

THE EARS OF THE MATURE

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The primary way the mature ones are led by the Holy Spirit is through daily reading, meditating on and applying God's Word to every situation.

Isaiah 50:4-7 - A prophetic word about how Jesus would live his life on earth 700 years before He was born.

When we awaken each morning and seek God and listen as His disciple, there will be 5 results:

1. You will have words of encouragement for others
2. You will receive personal direction for the day
3. You will receive the will to obey Him no matter what the cost
4. You will receive supernatural strength to overcome trials
5. You will receive supernatural determination to see things through

Life Application:

What distractions keep you from hearing God's voice?

How are you growing as a mature disciple?

What does being led by the Spirit look like for you?

Matthew 4:4 - But He answered and said, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.' "

The verb "proceeds" is in the continuing present tense. It means "every word as it proceeds out of the mouth of God."

God's Word is a "living voice." It is a word that is **actively** speaking. The Greek word **Rhema** refers to "that which has been spoken, and that which is spoken"

It is critical for believers to hear from God. Why? Because hearing God's voice indicates a direct personal relationship with Him.

John 10:27 - My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.

God's Word is what we were designed to live on. We cannot survive without God's Word.

What is the difference between hearing and listening?

Jeremiah 15:16 - God doesn't just want us to hear what He says, He wants us to delight in it.

Ezekiel 36:26-27 - In order for us to delight in His word, He had to do something radical within us. He had to give us a new heart to listen to, to delight in, and to obey His word.

God has given us a new "umph'er." We now have the umph to love God. We have the umph to love our neighbor. We have the umph to obey God's Word. We have the umph to walk in holiness.

Jeremiah 31:33 - It's the Holy Spirit who makes both our listening and our obedience possible.

The Old covenant declares: "you shall." The new covenant declares: "I will."

Romans 8:14 - For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons (and daughters) of God.

The word for "sons" is "mature ones"

Scripture places great emphasis on the on our need to grow and mature in Christ. It is only the mature son or daughter who is able to hear from, and be led by the Holy Spirit

Galatians 4:1-2 - Why does God want mature sons and daughters? Because only the mature ones can properly understand and wield their inheritance in the kingdom.

The Father wants us to grow up into His character and nature becoming mature, trustworthy and responsible stewards of His kingdom.

John 16:12 - "There is so much more I want to tell you, but you can't bear it now.

Do you ever wonder why the Lord doesn't give you what you ask for? Could it be that you are not mature enough to receive what He has for you?

Those who are immature are those with unregenerate minds, who have not yet learned to be renewed by God's Word and who are not being led by His Spirit.

Suffering is God's megaphone for teaching us that we must **overcome** or be **overcome**.

Romans 8:14-17 - God made us co-heirs with His Son. That's another way of saying, "what belongs to Jesus belongs to us!" And the most direct method God uses to show us what belongs to us is through our trials and suffering.

There is nothing like a trial that will reveal who the adults are in the room and who the children are.