

LIFT

“LIFT OUR EARS”

Word of Year: Every Year Since 2013!

-2026 CHURCH: LIFT

LIFT: To take hold of and raise something in order to remove, carry, or move it to a different position.

John F. Kennedy said the famous quote, “The rising tide lifts all boats”

-He was talking about the financial economy....

.....I am talking about the spiritual economy!

-Praying for community Impact! (Light in the darkness)

-Week 1: LIFT OUR EYES (PRAYING FOR MIRACLES)

Psalm 121:1-2 I lift up my eyes to the mountains- where does my help come from? 2My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth.

-I HAVE GREAT FAITH DREAMS FOR 2026!!!!

-Last week: LIFT OUR HANDS (WE NEED EACH OTHER)

-Isolation affects us emotionally, relationally, physically and spiritually

-Moses, Joshua, Aaron & Hur and the soldiers saw victory TOGETHER as Moses Hands were extended in surrender to Heaven!

TODAY: LIFT OUR EARS!

ANYONE HAVE HEARING PROBLEMS?

HOW MANY OF YOU HAVE SELECTIVE HEARING?

-Selective hearing is a miracle of biology: Ears connected directly to personal preference.

Kids can't hear their name called three times.....

but somehow they can hear a candy wrapper open from two rooms away!

I saw a coffee mug that said: I have selective hearing.....and you have not been selected.

LIFT OUR EARS

1 Samuel 3:1-10 Meanwhile, the boy Samuel served the Lord by assisting Eli. Now in those days messages from the Lord were very rare, and visions were quite uncommon.

² One night Eli, who was almost blind by now, had gone to bed. ³ The lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was sleeping in the Tabernacle near the Ark of God. ⁴ Suddenly the Lord called out, "Samuel!" "Yes?" Samuel replied. "What is it?"

⁵ He got up and ran to Eli. "Here I am. Did you call me?" "I didn't call you," Eli replied. "Go back to bed." So he did. ⁶ Then the Lord called out again, "Samuel!" Again Samuel got up and went to Eli. "Here I am.

Did you call me?” “I didn’t call you, my son,” Eli said. “Go back to bed.”

⁷ Samuel did not yet know the Lord because he had never had a message from the Lord before. ⁸ So the Lord called a third time, and once more Samuel got up and went to Eli. “Here I am. Did you call me?”

Then Eli realized it was the Lord who was calling the boy.⁹ So he said to Samuel, “Go and lie down again, and if someone calls again, say, ‘Speak, Lord, your servant is listening.’” So Samuel went back to bed.

¹⁰ And the Lord came and called as before, “Samuel! Samuel!” And Samuel replied, “Speak, your servant is listening.”

WE PROBABLY ALL WANT GOD TO SPEAK TO US!

-Looking for guidance, wisdom or direction!

We live in a world full of noise. Notifications buzz, opinions shout, and everyone has something to say about how we should live. But in all the noise, there is still one voice that brings life, peace, direction, and blessing—the voice of God.

FOUNDATIONAL BASIS: GOD SPEAKS TO US! (relationship)

SO.....HOW DOES GOD SPEAK??

God Speaks by His Holy Spirit (living in each of us)

Hebrews 1:1-2 In the past God spoke to our ancestors 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 also he made the universe.

John 14:25-26 “All this I have spoken while still with you. ²⁶ But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.

God Speaks through the Bible:

Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.

-It is like a mirror.....when we read the bible, it reads us!

God speaks through circumstances:

John 5:17 In his defense Jesus said to them, “My Father is always at his work to this very day, and I too am working.”

CS Lewis..... “Pain insists upon being attended to. God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks in our consciences, but shouts in our pains. It is his megaphone to rouse a deaf world.”

God speaks through the church:

Eph 4:11-16 So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, ¹² to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up¹³ until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

¹⁴ Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming.¹⁵ Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. ¹⁶ From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

-LIFT OUR HANDS.....WE NEED EACH OTHER!

SO IF GOD IS ALWAYS SPEAKING.....HOW DO WE RESPOND?

1) We need to listen!

Hebrews 3:15 Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts.

God speaks through His Word, through His Spirit, through wise counsel, and sometimes through circumstances.

The problem is not that God is silent—the problem is that we are often distracted.

-Marriage: Practice ACTIVE LISTENING

Matthew 11:15 Whoever has ears, let them hear.

Hearing in Scripture is not passive. It implies attention, humility, and readiness to respond.

Listening to God requires us to slow down long enough to let His Word confront us, correct us, and comfort us.

2) We need to obey

We tell kids to “LISTEN” AND “OBEY” (2 important parts)

James 1:22 Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.

The Bible is clear: listening to God is powerful.....

.....but listening and obeying Him is transformational.

Luke 11:28 Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and obey it.

We can attend church, quote Scripture, highlight verses, and still miss the blessing if we refuse to obey.

-Knowledge alone does not change lives—**obedience does.**

Luke 6:46 Why do you call me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ and do not do what I say?

Obedience is not about perfection; it’s about submission. It’s about saying, “God, I trust You more than my feelings, my fears, and my understanding.”

When we hear God’s Word without obeying it:

- Knowledge replaces obedience
- Familiarity replaces faithfulness
- Comfort replaces conviction

Truth: Spiritual maturity is not measured by what we know, but by how we live.

3) Blessing always follows Obedience!

God does not command obedience to control us, but to bless us.

Deuteronomy 28:1–14 “If you fully obey the Lord your God and carefully keep all his commands that I am giving you today, the Lord your God will set you high above all the nations of the world. ² You will experience all these blessings if you obey the Lord your God:

³ Your towns and your fields will be blessed. ⁴ Your children and your crops will be blessed. The offspring of your herds and flocks will be blessed. ⁵ Your fruit baskets and breadboards will be blessed. ⁶ Wherever you go and whatever you do, you will be blessed.

⁷ “The Lord will conquer your enemies when they attack you. They will attack you from one direction, but they will scatter from you in seven!

⁸ “The Lord will guarantee a blessing on everything you do and will fill your storehouses with grain. The Lord your God will bless you in the land he is giving you.

⁹ “If you obey the commands of the Lord your God and walk in his ways, the Lord will establish you as his holy people as he swore he would do. ¹⁰ Then all the nations of the world will see that you are a people claimed by the Lord, and they will stand in awe of you.

¹¹ “The Lord will give you prosperity in the land he swore to your ancestors to give you, blessing you with many children, numerous livestock, and abundant crops. ¹² The Lord will send rain at the proper time from his rich treasury in the heavens and will bless all the work you do. You will lend to many nations, but you will never need to borrow from them.

¹³ If you listen to these commands of the Lord your God that I am giving you today, and if you carefully obey them, the Lord will make you the head and not the tail, and you will always be on top and never at the bottom. ¹⁴ You must not turn away from any of the commands I am giving you today, nor follow after other gods and worship them.

Notice the order: **obedience first** **blessing follows**

-There is a blessing attached not just to hearing God’s Word, but to aligning our lives with it.

Jesus echoes this truth:

John 13:17 Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.

Blessing doesn't always mean ease or comfort.

-Sometimes obedience leads through difficulty before it leads to deliverance.

-But it always leads to God's presence, peace, and purpose.

4) Obedience Builds a Life That Can Withstand the Storm

Matthew 7:24 Everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock.

Storms will come—obedience does not prevent them.

But obedience determines whether we stand or collapse when they arrive.

When we obey God:

- Our faith becomes rooted, not reactive
- Our decisions become anchored, not impulsive
- Our lives reflect trust, not fear

God's Word Reveals But Obedience Transforms

James 1:23–24 Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror and immediately forgets what he looks like.

The Word of God is a mirror. It shows us:

- Our sin

- Our calling
- Our need for grace

But a mirror cannot change us unless we respond.

-Obedience is where transformation begins.

5) Obedience is an expression of love!

John 14:15 If you love me, keep my commands.

Obedience is not legalism; it is love in action.

We obey not to earn God's love but because we already have it

1 John 5:3 This is love for God: to keep his commands. And his commands are not burdensome.

What once felt heavy becomes lighter when love leads the way.

Today, let us move beyond hearing

- Let us forgive where God says forgive.
- Love where God says love.
- Serve where God says serve.
- Obey where God says obey.

