



Lord, We Are Listening

I. Listening to the Lord

A. Characteristic of Disciples

John 10:27 (NIV®)

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

- ❖ Listen and Obey — Primary characteristics of God's people in every age

Matthew 11:14-15 (NIV®)

¹⁴ And if you are willing to accept it, he is the Elijah who was to come. ¹⁵ **He who has ears, let him hear.**

Isaiah 6:8-10 (NIV®)

⁸ Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I. Send me!" ⁹ He said, "Go and tell this people: "Be ever hearing, but never understanding; be ever seeing, but never perceiving.'" ¹⁰ Make the heart of this people calloused; make their ears dull and close their eyes. Otherwise they might see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts, and turn and be healed."

Isaiah 43:8 (NIV®) [promise of restoration to Israel]

Lead out those who have eyes but are blind, who have ears but are deaf.

Matthew 13:13-17 (NIV®)

¹³ This is why I speak to them in parables: "Though seeing, they do not see; though hearing, they do not hear or understand. ¹⁴ In them is fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah: "'You will be ever hearing but never understanding; you will be ever seeing but never perceiving. ¹⁵ For this people's heart has become calloused; they hardly hear with their ears, and they have closed their eyes. Otherwise they might see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts and turn, and I would heal them.' ¹⁶ But blessed are your eyes because they see, and your ears because they hear. ¹⁷ For I tell you the truth, many prophets and righteous men longed to see what you see but did not see it, and to hear what you hear but did not hear it.

Revelation 2:7 (NIV®)

He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, I will give the right to eat from the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.

B. How Do You Prepare Your Heart to "Listen"?

Ephesians 4:18-19 (NIV)

¹⁸ They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts. ¹⁹ Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, with a continual lust for more.

Ephesians 4:22-24 (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**;

²⁴ and to **put on the new self**, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

Ephesians 5:8-11 (NIV®)

⁸ For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light

⁹ (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) ¹⁰ and find out what pleases the Lord. ¹¹ **Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness**, but rather expose them.

II. Evidence of a Spiritual Struggle is Unfolding Before Us

Acts 19:18-29 (NASB®)

¹⁸ Many also of those who had believed kept coming, confessing and disclosing their practices. ¹⁹ And many of those who practiced magic brought their books together and *began* burning them in the sight of everyone; and they counted up the price of them and found it fifty thousand pieces of silver. ²⁰ **So the word of the Lord was growing mightily and prevailing.** . . . ²³ About that time there occurred no small disturbance concerning the Way. ²⁴ For a man named Demetrius, a silversmith, who made silver shrines of Artemis, was bringing no little business to the craftsmen; ²⁵ these he gathered together with the workmen of similar *trades*, and said, "Men, you know that our prosperity depends upon this business. . . . this Paul has persuaded and turned away a considerable number of people, saying that gods made with hands are no gods *at all*. . . ." ²⁸ When they heard *this* and were filled with rage, they *began* crying out, saying, "Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!" ²⁹ The city was filled with the confusion, and they rushed with one accord into the theater, dragging along Gaius and Aristarchus, Paul's traveling companions from Macedonia.

III. Our Victory in Christ

"In Him" we are holy & blameless

Ephesians 1:4 (NIV®)

For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight.

"In Him" we have redemption & forgiveness

Ephesians 1:7 (NIV®)

In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace

"In Him" blessings for ages to come

Ephesians 2:6-7 (NIV®)

⁶ And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus,

⁷ in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus.



“Faith in Him” brings salvation

Ephesians 2:8-9 (NIV®)

⁸ For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith--and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God-- ⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast.

“In Christ Jesus” we were created to serve God

Ephesians 2:10 (NIV®)

For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

“In Him” we are triumphant over all the power of the enemy

Ephesians 3:10 (NIV®)

His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms,

“In Him” we may approach the Creator of All Things

Ephesians 3:12 (NIV®)

In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence.

“In Him” we can make the most of every circumstance

Ephesians 5:15-16 (NIV®)

¹⁵ Be very careful, then, how you live--not as unwise but as wise, ¹⁶ making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil.

Prayer — adopted from Ephesians 1:15-21 (NIV®)

Heavenly Father, We keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give us the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that we may know him better. I pray also that the eyes of our hearts may be enlightened in order that we may know the hope to which he has called us, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of his mighty strength, which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. Amen.