



You Hear, But Can You Hear?

A Bridges of Light Bible Study

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Instructions

This study may be used individually or in a group setting. The Leader's Guide is designed to be used by the Leader during a group discussion. The Guide is color coded to assist in directing the discussion. If you are going to lead a group discussion, then we suggest that you read the summary first, and then review the discussion, including the discussion points and answers. If you are using this study for your personal study time, then read the summary and then answer the questions on the Study Section. Make sure that you read and study the scriptures used in the Study. After you have completed the Study Section, then compare your answers to those that you will find in the Leader's Guide.

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Color Code

- ◆ Scripture References in Red
- ◆ Leaders Guide points in Green
- ◆ Other comments

- ◆ Notes and Questions in black
- ◆ Summary of typical responses in blue

Summary

In a previous study, "What makes a truth real?" we examined the difference in a truth that is real to us and a lies that we hold to be truth. In this study we will examine the difference between hearing and not hearing, and the fruit of both. You can not replace lies with truth unless you hear the truth.

Have you ever spoken to a child that appeared to be giving you their attention, but in truth were tuning you out? Most parents have experienced the nodding heads and blank looks. Most parent have also heard the excuse, "I didn't hear you", not long after you told them what they current claim not to have heard. It is a not so subtle form of rebellion, that as believers we are all equally guilty of towards God. We hear God's Word, yet do not really listen, just smile and say amen now and then. We read God's Word, yet fail to actually believe it. We tell ourselves that we believe it, but our hearts are not in agreement with our minds. An all too common problem.

To have more than an appearance of fruitfulness, we must have the Word of God abiding in us and we must continually be drawing from Him. Without His Word actually abiding in us then His Truth does not reshape us into His image. Without sitting at His table we starve. What truth we know soon blows away with winds of circumstances and time, to be replaced with lies designed to destroy our relationship with Christ.

The problem with hearing, yet not hearing is that we are held accountable for truth that has been presented to us. It is vital for our current and future spiritual health that we actually hear what God is saying.

Comments for Leaders

It is very important that you do not allow individuals to leap ahead in during a study, or to spend time looking up other definitions and other scriptures. It one thing if they are seeking the answer for a question that you just asked. It is another, if they are tuning you out. Hearing, they will not hear; yet they are held accountable by God.

Sometimes people will busy themselves because they do not want to hear what God is saying. It is important that you insist that they follow along and pay attention in a loving way. If necessary, you need to tell them to stop coming if they are not going to fully participate. This is for their sake and the sake of the group. You keep them from being judged for refusing to hear and from hindering others in your group.

It is equally important that no one is allowed to dominate the conversation. If someone is speaking too much, tell them to pass the ball. If they are pushing their own agenda, tell them they can start their own study if they want to lead. It is not always easy, but it is necessary. Remember, God holds you responsible for what you allow as a leader.

Leader's Guide

- 1) Does the fact that you are doing something in the name of Jesus insure that it will be pleasing to Him? If so, why? If not, why not?
- No. Our works outside of His will are without value.
 - Our motivation and obedience makes the difference.
- Mark 12:41-44
- The widow's mite, some gave for show, some gave out of their abundance, some gave out of religious requirement, but the widow gave all in worship.
- 1 Samuel 15
- Saul's incomplete obedience costs him the kingdom and the favor of the LORD. Rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft.
- ✓ **Matthew 7:21-23 (KJV)**
- 21) Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.
 - 22) Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?
 - 23) And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.
- 2) Can a good work, performed by us, line up with God's Word and still not be acceptable to Him?
- Yes. Only that which is done according to and at His direction, in His timing and His way can be acceptable to Him.
 - Even a good work can be evil if it is an act of rebellion.
 - Even a good work can stink if our motivations are not Godly or we are using un-Godly means to achieve results, such as manipulation.
- ✓ **Revelation 3:1-6 (AMP)**
- 1) AND TO the angel (messenger) of the assembly (church) in Sardis write: These are the words of Him Who has the seven Spirits of God [the sevenfold Holy Spirit] and the seven stars: I know your record and what you are doing; you are supposed to be alive, but [in reality] you are dead.
 - 2) Rouse yourselves and keep awake, and strengthen and invigorate what remains and is on the point of dying; for I have not found a thing that you have done [any work of yours] meeting the requirements of My God or perfect in His sight.
 - 3) So call to mind the lessons you received and heard; continually lay them to heart and obey them, and repent. In case you will not rouse yourselves and keep awake and watch, I will come upon you like a thief, and you will not know or suspect at what hour I will come.
 - 4) Yet you still have a few [persons'] names in Sardis who have not soiled their clothes, and they shall walk with Me in white, because they are worthy and deserving.
 - 5) Thus shall he who conquers (is victorious) be clad in white garments, and I will not erase or blot out his name from the Book of Life; I will acknowledge him [as Mine] and I will confess his name openly before My Father and before His angels.
 - 6) He who is able to hear, let him listen to and heed what the [Holy] Spirit says to the assemblies (churches).

✓ **Revelation 3:1-6 (TMB)**

- 1) Write this to Sardis, to the Angel of the church. The One holding the Seven Spirits of God in one hand, a firm grip on the Seven Stars with the other, speaks: "I see right through your work. You have a reputation for vigor and zest, but you're dead, stone dead.
 - 2) "Up on your feet! Take a deep breath! Maybe there's life in you yet. But I wouldn't know it by looking at your busywork; nothing of God's work has been completed. Your condition is desperate.
 - 3) Think of the gift you once had in your hands, the Message you heard with your ears--grasp it again and turn back to God. "If you pull the covers back over your head and sleep on, oblivious to God, I'll return when you least expect it, break into your life like a thief in the night.
 - 4) "You still have a few Christians in Sardis who haven't ruined themselves wallowing in the muck of the world's ways. They'll walk with me on parade! They've proved their worth!
 - 5) "Conquerors will march in the victory parade, their names indelible in the Book of Life. I'll lead them up and present them by name to my Father and his Angels.
 - 6) "Are your ears awake? Listen. Listen to the Wind Words, the Spirit blowing through the churches."
- 3) Why would Jesus say to those of the Church of Sardis, "I see right through your work. You have a reputation for vigor and zest, but you're dead, stone dead."?
- Our work can have all of the appearance of righteousness, but if we are not acting according to His will, for His purposes and at His direction then our work is self serving. It is of the flesh and it will stink before the LORD.
 - If we do not walk in His truth with understanding then we are at risk of being declared dead, even though we claim His name.
 - God looks at the motivations of the heart.

Are your actions self serving?	Do you reject truth that does not line up with your will?
Are you knowingly walking in rebellion?	Do you seek His will over your own?

✓ **Revelation 3:1b**

(TMB)...You have a reputation for vigor and zest, but you're dead, stone dead.

(AMP)...You are supposed to be alive, but [in reality] you are dead.

- 4) What is Jesus saying in the second part of Revelation 3:1?
- They had the appearance of righteousness, but lacked it.
 - They did and said the right things, but the truth was not in their hearts.
 - They had no relationship with God. They only had a works based religion.
 - Even the motivations of their heart is questionable. Were their works performed to please God or for their own purposes.

✓ **Revelation 3:2**

(TMB) "Up on your feet! Take a deep breath! Maybe there's life in you yet. But I wouldn't know it by looking at your busywork; nothing of God's work has been completed. Your condition is desperate.

(AMP) Rouse yourselves and keep awake, and strengthen and invigorate what remains and is on the point of dying; for I have not found a thing that you have done [any work of yours] meeting the requirements of My God or perfect in His sight.

- 5) What is Jesus saying in Revelation 3:2?
- Jesus is against stating their spiritual condition. There is yet a trace of truth left in them, but that truth is fading away.
 - Jesus declared their busywork did not meet the requirements of God. As such, it was of no value.

- 6) Is there a danger in being too busy with God's work (or what we believe to be God's work)? Why or why not?
- ❑ Religious activities, helping the poor, ministering to the needy, preaching, teaching, etc., can consume our time excessively. If we allow this to happen we run the risk of damaging our relationship with God and allowing compromise to replace truth.

A) How do you determine what you should be doing and how often to do it?

- ❑ Ask God.
- ❑ Enforce the priorities that He requires based on His Word, not man's opinion.
For example, God requires different priorities for married people than for single people.

B) How do we protect our relationship with God and the light and life of His Word in us?

- ❑ We spend time with God in prayer and studying His Word.
- ❑ We make sure that spend as much, if not more time, hearing what God has to say instead of talking constantly. Pray must be a two way communication.
- ❑ We need to seek His face, not just His hand. Spend quality time with Him.

✓ Revelation 3:3

(TMB) Think of the gift you once had in your hands, the Message you heard with your ears--grasp it again and turn back to God. "If you pull the covers back over your head and sleep on, oblivious to God, I'll return when you least expect it, break into your life like a thief in the night.

(AMP) So call to mind the lessons you received and heard; continually lay them to heart and obey them, and repent. In case you will not rouse yourselves and keep awake and watch, I will come upon you like a thief, and you will not know or suspect at what hour I will come.

7) What was Jesus' solution for those that He called dead and dying? Can the same solution keep us from finding ourselves in that situation?

- ❑ Turn back to the truth of His Word.
Examine that which we hold to be true and compare it with His Word, Ways and Character.
Discard anything that fails to line up.
Recall the revelation that we have received and have heard.
Keep His truth before us and refill our hearts with His Word.
Obey His word and repent for our failures. Repent for where we have allowed lies to replace His Word.
- ❑ Turn our hearts fully back to Him and seek His face - seek a relationship not just a religion.
- ❑ Let our works and will become submitted to His will, way and timing.

A) What is meant by "continually lay them to heart and obey them"?

- ❑ Dwell upon God's Word, His truth, so that you fill your heart with it.
- ❑ Do what God says, in the way that He says to do it.

8) Can the same solution keep us from finding ourselves in that situation?

- ❑ Yes

✓ **John 14:6 (KJV)**

⁶⁾ Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

9) What is meant by Jesus being the way, truth and life?

- The way of restoration unto God is found only through Jesus. All the other ways lead to hell.
- Jesus is the Word (1 John 1:1). He is the expression of God Word, the only real truth.
It is only by receiving revelation of Jesus Christ, the way, truth and life that we can be restored unto the Father. Without understanding of that truth, provided by the Holy Spirit, we can not walk the path that leads to life everlasting.
- The truth brings and paid for our eternal life with God. We must dwell in that truth to maintain His life in us.

10) What would cause you to lose sight of the truth and to find His Light and Life flicker away in our hearts, as did those of the Church of Sardis?

- Replacing the truth with lies.
- Dwelling on past failures, sins; thereby accepting a lie that His sacrifice was not sufficient for us.
- Allowing our own motivations to supersede His will, ways and timing.
- Allowing circumstances to overwhelm us with lies that counter the truth of His provision, His healing, His unending love, His peace.

✓ **Matthew 14:22-32 (AMP)**

- ²²⁾ Then He directed the disciples to get into the boat and go before Him to the other side, while He sent away the crowds.
- ²³⁾ And after He had dismissed the multitudes, He went up into the hills by Himself to pray. When it was evening, He was still there alone.
- ²⁴⁾ But the boat was by this time out on the sea, many furlongs [a furlong is one-eighth of a mile] distant from the land, beaten and tossed by the waves, for the wind was against them.
- ²⁵⁾ And in the fourth watch [between 3:00--6:00 a.m.] of the night, Jesus came to them, walking on the sea.
- ²⁶⁾ And when the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were terrified and said, It is a ghost! And they screamed out with fright.
- ²⁷⁾ But instantly He spoke to them, saying, Take courage! I AM! Stop being afraid!
- ²⁸⁾ And Peter answered Him, Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water.
- ²⁹⁾ He said, Come! So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water, and he came toward Jesus.
- ³⁰⁾ But when he perceived and felt the strong wind, he was frightened, and as he began to sink, he cried out, Lord, save me [from death]!
- ³¹⁾ Instantly Jesus reached out His hand and caught and held him, saying to him, O you of little faith, why did you doubt?
- ³²⁾ And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased.

11) What happened to cause Peter to sink when he was walking on the water (Matthew 14:22-32)?

- Peter allowed the circumstances surrounding him to overwhelm the truth that Jesus spoke when He said, "Come."

12) Symbolically, what was happening to Peter's spiritual life just before he started to sink and as he was sinking?

- The truth of God that he had accepted as a reality was being drowned in a sea of circumstances - lies that he accepted as truth and had exalted above the truth of God.
- Peter's spiritual life was being threatened by exalted lies.

13) According to John 14:6, what is Jesus?

- The only way, truth and life.

14) When Peter cried out to Jesus what was he crying out to?

- The way, truth and life.
- Peter needed to replace the lies that he had accepted as truth with the real truth.

15) What happened when Peter cried out, "LORD, help me"?

- The truth enabled him to be restored to Christ.
- The truth lifted him up out of a sea of doubt that had threatened to take his life.

✓ **Isaiah 53:3-5 (KJV)**

- 3) He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not.
- 4) Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.
- 5) But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.

16) If sickness is attempting to hinder or take your life, or the life of a loved one, what can you do?

- Call upon the truth that by His stripes we are healed.

17) If we are troubled, lacking peace, what is happening?

- Lies from the enemy are exalting themselves in our lives in an attempt to overwhelm the truth that Jesus is our Peace; that He has and is the what we need

✓ **Mark 4:9-12 (KJV)**

- 9) And he said unto them, He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.
- 10) And when he was alone, they that were about him with the twelve asked of him the parable.
- 11) And he said unto them, Unto you it is given to know the mystery of the kingdom of God: but unto them that are without, all these things are done in parables:
- 12) That seeing they may see, and not perceive; and hearing they may hear, and not understand; lest at any time they should be converted, and their sins should be forgiven them.

18) What would cause the people to have eyes to see, yet not see; and ears to hear yet not hear?

- Making choices that are contrary to God's commands.
- Accepting lies as truth. Words or instructions that have been received and embraced as truth, but that are in reality truths mixed with lies.
- Allowing circumstances to be exalted over God's Word.
- People make a choice not to see, hear or understand. Because if really hear, see and understand then their sin will be exposed and they would be forced to acknowledge their real situation. As long as they can disregard the truth then they do not have subject their will to His.

Questionnaire

1) Does the fact that you are doing something in the name of Jesus insure that it will be pleasing to Him? If so, why? If not, why not?

✓ **Matthew 7:21-23**

2) Can a good work, performed by us, line up with God's Word and still not be acceptable to Him?

✓ **Revelation 3:1-6**

3) Why would Jesus say to those of the Church of Sardis, "I see right through your work. You have a reputation for vigor and zest, but you're dead, stone dead."?

A) What are key questions that you should ask yourself about the work that you are doing for the LORD?

✓ **Revelation 3:1b**

4) What is Jesus saying in the second part of Revelation 3:1?

✓ **Revelation 3:2**

5) What is Jesus saying in Revelation 3:2?

6) Is there a danger in being too busy with God's work (or what we believe to be God's work)? Why or why not?

A) How do you determine what you should be doing and how often to do it?

B) How do we protect our relationship with God and the light and life of His Word in us?

✓ Revelation 3:3

7) What was Jesus' solution for those that He called dead and dying? Can the same solution keep us from finding ourselves in that situation?

A) What is meant by "continually lay them to heart and obey them"?

8) Can the same solution keep us from finding ourselves in that situation?

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