

The Christian experience is to HEAR from God to be led of God to:

1. Honor, worship and serve Him
2. Love, serve and evangelize others
3. Be sanctified and changed ourselves

It all starts with hearing from God. In fact the Israelis were given “The Great Shema’ or the great “hear”.

Without faith it’s impossible to please God. How do we obtain faith? By hearing the Word of God. At times it seems we’re not doing #1, #2, and #3 above. We need to start the whole way at the beginning and ask, “Are we hearing from God?” Read Amos 8:11. **Here are 3 ways for wanderers to hear from heaven.**

- 1) Vs 10-12 – Reiteration of God’s activity in getting us to repent
 - a. vs 10 – This is step #4 of God’s progressively worsening methods of getting us to come to repentance which is coming to a complete end and being totally vulnerable.
 - b. vs 11-12 – This is step #2 of being confused and self-deceived.
- 2) Vs 13-14 – **The 1st way for wanderers to hear from heaven is to believe that God’s Word is the primary, proven, powerful way God communicates.**

- a. It's the primary way God communicates with us.
 - i. Heb 1:1
 - ii. Jer 23:28
 - iii. Sower and the Seed
 - 1. What affects the heart? Experience? The Word!
 - 2. Hearts are changed by applying the Word.
- b. It's proven and tried showing it's true:
 - i. The Word will prove its value and accuracy over time to you. (Luke 11:27-28) (also could look-up Isa 55:11 – return void)
 - ii. Vs 13 – the people thought that Jeremiah & “prophets shall become wind”. (Full of hot air) (Big words, no substance)
 - iii. Don Champeon was just here saying, “the one thing I do know is that God is faithful to keep His promises”.
- c. It's powerful and really effects change:
 - i. Jesus' Words stand out among other words (read Luke 4:32-37)
 - ii. Pleading with family and friends to repent?
 - 1. When speaking of spiritual subjects, do we say...
 - a. “Well in my opinion...”
 - b. “Well God tells me in His Word that...”
 - iii. Read Matt 22:23-29
 - 1. Don't limit God's power in the Word you read, but assume God has the power to DO IT!

2. People scoff at the story of Jonah...did you hear of the Nigerian man who just survived 3 days /3 nights 150 ft under water in an air pocket?

d. So we need to first BELIEVE that God's Word is THE way He's chosen to speak to us. (primary, proven, powerful)

3) Vs 15-17 – This is step #3 of having your entire defense system confiscated.

4) Vs 18-19 – God is a gentleman; if you forsake Him, He won't force Himself on you.

5) Vs 20-31

a. When you don't hear God's Word or listen to Him...

i. You don't reverence Me and then rebel. (vs 22-24)

ii. You lose the blessing God wants to give. (vs 25)

iii. You start harming each other. (vs 26-28)

iv. You start making up your own prophecies! (Vs 31)

6) Vs 1-7

a. What a call to sanctification!

i. "Sanctify them thru thy truth; thy Word is truth" (John 17:17)

ii. Read Eph 5:25-27

b. Vs 7 – How much wickedness does it takes to make our fountain wicked?

i. James 3 is about the wisdom that comes from above (that is from God's Word).

- ii. Can't be fresh and salt water b/c it all blends together.
 - iii. We can't separate our lives into parts and be Christian here but not there.
- c. Remember, thru this whole section of Jeremiah, he continually tells them of the sins that he's begging them to turn from.
- i. Now the emphasis today is HOW TO DO THAT (thru His Word).

7) Vs 8

- a. People complain, "I don't want to learn" or "I can't read the Bible well".
 - i. We'll get into this in a minute.

8) Vs 9-10 - **The 2nd way for wanderers to hear from heaven is to desire that God's Word delight the heart.**

- a. Is Bible time a reproach to you or do you say things like, "I get to have Bible time"?
- b. I find it fascinating that people can work really hard at learning some things but don't want to dig into God's Word.
 - i. They'll learn complicated sports rules or statistics.
 - ii. They'll learn complicated programming guides for new flat screen TVs or computers.
 - iii. They'll invest years into reading all the facts about the characters from the Twilight Series, or Harry Potter or The Hunger Games Series.

- iv. This is a spiritual battle: the Bible appeals to the spirit NOT the flesh. Feed the spirit!
- c. People complain, “I don’t want to learn” or “I can’t read the Bible well”.
 - i. That’s what it takes to grow in Christ; to LEARN this book and share it with others!
 - 1. We’re not just learning a book, we’re learning about the character of Jesus Christ.
 - a. John 5:39 – “Search the scriptures for I them ye think ye have eternal life; but they are they which testify of Me!:
 - b. John 15:26 – When the Holy Spirit comes, “He shall testify of Me”.
 - ii. What a lazy attitude to say, “I can’t understand that book”.
 - 1. Do we not desire to know more about this Jesus that we say we’re in love with and that we’re eternally grateful to?
 - 2. (Luke 24:45) Ask God to open our understanding to the scripture. (Also Ethiopian Eunuch Acts 8:27)
 - iii. Who do we desire to be:
 - 1. We don’t want to be one that God says, (as to Hosea), “My people are destroyed for a lack of knowledge”.

2. Those who like Acts 6:7 let “the Word of God increase” so that disciples can be added.

d. The main reason people cope out with “I can’t understand the Bible” or I can’t learn it is that we’re being choked with the “cares of this life” thru our money/stuff.

- i. Story: Rich man and Pastor – Look out window, “I see people.” Look in mirror, “I see myself.” All you have to do is add a bit of silver and then all you see is yourself!
- ii. Get rid of these earthly distractions that have no reward

e. Read Luke 8:8-10

- i. “Ahh, to you it is given to know that mystery of the Kingdom of God...”
- ii. Luke 24:27 – “Beginning at Moses...expounded in all the scriptures ...concerning Himself”.
- iii. God greatly desires to reveal more about Himself to you and I today..today.

9) Vs 11-15 - **The 3rd way for wanderers to hear from heaven is to not over-value or give higher authority to other sources.**

- a. To use this exact Jeremiah example: If anyone standing in a pulpit at this church teaches something not true to the Bible, then if you want to continue to hear from and follow the Lord you have a choice to make.
- b. What do we mistakenly value higher than the Word?

- i. A person – Do we compromise God’s truth to keep a relationship?
 - 1. Read I Cor 2:4-5
 - 2. Would you compromise truth just to follow a “cool” pastor?
 - 3. Pastor Chuck – “I’m just a tool (garden hose), value God” (I Thes 2:13)
- ii. Our own pleasure – Do we compromise God’s truth in order to keep our own comfort?
 - 1. In Jeremiah, the people WANTED to believe the false prophets for their own comfort.
- c. Rick Warren article – Rick to Piers Morgan on Gay Marriage, “I fear God more than I fear you or society.”
- d. Sometimes it just hard to tell why people are over-valuing or giving too much authority to other sources than God.
 - i. Bob Ferland – Agrees that his church as bad teaching but would leave. Why? (photo on phone)
- e. If we want to continually hear from God, we cannot surround ourselves with false sources of info.

10) Vs 16-20

- a. Vs 20 - If we’re not willing to HEAR from the Lord, then all that we could do for Him is in total vain. (Read Prov 28:9)
- b. Vs 16 – **If you think that you’ve messed this up, just start over...now!**

- i. Remember, we began this new life in Christ by the hearing of faith. (Gal 3) So now we need to continue changing our hearts and minds by hearing MORE of God's Word into a DEEPER faith in Him & His Word.
- ii. Start over now:
 - 1. Believe God's Word is the Primary, Proven, Powerful way God wants to speak with you.
 - 2. Desire for God to speak with you. Desire Him, desire to know Him. Fall in love with him (MEN: Fall into deep gratitude – ha)
 - 3. Esteem it! Spot the people or pleasures in your life that you're over-valuing or giving too much authority to.

11) Conclusion

- a. Read vs 21-30 for homework – ha
- b. Let's conclude with a verse that puts these **3 ways for wanderers to hear from heaven** into a few simple verses.
 - i. Read John 6-24-29
 - ii. Don't get distracted: Money will buy...

1. A bed, but not sleep	5. Followers (on Twitter), but not friends
2. Books, but not brains	6. Medicine, but not health
3. Food, but not an appetite	7. Amusement, but not happiness
4. A house, but not a home	8. Finery, but not beauty
	9. A cross, but not a Savior
 - iii. Are we truly seeking Jesus Christ and to honor Him?
 - iv. *Believe His Word, Desire Him & don't over-value others.*
 - v. Chapter 7 begins a whole new section...next time

Amos 8:11 Behold, the days come, saith the Lord GOD, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the LORD:

Jeremiah 23:28 The prophet that hath a dream, let him tell a dream; and he that hath my word, let him speak my word faithfully. What is the chaff to the wheat? saith the LORD.

Luke 11-27-28 And it came to pass, as he spake these things, a certain woman of the company lifted up her voice, and said unto him, Blessed is the womb that bare thee, and the paps which thou hast sucked. But he said, Yea rather, blessed are they that hear the word of God, and keep it.

Eph 5:25-27 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.

Luke 24:45 Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures,

Luke 8:8-10 And other fell on good ground, and sprang up, and bare fruit an hundredfold. And when he had said these things, he cried, He that hath ears to hear, let him hear. And his disciples asked him, saying, What might this parable be? And he said, Unto you it is given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God: but to others in parables; that seeing they might not see, and hearing they might not understand.

Luke 24:27 And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself.

I Cor 2:4-5 And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power: That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.

I Thess 2:13 For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.

Prov 28:9 He that turneth away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer shall be abomination.