



Kingdom Participation

I. Jesus Came to Show Us the Father, A Living Revelation

Hebrews 1:1-3 (NIV®)

¹ In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, ² but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe. ³ The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word.

A. After the New Birth, what are the most necessary components to participate in God's Kingdom?

CHANGE

Matthew 18:3 (NIV®)

And he said: "**I tell you the truth, unless you change** and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

Ephesians 4:22-23 (NIV®)

²² You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, **to put off your old self**, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; ²³ **to be made new** in the attitude of your minds;

Matthew 15:10-11 (NIV®)

¹⁰ Jesus called the crowd to him and said, "**Listen and understand.** ¹¹ What goes into a man's mouth does not make him 'unclean,' but what comes out of his mouth, that is what makes him 'unclean.'"

B. The Importance of Listening

The word which describes this change, the mandatory adjustment to benefit from the privileges & authority of God's kingdom — REPENT.

1. Repent = Change of thought & change of behavior

**2. A second word describing an essential component of listening —
MEDITATE**

Meditate = To think about, to ponder, to reflect upon

Joshua 1:8 (NIV®)

Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.

C. Listening Skills

1. Listen with your heart — a hearing heart!

1 Kings 3:9 (NASB®)

"So give Your servant an understanding (heb. *shama* = hearing) heart to judge Your people to discern between good and evil. For who is able to judge this great people of Yours?"

Zechariah 7:12 (NIV®)

They made their hearts as hard as flint and would not listen to the law or to the words that the LORD Almighty had sent by his Spirit through the earlier prophets. So the LORD Almighty was very angry.

2. Listen with your eyes — eyes which see.

Luke 9:44-45 (NIV®)

⁴⁴ **"Listen carefully to what I am about to tell you:** The Son of Man is going to be betrayed into the hands of men."⁴⁵ But they did not understand what this meant. **It was hidden from them**, so that they did not grasp it, and they were afraid to ask him about it.

2 Kings 6:17-18 (NIV®)

¹⁷ And Elisha prayed, "O LORD, open his eyes so he may see." **Then the LORD opened the servant's eyes**, and he looked and saw the hills full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha. ¹⁸ As the enemy came down toward him, Elisha prayed to the LORD, "Strike these people with blindness." So he struck them with blindness, as Elisha had asked.

Acts 8:14-23 (NIV®)

¹⁴ When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. ¹⁵ When they arrived, they prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit, ¹⁶ because the Holy Spirit had not yet come upon any of them; they had simply been baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus. ¹⁷ Then Peter and John placed their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit. ¹⁸ When Simon saw that the Spirit was given at the laying on of the apostles' hands, he offered them money ¹⁹ and said, "Give me also this ability so that everyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit." ²⁰ Peter answered: "May your money perish with you, because you thought you could buy the gift of God with money! ²¹ You have no part or share in this ministry, because your heart is not right before God. ²² Repent of this wickedness and pray to the Lord. Perhaps he will forgive you for having such a thought in your heart. ²³ For **I see that you are full of bitterness** and captive to sin."

Acts 14:8-10 (NIV®)

⁸ In Lystra there sat a man crippled in his feet, who was lame from birth and had never walked. ⁹ He listened to Paul as he was speaking. Paul looked directly at him, **saw that he had faith to be healed** ¹⁰ and called out, "Stand up on your feet!" At that, the man jumped up and began to walk.

3. The outcome of listening is understanding! Then, choose obedience.

Isaiah 6:8-10 (NASB®)

⁸ Then I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?" Then I said, "Here am I. Send me!" ⁹ He said, "Go, and tell this people: 'Keep on listening, but do not perceive; Keep



on looking, but do not understand.' ¹⁰ "Render the hearts of this people insensitive (fat), Their ears dull (heavy), And their eyes dim (smudged), Otherwise they might see with their eyes, Hear with their ears, **Understand with their hearts, And return and be healed.**"

WHEN WE UNDERSTAND, WE TURN (REPENT) AND ARE HEALED

This present world order is passing away.

1 Corinthians 7:31 (NIV®)

For this world in its present form is passing away.

PRAYER

Our Father who art in Heaven, hallowed be Your name.

Your Kingdom come.

Your will be done on earth, as it is in Heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread,

and forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those who trespass against us,

and lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil.

For Yours is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever, amen.