

SEEING & HEARING

Open

Foundation: If you're going to see and hear what God is communicating to you then you must be OPEN to anything He might communicate to you regarding every area of your life. So many people say they want direction from God but they aren't open to do what He wants them to do.

I. The people who will receive God's direction are the ones who open to do anything He says

- A. John 7:17-If you want to receive God's direction, then you have to be open to do anything that He might show you; If you want to know what God wants you to do, then you have to be open and willing to do anything He says
 - 1. To know the will of God you have to be open to do the will of God
 - a. NAS-If anyone is willing to do his will, he will know his will
 - b. If you are not willing to do God's will, then you will not know God's will
 - c. If you'll resolve it in your heart and be determined in your heart and purpose in your heart that you are going to do the will of God whatever it may be (openness) you will know the will of God (**Will**-To be resolved, to be determined, purpose)
 - d. It's the person who is open to direction, that will receive direction
 - 2. **You have to be open to do what God wants even if it's what you don't want; this positions you to hear**
- B. A lack of openness or willingness to the direction of God keeps you from receiving direction from God; if you're not open and willing to do the will of God you won't know the will of God
 - 1. If you close yourself off to God's direction you will not receive His direction
 - a. What you're not open to hear (not willing to hear), you won't hear
 - b. It's the stuff that you've already made up in your mind that you're not going to do
 - 2. You can talk to somebody about something but if they don't want to hear it, they won't
 - a. The Lord can talk to us about a thing, but if we're not open to hear it we won't
 - b. EX: Doctrines that people don't agree with
- C. The meek are the ones he will guide and show his way-Psalm 25:9
 - 1. Meek means not proud, but **humble**
 - a. Humility realizes God's smarter than me, he knows what's best for me, therefore I'm completely open to do His will b/c I know that he knows more than I do
 - b. Humility will give birth to openness
 - 2. Meek means **yielding**-Ready to give way, ready to comply; ready to be flexible
 - a. The teachable will be taught-the leadable will be led-those open to direction receive it

3. Meek means **submissive**-Submission is when you're open to do what one in authority says
 - a. Whatever one in authority says I'm open/ready to do
4. Meek means **soft**-Easily worked, easily yielding, flexible
 - a. Soft represents something that will easily and readily conform to what God wants; I'm open to be whatever you want (EX: Play-dough is open, concrete is not)

II. A lack of openness will hinder your ability to hear from God-Jeremiah 42 (Jeremiah 41-43-This wicked man Ishmael was a murderer and was holding people captive. When Johanan heard that he got people together & fought Ishmael & his men and won, but Ishmael escaped; Johanan feared the Chaldeans would retaliate against these people b/c of what Ishmael did)

- A. 41:17-Their minds were made up about what to do and they weren't open to anything else
- B. 42:2-They send for the prophet to get direction from God after they'd decided what to do
 1. The prophet operated in the office of the ministry of the Holy Spirit in those days; It is where the people went to get leading and direction
 2. 4-He's not speaking of himself, but what he hears that he speaks-John 16:13
- C. 6-They think they are open, but they've already decided what they are going to do
 1. They know if it's going to be well with them, they have to obey God's voice; they know it might not make sense to them what he says, but if they want the good life they know they must yield to what he says; THESE AREN'T IGNORANT PEOPLE IN THAT REGARD
 2. It is easy to say I'm willing until it comes down to doing something that requires faith
- D. 7-9-God's obviously interested in helping them and He's endeavoring to get something across to them and this is the answer to their question and the key to their victory
 1. These are the words of God, God is speaking to them
 2. 10-19-God said and confirmed and said it again don't go down to Egypt
 3. 20-They erred in their hearts when they sent the prophet to pray to God for them, because they said they would do whatever he said, but they were not open
- E. 43:1-When you're not open God will be talking, but you won't be hearing, you won't be recognizing that it is Him doing the talking
 1. They thought Jeremiah was missing it; they didn't discern what was God and what wasn't God and the reason is because you can't see what you're closed off to and they had already made up their mind what they were going to do so when true direction came and God was trying to show them something they didn't see it; in their heart there was no way God would want them to not go to Egypt and they were closed off to the very idea
 2. They know obeying God's voice is the key to their situation, they know sometimes he says stuff that goes beyond human understanding so that's not their problem; their problem is they don't recognize the voice of God when God speaks

3. Once again here's a group of people who's answer is bouncing off of their foreheads and they can't see it, because they aren't open
 - a. They weren't open to do it, so when God said it to them, to them that couldn't be God; what you're closed off to do, you won't hear to do
 - b. When you seek God's direction after you've already decided what you're going to do, you will not hear it when it comes

III. You'll have to take the time to be open and to be okay with going either way

- A. Psalm 78:8-You got to set your heart aright and that means you determine that you're going whatever way God says whether you like it or not, whether you agree or not, whether it makes sense or not and you're ready to act
 1. God was constantly talking through Moses and they were hearing, but not hearing
 - a. This generation's "m.o" was not willing, not open
 - b. Their hear was not ready
 2. When your heart is set aright you are determined and ready to do what God says
 - a. You got to be ready in your heart to do whatever he wants; **inside I get ready to do whatever God wants; in my heart I determine that I'm going to do whatever he wants and in my heart I'm ready**
 3. This is people who refused to go in the promise land; they didn't determine with all of their heart to do what he said and they weren't ready; Joshua and Caleb determined in their heart to do what he said and they were ready to do what God said (Let us go up at once, we are well able to possess it)
 - a. Joshua and Caleb heard and discerned while the others didn't
- B. Psalm 112:6-7-You got to take the time to fix (make ready) your heart to God's and establish your heart in his will for your life
 1. Ready to do whatever he says and just trust him
 2. Abraham was ready to sacrifice Isaac (he rose up early in the morning) and he was trusting that if I kill him God will have to raise him from the dead
 - a. He was open, he was ready, he was trusting
 - b. Open people will be the ones hearing the voice of God when God speaks

IV. If you are only aware of what you want to do you won't hear and see when God begins to direct; You are going to be oblivious to God's plans, God's leading, and God's direction; you have to be conscious of what God wants and interested in what He wants if you want to be led by His Spirit

- A. Some people are afraid of the direction of the Lord-(Mark 10-The rich young ruler)
 1. EX: They're afraid the Lord will have them away from their family in Africa
 2. They believe that God's plan and direction will leave them ashamed and missing out

- B. If you will recognize that the secret to your fulfillment in life is in doing the will of God, then you will be open to do anything He says because you know that you can't be fulfilled without it-John 4:34 (*AMP-My nourishment is to do the will of Him who sent me*)
1. People are closed off to the direction of the Spirit b/c they fear they won't be fulfilled if they hear his leading and yield to it
 2. The only place you'll be happy & fulfilled is the place that the Holy Spirit leads you to
 3. Proverbs 16:7-You want to be open to God's will and open to pleasing God

C. I delight to do thy will o God-Psalm 40:8

1. Most people are only open to direction that they like
2. If God likes it all of the sudden I like it; if I like it and God doesn't all of the sudden I don't like it because I am open (Not my will, but yours be done-Luke 22:42)

D. ***No matter what you thought would happen or what kind of plan you've had you must be open to the Lord telling you something else***

1. If you haven't heard from God, then don't make plans for the future b/c when you get your heart set on plans you've made it makes it more difficult to be open to God's plan
2. Beware of making your own plan and setting in concrete-Psalm 37:23

V. When you close yourself off to the leading of the spirit you close yourself off to all the good things that were going to come as a result of you yielding to it

A. ***Many people by not being open are not allowing the Lord to do what He wants to do for them***
(Psalm 81:11)

1. What are not open to do that's keeping you from God's best in your life?

B. Matthew 23:37-39-I would have protected you and prospered you, but you weren't open, wouldn't hear, wouldn't receive

1. A trick people use on themselves is they hear from God, but they close themselves off to it by saying, "I don't know what that was," – meaning I don't know if that was God
2. If you say that's not God, then the next time the Holy Spirit deals with you this is same spirit that wasn't God a few days ago and you confuse your own spirit and dull yourself