

R12.2 May/June 2026 Blog

Hard of Hearing?

"Therefore I speak to them in parables; because while seeing they do not see, and while hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand." – Matthew 13:13 (NASB95)

GOD speaks to me through His Word. Am I listening? Am I hearing?

Prayerfully consider and meditate on these verses from The Book of Revelation before reading the content and application of this blog (scripture references are NASB95):

- 1:3 Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of the prophecy, and heed the things which are written in it; for the time is near.
- 1:10 I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and I heard behind me a loud voice like *the sound* of a trumpet,
- 2:7 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, I will grant to eat of the tree of life which is in the Paradise of God.
- 2:11 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. He who overcomes will not be hurt by the second death.
- 2:17 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, to him I will give *some* of the hidden manna, and I will give him a white stone, and a new name written on the stone which no one knows but he who receives it.
- 2:26 He who overcomes, and he who keeps My deeds until the end, to him I will give authority over the nations;
- 2:29 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.
- 3:6 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.
- 3:13 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.
- 3:19 Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline; therefore be zealous and repent.
- 3:22 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

In these 11 verses from The Book of Revelation this short phrase, *He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says*, is repeated seven times in two chapters. Like a husband with selective hearing, what is being communicated by his wife must often be repeated before

he hears (especially if he does not want to act on her request). Understanding this illustration, do I have selective hearing when it comes to what God has spoken to me through His Word? Unlike in human communication, *plausible deniability* does not exist for the true follower of Jesus Christ. Jesus knows if I am listening to and hearing the Holy Spirit. I cannot pretend to hear or feign action based on my desired interpretation of what God has said. There is no cover, no excuse, nor a desire to hear God in an unworthy manner for the true follower of Jesus because He knows my heart with absolute clarity.

Look back at our opening verse – Matthew 13:13 is part of Jesus’s explanation to His disciples as to why He speaks in parables. Jesus has granted to the disciples the ability to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but not to the others who are casually listening (Matthew 13:11). To get more of the context, please see Matthew 13:1-23. His explanation of why He speaks in parables is revealed in the middle of the parable of the soils. If I want to be Jesus’s modern-day disciple, I must have an ear intent on listening to the Holy Spirit (remember the seven verses above). If I want to overcome, I must have an ear to hear the Spirit. If I want to avoid the second death, I must have an ear to hear the Spirit (Revelation 2:11).

If these verses do not arrest me and compel my attention, I can be certain that I do not have an ear to hear, much less possess the spirit of an overcomer. If I feel the conviction of the Holy Spirit as I pray over and meditate on God’s Word, I am the recipient of God’s amazing grace. How will I respond? How will you respond? Eternity is a long time, so long that it has no end.

Application:

- ⇒ God has spoken to us, if not audibly and/or through visions and dreams, He has most certainly spoken to us through His Word. Ask yourself these self-reflection questions:
 - Am I hearing? Am I listening closely and effectually so that I will submit to Him and exercise my will to align with His? Or am I being willful, selfish, and self-serving? Obedience is the mark of a disciple with an ear to hear what the Spirit says.
- ⇒ God isn’t failing to speak. Am I failing to listen? God’s Word is available, and as more than one good Bible teacher has said, *“The Bible is the only book where the Author is present every time it is read.”*
 - Be still and listen.
- ⇒ In prayer, do not drown God out because of your own interests.
 - Remember the old acronym on the order of prayer, **ACTS**: Adoration-Confession-Thanksgiving-Supplication.