB)**

<sup>13</sup> We also speak these things, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, explaining spiritual things to spiritual people.

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**2 Corinthians 2:1-16 (CSB)**

<sup>14</sup> But the person without the Spirit does not receive what comes from God's Spirit, because it is foolishness to him; he is not able to understand it since it is evaluated spiritually.

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**2 Corinthians 2:1-16 (CSB)**

<sup>15</sup> The spiritual person, however, can evaluate everything, and yet he himself cannot be evaluated by anyone.

<sup>16</sup> For

***who has known the Lord's mind, that he may instruct him?***

But we have the mind of Christ.

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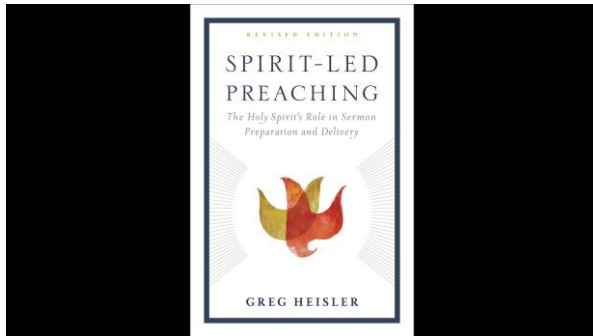
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When a sermon is being preached, there is a three-way conversation taking place between the preacher, the congregation, and the Holy Spirit.

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**2 Timothy 3:16 (CSB)**  
 All Scripture is *inspired by God* and is profitable for teaching, for rebuking, for correcting, for training in righteousness...

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"...we have replaced preachers with speakers because we are told people want dialogue without doctrine and talk without truth. Theology is out, storytellers are in, and as a result we are seeing an entire generation of preachers who are more driven to be entertaining and effective communicators than to be Spirit-empowered preachers."  
 ~ Greg Heisler

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“The hero of our preaching is Jesus Christ, and our goal as preachers is to be Spirit filled and Spirit empowered so that our audience knows the difference between supernatural preaching and superhero preaching!”

~ Greg Heisler

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**1 Corinthians 2:3-5 (CSB)**

<sup>3</sup> I came to you in *weakness*, in fear, and in much trembling.

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**1 Corinthians 2:3-5 (CSB)**

<sup>4</sup> My speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of wisdom but with a demonstration of the *Spirit's power*,  
<sup>5</sup> so that your faith might not be based on human wisdom but on God's power.

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1) It is the power of the Holy Spirit that brings about conviction and lasting change, not the talent or cleverness of the preacher.

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**1 Corinthians 1:17 (CSB)**

For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to **preach the gospel**—not with eloquent wisdom, so that the cross of Christ will not be emptied of its effect.

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**1 Corinthians 2:4-5 (CSB)**

<sup>4</sup> My speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of wisdom but with a **demonstration** of the **Spirit's power**,  
<sup>5</sup> so that your faith might not be based on human wisdom but on God's power.

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2) Preaching should provide proof of the power of the Holy Spirit.

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**1 Thessalonians 1:5 (CSB)**  
...our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also **in power, in the Holy Spirit**, and with full assurance.

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**Acts 2:37 (CSB)**  
When they heard this, **they were pierced to the heart** and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "**Brothers, what should we do?**"

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3) The Holy Spirit living in you affirms what the preacher confirms in the Word of God.

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**John 16:13 (CSB)**  
When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth.

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**Luke 24:27 (CSB)**  
Then beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he *interpreted* for them the things concerning himself in all the *Scriptures*.

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**Luke 24:31-32 (CSB)**

<sup>31</sup> Then their *eyes were opened*, and they recognized him, but he disappeared from their sight.  
<sup>32</sup> They said to each other, "Weren't our *hearts burning within us* while he was talking with us on the road and explaining the *Scriptures* to us?"

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**How the Holy Spirit Speaks to Us During Preaching:**

- 1) The Preacher: Proclaims the Word in the power of the Holy Spirit.
- 2) The Spirit: Confirms in our hearts that the Word being preached is authentic.
- 3) The Congregation: The Spirit resounds within "Amen, it's true!" as we yield to application of the Word of God in our own hearts.

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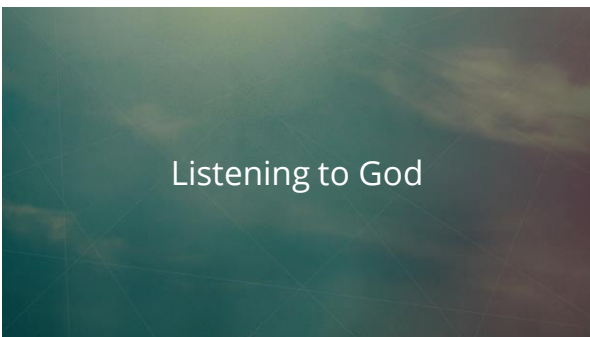
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“God in his infinite wisdom knows that all of our problems as sinful human beings comes down to the fact that we are rebellious listeners.”

~ Greg Heisler

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**Matthew 17:5 (CSB)**  
Listen to him!

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**Jeremiah 5:21 (CSB)**  
...They have *ears, but they don't hear.*

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**Psalm 40:6 (CSB)**

...you **open** my ears to listen.

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**Isaiah 50:4-5 (CSB)**

<sup>4</sup> ...He awakens me each morning;  
he awakens my ear to listen like those  
being instructed.

<sup>5</sup> The Lord GOD has **opened my ear...**

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"It's bold to imagine God swinging  
a pickaxe, digging ears in our  
granite blockheads so that we can  
hear, really hear, what God speaks  
to us."

~ Eugene Peterson

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When we come with great expectation,  
we leave with great revelation.

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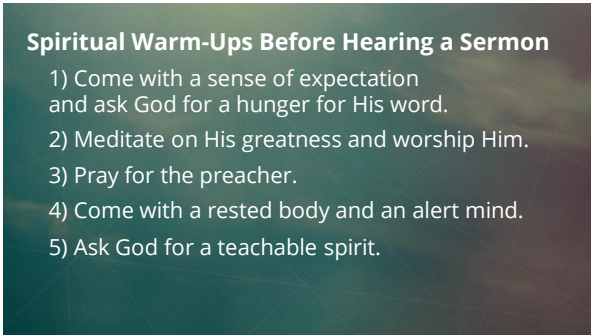
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**Spiritual Warm-Ups Before Hearing a Sermon**

- 1) Come with a sense of expectation and ask God for a hunger for His word.
- 2) Meditate on His greatness and worship Him.
- 3) Pray for the preacher.
- 4) Come with a rested body and an alert mind.
- 5) Ask God for a teachable spirit.

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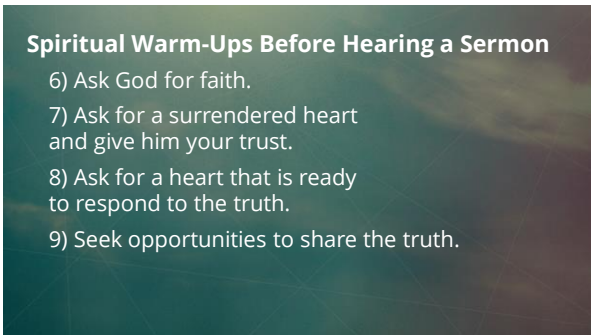
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**Spiritual Warm-Ups Before Hearing a Sermon**

- 6) Ask God for faith.
- 7) Ask for a surrendered heart and give him your trust.
- 8) Ask for a heart that is ready to respond to the truth.
- 9) Seek opportunities to share the truth.

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**1 Thessalonians 5:16-21 (CSB)**

<sup>16</sup> Rejoice always,  
<sup>17</sup> pray constantly,  
<sup>18</sup> give thanks in everything; for this is  
God's will for you in Christ Jesus.  
<sup>19</sup> **Don't stifle the Spirit.**  
<sup>20</sup> Don't despise prophecies,  
<sup>21</sup> but test all things.

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The goal of all preaching is  
the glory of God.

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"The ultimate goal of coming to church  
is to hear the Word of God preached in  
worship so that the indwelling Spirit in  
the life of every believer takes the  
preached Word and turns it into fruit  
that brings glory to God."

~ Greg Heisler

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Father, we come before you as your children.  
 We confess our sins and repent of our selfish pride.  
 Thank you for the gift of your cross, your grace, and Your mercies that are new every morning.

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You have revealed your Word to us under the inspiration of Your Holy Spirit, through your Holy Scriptures, so help us to believe it and receive it.  
 Holy Spirit, move in power in our church as we meditate on your Word. Illuminate your truth in our hearts.  
 Jesus, make us more like you.

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Open our ears to truly hear you.  
 Lift our heads to fully see you.  
 Raise our hands to worship you.  
 Bend our knees to obey you.  
 Humble our hearts to serve you.  
 Move our feet to share you.

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