

Holy Spirit Power

April 15th, 2018 – Holy Spirit Power
Part 3

The Mute Button is the title of today's message and as you read, you'll understand that it has to do with muting out the Holy Spirit and his power, his baptism and growth in Christ Jesus. We found some interesting teachings on the internet and we're gleaning from them to teach this message today.

Just like a remote control that allows you to mute what you don't want to hear, a person can do the same to the voice of Holy Spirit. It is something that goes on day in and day out to everyone who doesn't want to 'hear' what someone is saying to you. You physically hear their voice, but you don't hear what they're saying. Can you relate? You could also call it selective hearing, listening to only what you want.

Sometimes it's selective, by your choice, but other times it can be demonic, controlled by a deaf and dumb spirit. I'm convinced that many in the body of Christ are under this spirit which hinders believers' spiritual progress. You might be able to talk and hear physically, but that doesn't mean that the deaf and dumb spirit isn't operating.

Let's look at what deaf means. As an adjective it means lacking the power of hearing or having impaired hearing. But it also means to be unwilling or unable to hear or pay attention to something. Some synonyms are unmoved by, untouched by, unaffected by, indifferent to, unresponsive to, unconcerned by; unaware of, oblivious to or incognizant of.

In **Matthew 13:10-17**, Jesus spoke in a parable that addresses this spirit and he also quotes a prophecy from the Prophet Isaiah. It says; *“And the disciples came and said to Him, ‘‘Why do You speak to them in parables?’’ He answered and said to them, ‘‘Because it has been given to you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given. For whoever has, to him more will be given, and he will have abundance; but whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him. Therefore I speak to them in parables, because seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand (no perception, knowing). And in them the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled, which says: ‘Hearing you will hear and shall not understand, and seeing you will see and not perceive; for the hearts of this people have grown dull. Their ears are hard of hearing, and their eyes they have closed, lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, lest they should understand with their hearts and turn, so that I should heal them.’ But blessed are your eyes for they see, and your ears for they hear; for assuredly, I say to you that many prophets and righteous men desired to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it.”*

In church, there can be countless people physically hearing the message, but deaf to what's being said. Don't think that it can't happen to Christians. When the Holy Spirit is revealing himself to you and you turn a deaf ear to him, settling on your past religious experience, you lose out. Jesus just said that whoever has and wants more, abundance will be given by the Holy Spirit, but to the one who does not have and doesn't want any more...it will even get taken away. This is what a deaf and dumb spirit does, it impedes you from going forward in every area of your spiritual walk with Christ, including receiving the baptism in the Holy Spirit.

2 Corinthians 4:3-4 talks about a mind blinding spirit to keep from salvation, unbelievers and believers alike. This mind blinding spirit causes darkness, no illumination, hardness towards God, willful rebellion and obstinate unbelief. Refusal to believe God, so Satan has the power to blind their mind and thoughts. It starts from unbelief. The preacher is preaching but you're not believing, the Word of God is speaking but you're saying 'I don't believe that'. That, opens the door to the devil to come in and bind your mind.

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So the scripture says; *“But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them.”* I’d encourage you to take a good long look at your Christian walk and see if this deaf and dumb spirit is blocking you.

Let’s take a look at what the effects are of a deaf and dumb spirit.

1. Cannot hear (spiritually). Right here we’re not focusing on the physically deaf and dumb, but the spiritually deaf and dumb. But those too, Jesus healed them and so we can heal them in his name. Deaf: unwilling or refusing to listen. Heedless - “deaf to our warnings of imminent danger” – “Turns a deaf ear” - Not capable of being affected.
2. Cannot speak. No power to speak, unwilling to speak, silent – lacking intelligence, stupid. Both of these symptoms are dangerous in the body of Christ and also in our personal relationship with God.
3. Also, please note that Jesus called this spirit “Foul or UNCLEAN”. The characteristics of a foul or unclean spirit are
 - a. Not Clean (vile, wicked, unholy, not pure, polluted, defiled, profane, etc.) in speech, thoughts, deeds.
 - b. Dirty life and lifestyle (a sign of a spiritual problem, messy house, car, clothes, lifestyle etc.
 - c. Out of order, no discipline (being late, not keeping their word, sloppy, untrustworthy, blame shifting)
 - d. Carries darkness (depression)- not receiving, reflecting, transmitting, or radiating light (old spirit or death focused, worldly ways, carnal, flesh based, cold, unbelief, fear, defeated, depressed, down all the time, etc.
 - e. Lying (false embellishment, exaggerations etc. which are still lies)

Let’s go to **Mark 9:14-29** where we read the story of the young boy whom Jesus casts the deaf and dumb spirit out of. It says; *“And when He came to the disciples, He saw a great multitude around them, and scribes disputing with them. Immediately, when they saw Him, all the people were greatly amazed, and running to Him, greeted Him. And He asked the scribes, “What are you discussing with them?” Then one of the crowd answered and said, “Teacher, I brought You my son, who has a mute spirit. And wherever it seizes him, it throws him down; he foams at the mouth, gnashes his teeth, and becomes rigid. So I spoke to Your disciples, that they should cast it out, but they could not.” He answered him and said, “O faithless generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I bear with you? Bring him to Me.” Then they brought him to Him. And when he saw Him, immediately the spirit convulsed him, and he fell on the ground and wallowed, foaming at the mouth. So He asked his father, “How long has this been happening to him?” And he said, “From childhood. And often he has thrown him both into the fire and into the water to destroy him. But if You can do anything, have compassion on us and help us.” Jesus said to him, “If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes.” Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, “Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!” When Jesus saw that the people came running together, He rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it: “Deaf and dumb spirit, I command you, come out of him and enter him no more!” Then the spirit cried out, convulsed him greatly, and came out of him. And he became as one dead, so that many said, “He is dead.” But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose. And when He had come into the house, His disciples asked Him privately, “Why could we not cast it out?” So He said to them, “This kind can come out by nothing but prayer and fasting.”*

Let’s do a break down of this scripture to find out what this spirit does and how it applies to you.

- ❖ **Verse 18**; *“And wherever it seizes him, it throws him down; he foams at the mouth, gnashes his teeth, and becomes rigid. So I spoke to Your disciples, that they should cast it out, but they could not.”*

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- **Throws him down** - rejection, low or wrong image of who we are in Christ. That's what the devil does falsely accusing you, distorting and twisting the image of who we are in Jesus. The devil is a liar as it says in **John 8:44** where it says; *"You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it."* The devil is the one who throws you down, kicks you to the curb and keeping you from getting up.
 - **Foams at the mouth** (spiritually). When we get down, depressed, troubled, what do we do. Out of the abundance of your heart, your mouth speaks junk, wrong words and carnal words. It's when a person is in this state that they're cursing themselves or others out, speaking junky words over themselves or their self-image. In this state, a person can't see themselves as Christ sees them. This happens because of a deaf and dumb spirit!
 - **Gnashes his teeth**. A person gets angry – they get mad at everything but the real enemy. Strife, hatred, jealousy. They try and blame everything or everyone but themselves, taking responsibility for their spiritual walk with Jesus.
 - **Becomes Rigid**. They become unmovable, religious, unteachable, ever learning, but never coming to the truth. A person may have the radio, TV, social media on, listening to every preacher in town, they have books cluttering their book shelves...ever learning but never coming to the truth!
 - Why, because of the selective hearing they do or the demonic deaf and dumb spirit that's putting the mute button on, prohibiting them from the juicy morsels of truth that Holy Spirit is wanting to speak to them about.
 - In worship, they have to be prompted to worship God. They do it in a scripted or habitual way, not by the spirit, it is not true free worship of God. Many in churches stand or sit by habit and many don't open their mouths to sing the songs either no matter what is in front of them visually to encourage worship. A clear indicator of a deaf and dumb spirit in operation.
 - They cannot be spontaneous in worship without fear of retribution. The devil has their tongue locked so they can't speak or sing.
 - Another indication of this being in effect is the people have to be pulled or prodded to move into worship or into the things of the Spirit.
 - ALL of this can cause extreme tiredness on the leaders because of the drain on them in the spirit. This is a reality check today.
- ❖ **Verse 19**, Jesus addresses their problem. *"O **Faithless** generation, how long will I be with you and how long will I bear with you (put up with **your unbelief**). Bring him to Me."*
- Some believe the ruling demon over the church today is unbelief – the ruling power over unbelief is the deaf and dumb spirit.
 - We find that unbelief causes the heavens to be brass, closed, the glory comes through an open heaven. **John 1:51** says; *"And he saith unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Hereafter ye shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man."* That is God's plan for you to get out of the flesh and into the spirit and have an open, clear, unobstructed clarity of hearing him. Take the control mute button and throw it out. Don't let the devil take control over you and mute you. Bind him and cast him out. Don't let him rob you from the plans and purposes that God has for your life. Get rid of selective hearing and grow up in the Word of God. This is God's will for you that the heavens open up for you and you see the supernatural in your life!

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- Jesus says today, O faithless and unbelieving generation. You who have rejected the Holy Spirit's power and baptism. A deaf and dumb spirit has taken over so can no longer speak or hear. There are those who used to sing and speak but now their tongues are tied.
 - Churches in this town, province and country who once operated in true spirit led worship, under the operation of the Holy Spirit, speaking in tongues and prophesying ...but no longer. Why! What got in there? An unbelieving spirit convinces one or two in a meeting who come into agreement and their unbelief affects the whole church.
 - Before you know it, the deaf and dumb spirit has convinced a multitude of people and the church loses its fire, passion, and power of the Holy Spirit.
 - This is a spiritual problem, not a flesh problem.

- ❖ Unbelief creates an atmosphere that hinders God and the anointing for deliverance.
 - Jesus could do **no** mighty miracles in Nazareth. It says in **Mark 6:4-6**; *“But Jesus said to them, “A prophet is not without honor except in his own country, among his own relatives, and in his own house.” Now He could do no mighty work there, except that He laid His hands on a few sick people and healed them. And He marveled because of their unbelief. Then He went about the villages in a circuit, teaching.”*
 - Jesus went to preach to those who would listen and believe him. His own townsmen were in unbelief and which allowed the deaf and dumb spirit to take over. The Son of God, the son of man preached and preached and yet they didn't 'hear him'!
 - The deaf and dumb spirit makes us dull to hearing, seeing and understanding.
 - This spirit affects our learning ability, concentration, memory and probably more.
 - In the service we become “sleepy” and then we go home and become “dopey”. How many after half an hour arriving at home on a Sunday, can't even remember what the message was about?
 - We say we believe but we still have unbelief in our heart of hearts.
 - Faith makes everything possible - Unbelief makes everything impossible. Meditation in the Word overcomes unbelief. **Romans 12:1-2** says; *“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.”*
 - We must renew our minds, change to transformation to God over conformation to the worlds belief system and its way of doing.
 - I challenge you to daily ask yourself if you're walking in unbelief, giving room to a deaf and dumb spirit.
 - Faith is diligent and never gives up, stops or backs down. Jesus never gives up on you, hence we're preaching it. **Hebrews 11:1** says; *“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”* Verse **6** continues to say; *“But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.”*
 - Unbelief is faith in failure. Unbelief is faith contaminated.

- ❖ **Verse 20** shows how the spirit reacts to Jesus (to the anointing and His presence); *“And when he saw Him, immediately the spirit convulsed him, and he fell on the ground and wallowed, foaming at the mouth.”*
 - It convulsed him (tear)
 - He fell to the ground foaming at the mouth.
 - The anointing can make people nervous, it causes manifestations of internal issues.
 - When Jesus shows up, all hell breaks loose, literally!

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- ❖ **Verse 21** ; *“So He asked his father, “How long has this been happening to him?” And he said, “From childhood.”*
 - You need to ask yourself this question if you know you’re walking in unbelief and you’re deaf and dumb to the things of the Spirit.
 - From a young age or since being born again. Old baggage – pet devils! Bondage can to some, become comfortable of at the least what you are used to. Only the work of the Holy Spirit can change you, but you need to repent and ask Jesus to forgive you if this bears witness in your heart.

- ❖ **Verse 22** shows what the plan of the enemy is. *“And often he has thrown him both into the fire and into the water to destroy him. But if You can do anything, have compassion on us and help us.”*
 - The devil tried to kill him in two ways, through the fire and the water. It’s interesting to note, that these two things, God uses to bring purification.
 - So here we have introduced the spirit of suicide. If the individual will not carry out suicide, then the demon will try and kill him. This spirit comes forth with those who have a martyr or victim mentality. Most of which have not the truth seeing these can be self-imposed. Remember the devil comes to steal, kill and destroy.
 - If this spirit is operating in you, he’s already robbed you in church by having selective hearing, being sleepy, unable to open your mouth to worship God or pray. So the next step them is destruction and to take you out.

- ❖ **Verse 23** says; *“But if You can do anything, have compassion on us and help us.” Jesus said to him, “If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes.”*
 - Jesus clearly states that faith must be involved in the process. We must believe Jesus is who He says He is and He will do what He says He will do.
 - **Luke 18:8** says *“...Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?”* That’s a serious question isn’t it. Will Jesus find you and the church with faith or with unbelief which has a deaf and dumb spirit behind it?

- ❖ **Verse 24** says; *“Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, “Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!”* This shows the fathers heart cry over his child.

- ❖ **Verse 25** says; *“He rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it: “Deaf and dumb spirit, I command you, come out of him and enter him no more!”*
 - He called the spirit by name, a deaf and dumb spirit. A shotgun prayer will not get the job done. Come out and enter him no more. Many need deliverance today from this spirit so you can enter into all that God has for you, so you can come out of fear and unbelief and into faith.

- ❖ **Verse 26** says, *“Then the spirit cried out, convulsed him greatly, and came out of him. And he became as one dead, so that many said, “He is dead.”*
 - Are not we after salvation to be as dead men – alive only in and by Jesus Christ. We’re to be dead to self and take up our cross and follow him.
 - You need to turn over the mute button to God today and stop being selective in your hearing. If this is you, you’ve submitted to a spirit of unbelief which stems from a deaf and dumb spirit which hinders you from hearing the Holy Spirit.

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- ❖ **Verse 27** says; *“But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose. Only Jesus can promote.*
 - Jesus had compassion, he delivered him, set him free, the boy and father had new life, full of faith, etc. All the fruits of a deaf and dumb spirit were gone and they could hear clearly.

- ❖ **Verse 29** says; *“And when He had come into the house, His disciples asked Him privately, “Why could we not cast it out?” So He said to them, “This kind can come out by nothing but prayer and fasting.”*
 - Crying out to God and seeking Him.
 - Fasting – giving up that which will hinder or interfere with our freedom.
 - The failure of the disciples was a prayer less lifestyle. They could not pray it out because they had not prayed it through first.
 - Fasting is not easy, but it is required to get spiritual breakthroughs in your life.

Matthew 15:30-31 says the following; *“Then great multitudes came to Him, having with them the lame, blind, mute, maimed, and many others; and they laid them down at Jesus’ feet, and He healed them. So the multitude marveled when they saw the mute speaking, the maimed made whole, the lame walking, and the blind seeing; and they glorified the God of Israel.”*

Maybe you need to get down at Jesus’ feet today so that he can heal you, so you can move forward in the things of God again, so that you can worship, dance, pray in tongues and sing in the spirit again, or if you don’t do any of this, you can ask him and he will baptize you in the Holy Spirit so you can. You’ll be able to step out and do things you haven’t done before, praying for the sick, evangelize, not worrying about what people think about you.

If you don’t know if this deaf and dumb spirit are operating in your, ask the Lord and he’ll show you. You may need to fast and pray too. Jesus gives us a warning too when we hear a message like this today. We read it in **Matthew 13:19** where it says; *“When anyone hears the word of the kingdom, and does not understand it, then the wicked one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is he who received seed by the wayside.”*

Don’t allow the devil to snatch the word out of your heart today and to get you back into routine, habit, and unrepentance. He wants to deliver and set you free today.

We read in **John 13:27** about what happened Judas Iscariot. It says; *“Now after the piece of bread, Satan entered him. Then Jesus said to him, “What you do, do quickly.”* Many don’t believe that a Christian can be possessed with the devil, but Judas was. And he’s not an exception to the rule. He was with Jesus, laid hands on the sick, operating in signs, wonders and miracles. He made some serious decisions that opened the door for him to be possessed. What was that? Money, mammon and unbelief. The devil got him deaf and dumb to what Jesus was saying. It wasn’t God’s will for Judas. It wasn’t predestination in the sense that Judas was born for this. No, he gave himself over to the devil and if it wouldn’t have been him, it would have been another. Don’t think that you can’t backslide. A little leaven, leaven’s the whole lump.

The Apostle Paul makes this very clear when he speaks to Timothy in **1 Timothy 4:1-2**; *“Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron.”*

This is a serious message today, if it applies to you, repent. God has the best of the best for you. Don’t choose evil, choose life, choose the life in Christ being filled with the baptism of the Holy Spirit. God wants to open the windows of heaven to you today and pour out a blessing which you won’t be able to contain!

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