

Experiencing Christ in the Book of Hebrews (Part 1 - Hebrews 1-6)

Meeting 1 – Question & Answer

The more you learn to listen to Him, the more you will be set free from just listening to man or other voices. You have to practice and train yourself to listen to Him. We are not used to it, but we can learn. Praise the Lord! He is a living, speaking God.

Question 1: How can we learn to hear Him?

The Bible does not tell us how to learn. There is no method. You can only learn through experience. It is all a matter of the heart. Your heart must have this desire: “Lord, I want to hear Your speaking.” For example, a baby or young child does not first learn language from school or from books but by hearing. The parents continually speak to the baby. The child has an inborn ability to hear and learn to speak.

Spiritually, after we are born again and the Holy Spirit comes into us, we will automatically hear the Spirit speaking because the Holy Spirit gives us that inborn ability to hear Him. If you share with a newborn Christian at the very beginning to learn to hear the speaking of the Spirit, it will be easy for him to learn to hear Him. But our problem is that we have been born into a system which tells us that we don’t know anything and that we should listen to the pastor. No one tells us at the very beginning of our Christian life that we have received the Anointing and that the Holy Spirit teaches us all things (John 16:13; 1 John 2:20, 27). It is

also written that in the new covenant we do not need anyone to teach us (1 John 2:27; Heb. 8:11). That does not mean that we do not need fellowship with one another, but we need to be trained to listen to the Holy Spirit; unfortunately, we have been wrongly trained to read books, to listen to messages and to be taught by men. So, the ability to hear Him has been suppressed from the start. This is why we have to unlearn and then relearn to wait on the Lord and hear Him speaking to us.

Through our fellowship with the Father and spending more time with Him, we will learn to hear Him. Tell Him, “I want to hear You.” That is the way to learn; and yet, it is not a method. When a child is born, he can naturally hear very clearly. Let us go back to the beginning and learn to hear Him. The last book of the Bible says, “*He who has an ear, let Him hear*” (Revelation 2-3). It is not a matter of learning, but a matter of having an ear to hear: “Lord, I am deaf. You have to heal my ear.”

In LSM, for example, they no longer have ears to hear anyone except their so-called apostle – they have been programmed that way. They no longer have inner ears to hear the Lord’s speaking, to hear the Holy Spirit. A sister once told me, “But the elders said this...” What if the elders say something different from what the Lord says? There are two voices: the voice of the Holy Spirit speaking through God’s living Word and that of the elder. To whom will you listen? We are programmed to obey the elders, but what about obeying the Lord? This is a problem! We are programmed to obey without discernment, to do whatever people in authority tell us to do, and to just believe that whatever is shared is right. In the end, we no longer have ears to hear the Holy Spirit’s speaking. Are you like that? All of us have gone through such experiences before. But we don’t want to be like that! We must first listen to the living God. It is so important to

learn to listen to the Lord! We must go back to the beginning and listen to Him.

Question 2: Of course, we should not blindly follow what the elders say, but what about the virtues and characteristics described in Romans 12, which we as believers should have when serving the Lord? Should we live out these virtues regardless or still wait for His speaking in each situation?

There is a progression in the book of Romans. In Romans 12, Paul writes that we should not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewing of the mind to know the perfect will of God exactly (Rom. 12:2). Of course, the body of Christ has different members and different functions, but each member must grow properly and organically in his spiritual life and must know what the good and acceptable and perfect will of God is. If the elders are truly in the Lord and in the Spirit, they will not force anyone to do anything and just arrange things. We need discernment to see if it is just man's arrangement. Each brother and each sister must grow and experience the indwelling Spirit (Rom. 8). We cannot just look at one side and neglect the other. There must be a balanced leading. There must be growth on the one hand and help and fellowship on the other hand. We need both. But the most important thing is the life in each one of us.

The Word of God never contradicts itself. The problem today is that we have inherited so many abnormal practices and traditions from the past 2,000 years; they do not give life and we follow them blindly. This is not a simple but a complex problem. I am not neglecting that there are different functions in the church, but the functions must be according to the Spirit. You cannot just have the functions without the Spirit. Without the Spirit, the church becomes an organization, a practice, a human arrangement. We need to walk according to the Spirit, to set our mind on the Spirit, to experience Christ living within us, to be led by the Holy Spirit

(Rom. 8). So, is the growth in life or are the functions and obeying the elders more important? I would say life and growth are very necessary. If the aspect of life diminishes and the aspect of being obedient and just doing what the brothers say grows, then the result is a dead organization. Then the saints will just do whatever they are told and will not have the liberty to follow what the Spirit says. This is the problem everywhere. Many of the saints in Korea, who are very obedient and do what they are told, experienced this and therefore came out of the groups they were in. The reality of life and listening to God is supreme. That does not mean other things are not important, but the most important thing is to listen to God. Man can be wrong, but God can never be wrong!

If all of us learn to listen to God, everything will be in harmony – just like when every member in the body listens to the head. Christ is the head over all things to the church (Eph. 1:22b). We must have discernment and an ear to hear Him. If God speaks to me through a brother, and I realize that God is speaking to me through him, I have to accept it. Since I am not perfect, I do not hear God every time He speaks. So, He may send a brother to speak to me. But we need to discern and have eyes to see who is speaking when brothers speak to us. If God is speaking, and we are doing God's will according to His Word, then everything will be in harmony. If I think the brother's speaking is God's speaking, but the speaking leads to more problems and death, then I must be wrong. If saints are being forced to listen to and do things that result in fighting, it is absolutely not God's speaking! When God speaks, and we all listen to what God is speaking and do His will, everything will be in harmony – the whole body will be in oneness, perfectly fitted together. There may be some problems, but they will be solved. But if a problem remains for years, then something is not right. We need to come back to Him and tell Him: "Lord, show me what the problem is. Show me my problem."

Our attitude should be: “Lord, I don’t want to do anything by myself. I just want You to tell me what to do.” Hear Him! We all have to learn this. On the Mount of Transfiguration Moses and Elijah were there with the Lord. When Peter wanted to build three tabernacles, God said, *“This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. **Hear Him!**”* (Matthew 17:5b). Even when He speaks to you through a brother in a particular matter, you have to learn to hear Him through that brother. The main person we should be hearing is the Lord. If you are a person who learns to hear God, then you will know and be able to discern if God is using someone to speak to you or not. The Lord Himself warned us concerning false teachers and false prophets. So, we all must learn to have an ear to discern whether it is God’s speaking or just man’s speaking.

If God speaks, and we are doing God’s will, then the fruit will always be evident: in everything there will be life, peace and harmony. God’s speaking will always accomplish His will. If there are constant conflicts, problems, no oneness and everyone is doing his own thing, that is not God’s speaking; and we must turn and repent. This is why the Lord says, *“for a tree is known by its fruit”* (Matt. 12:33b). Whatever God does through His Word is a wonderful divine expression of His glory, like the Son who is the shining out of His glory, and the express image of His person (Heb. 1:3a). God’s speaking will not only accomplish His work, but there will be glory and a wonderful expression of life and peace. You will be able to see it and know it. Praise the Lord!

Now to further answer the question, in the latter half of Romans 12, Paul talks about our character and how we, as Christians, should behave and react towards others. Paul gives us some advice. Of course, we need to do these things, but in whatever we do we need the life of our Lord Jesus Christ.

“Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good. Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love”

(Rom. 12:9-10a). That is very good advice, and we should follow it. But the question is: how are we able to do this? It is not easy to love without hypocrisy. And we quarrel and don't agree with one another; we don't have the heart to have brotherly love. We would like to keep these words and may even be able to do so once in a while, but without life and the constant supply from Christ and fellowship with Him, we are unable to do these things at all times. *"In honor giving preference to one another"* (Rom. 12:10b). We always think we are better than others. This is a big problem in the churches! *"Patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer"* (Rom. 12:12b). *"Bless those who persecute you"* (Rom. 12:14a). *"Be of the same mind toward one another. Do not set your mind on high things, but associate with the humble"* (Rom. 12:16a). *"Live peaceably with all men"* (Rom. 12:18b). We should do all these things; but remember, without Christ in us, without constant fellowship with the Lord and His supply, it will be very difficult for us to practice them. How will you do these things? Can you do them by yourself? You may be able to do them to a certain extent, but not the full, satisfactory extent.

We can only do these things through Christ if we are in the Spirit. Our nature is fallen; we are still in the flesh. For Paul, if we are people who live Christ, who put off our old man (Eph. 4:22), which has been crucified with Christ, and if it is no longer we who live, but Christ who lives in us (Gal. 2:20), these things would be normal for us. In short: it is not I, but Christ. Without Him, we cannot practice these things according to His standard. This is why we need His supply, and His supply always comes with His speaking. If you do not stay in constant fellowship with God and with the Lord and receive His constant supply, you will not be able to do these things.

There are two Greek words for God's Word: logos and rhema. Logos is the objective speaking, the written Word. Rhema is the

Lord's speaking to you. Actually, in many verses, these two words are interchangeable. If God's speaking is just objective speaking and it is not subjective to you, it is useless. And when the Lord speaks to you, it is always based upon what He has spoken in the Word. Doctrinally, they are two different words, but in practice, these two must be one. So, you cannot fully separate logos from rhema.

Note: The above content has not been reviewed by the speaker.