

# Hearing God



Intro: God does speak: John 10:27

1. God does not have a problem in speaking, we have a problem in hearing. God didn't have a problem writing his word, we have a problem understanding it. We must learn to hear from God by training our inner senses: Hebrews 5:14
2. There are many ways God speaks, but we must have ears to hear: Mark 4:23
  - a. Peace vs. a Check in the spirit (Rom 8:14)
  - b. Getting revelation in prayer
  - c. Dreams and visions (Joel 2:28)
  - d. Through wise counsel (Ps 1:1-6, Pr 12:15)
  - e. Gifts of the Spirit (1 Cor 12)
  - f. His word (2Tim 3:16)
  - g. Coming through people & circumstances (the hardest to detect) Lk 13:35
3. How can we heighten our spiritual sensitivity?
  - a. Have a strong prayer life
  - b. Take communion regularly (check oneself)
  - c. Walk in forgiveness, love, and fruit of the Spirit
  - d. Pray in the Spirit on all occasions
  - e. Get to know the Holy Spirit as a person and spend time with him (2Cor 13:14)
  - f. Pray daily for wisdom (James 1:5)
  - g. Pray scriptural prayers over yourself (Eph 1:15-20; 3:14-21; Rev 3:18; 1 Thess 5:23), Prayer without ceasing
4. What hinders us from hearing God's voice?
  - a. The path of unrighteousness (Proverbs 4:18)
  - b. Living out of God's will
  - c. Unforgiveness (Mark 11:26)
  - d. Living according to the flesh (Gal 5:19-21)
  - e. Living in a way that grieves the Holy Spirit (Eph 4:17-32)
  - f. Having the voice of the enemy through people in your life (Sanballat)
  - g. Hearing the negative words of leaders you grew up under
  - h. Wrong pet doctrines, poverty mentalities, prejudism, strongholds of the mind
  - i. Our emotions while going through attack

Galatians 5:19-21 list of the works of the flesh and their meanings. Those that live this way will not inherit the kingdom of God.

**Adultery** is sex outside of your marriage bed; Jesus said even looking with lust is adultery

**Fornication** sex as a single person (Greek word *pornea* which also speaks of *harlotry, incest, and figuratively speaks of idolatry*. *Pornea* is where we derive our word pornography from and would include pornography, lust, masturbation, etc...)

**Uncleanness** (comes from the Greek word *Akatharsia* which *means physical or moral impurity*.) This has to do with things that **defile** our lives. This can come from television, movies, computer, or wrong friends we keep.

**Lasciviousness** from the dictionary by definition is: "1. inclined to lustfulness; wanton; lewd: a lascivious, like a girl-chasing old man. 2. arousing sexual desire: lascivious photographs. 3. indicating sexual interest or expressive of lust or lewdness: a lascivious gesture." (comes from the Greek word which also implies *filthy or wantonness*)

**Idolatry** or image worshiper has to do also with anything we 1. Put as more important than God in our life 2. We worship or set our affections (the affections only God deserves) 3. Things we trust in more than God.

**Witchcraft** can also be translated "magic, sorcery, and is the Greek word *pharmakeia*." Witchcraft by Biblical definition has to do with "manipulation or intimidation as to control others." The magic dark arts of spell casting, incantations, etc are forms of controlling others. This also includes drug use which is considered sorcery in the Bible and *pharmakeia* is where we derive our word pharmacy.

**Hatred** this has to do with unforgiveness, enmity, or opposition ultimately resulting in division.

**Variance** can also be translated "quarrelling, contention, debating, and strife."

**Emulations** can also be translated "jealousy, malice toward an enemy (wanting bad to happen to someone that doesn't like you), envying others, and indignation."

**Wrath** can also be translated fierceness, indignation, or enrage. This has to do with going into angry outburst, losing the temper, and fits of rage.

**Strife** can also be translated contention or quarrelling. This is the root of much of the gossip and slander in the church world.

**Seditious** comes from the Greek word *dichostasis* and means "disunion, division, and dissension." This has to do with the rebellion toward pastors, church splits, and pitting people against each other. Pr 6:16 "There are six things the LORD hates, seven that are detestable to him: <sup>17</sup> haughty eyes, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, <sup>18</sup> a heart that devises wicked schemes, feet that are quick to rush into evil, <sup>19</sup> a false witness who pours out lies and a person who stirs up division among the brethren."

**Heresies** comes from the Greek word *haireisis* which has to do with a "party or sect." This is closely connected with racism and prejudism. These divisive people will have their little sect that will not submit to true authority and will not like accountability.

**Envyings** can also be translated “ill-will, jealousy, and spite.” It comes from the root word in the Greek cause to “corrupt, ruin, destroy, or perish.” These are those that seek to destroy what they do not agree with.

**Murder** obviously has to do with taking a person’s life (which includes abortion and hating others), but also a “spirit of murder” will seek the destruction of others, destroying other people’s reputation, and tearing down a ministry. Basically seeking to destroy and kill what you don’t like.

**Revellings** is the Greek word *komos* and “carousal (letting loose), rioting.” This has to do with a lack of self-control. The opposite of these works of the flesh is the fruit of the Spirit and one aspect of the fruit of the Spirit is “self-control.”

Ephesians 4:17 “So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking.<sup>18</sup> 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.<sup>19</sup> Having lost all sensitivity, they have **given themselves over to sensuality** so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, and they are full of greed.<sup>20</sup> That, however, is not the way of life you learned<sup>21</sup> when you heard about Christ and were taught in him in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus.<sup>22</sup> 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;<sup>23</sup> to be made new in the attitude of your minds;<sup>24</sup> and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.<sup>25</sup> Therefore each of you must **put off falsehood** and speak truthfully to your neighbor, for we are all members of one body.<sup>26</sup> **“In your anger do not sin”<sup>[d]</sup>**: Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry,<sup>27</sup> and do not give the devil a foothold.<sup>28</sup> **Anyone who has been stealing must steal no longer**, but must work, doing something useful with their own hands, that they may have something to share with those in need.<sup>29</sup> **Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths**, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.<sup>30</sup> **And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.<sup>31</sup> Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice.<sup>32</sup> Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.**

**Bitterness** has to do with harboring grudges. This also will cause a person to defile many others with their bitterness causing many others to have a problem with a person through that bitter root.

Wrath and ungodly anger were covered in Galatians 5, but also **clamor** is listed and is translated “tumult, grief, and crying.” These are those that cause grief in churches and stir up problems.

**Evil speaking** is the Greek word *blasphemia* and has to do with vilifying a person or speaking evil against godly authority or God himself. This is the Loshan Hara we have talked about. It is a tale-bearer that spreads rumors and turns people against each other or vilifies and individual. These will rarely go to the person like Jesus said and try to reconcile. Their intentions are evil and meant to hurt others not seek reconciliation, hear the truth, or pursue healing.

**Malice** are those that have evil intentions to cause trouble in church. They derive pleasure in stirring up conflict. They enjoy causing grief in churches and heartache for a pastor.