

HEARING EARS

by RANDY NUSBAUM

He that hath an ear-let him hear. Matthew 13:9

Jesus certainly wasn't talking about our physical organs used for hearing for they all had physical ears and they all could hear His words. The problem was that they didn't understand what Jesus was saying. The ears of their understanding were dull. They all had physical ears so they obviously needed hearing of another sort.

How do you get hearing ears? Is it just by chance that some can hear and some can't? Is God a respecter of persons in giving priority to some? Most of the time we don't realize the need for hearing ears until Jesus makes a statement such as the one in Matthew 13:9. Don't we realize that the first commandment pertains to hearing! When asked which is the most important commandment Jesus stated, "The first of all commandments is, "Hear, O Israel, The Lord our God is one Lord: and thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment"". (Mark 12:29 & 30) From this scripture we find that the emphasis is not just loving God, for that love will be an incomplete love if we do not hear properly. Hearing is a very important part of this first commandment of Jesus would have skipped-over this part, as most do. In the Scriptures we are urged to be careful how we hear, which brings us back to our original question "How do you get hearing"?

The answer to this question is found in Romans 10:17 "Faith cometh by hearing, hearing by the word of God". What this scripture does not say is, Faith comes by hearing the word of God. Hearing can't come by listening to your preacher no matter how spiritual the man is or how anointed his teaching is. In fact hearing ears aren't the result of serving the Lord or hours of prayer. Since faith cometh by hearing, there is no need to even consider seeking after faith, for it will come if we have hearing. This means we must wholly consider hearing:

Jesus said to "Search the scriptures for they testify of me". (John 5:39) There is only one source where hearing can take place and that is in the Scriptures. The Holy Spirit works and deals with a mind that has been saturated with the Word of God. Paul called the group of believers found in Acts 17:11 "More noble" than some others because they searched the Scriptures daily. The Word says that His sheep hear His voice. (John 10:2 & 3) The flock has their hearing source as the word of God. If the flock is gathering around a preacher or some man's book or any other source than the word of God then the flock will eventually be led away and lost. There are many voices in the world today and many are significant, but we are the sheep of the Great Shepherd himself and it is his voice we hear. But a sheep that has no hearing will soon

be led away into deception. Hearing comes by the Word of God and if we become saturated with the Scriptures, then the Holy Spirit can produce hearing which will ward away any deceivers, for heaven and earth will pass away but not His word. The faith necessary to establish the believer "In Christ" comes by hearing and that hearing comes by the Word of God.***