

Swift To Hear

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Isa. 48:14-15

Isa. 48:14-15, “*All ye, assemble yourselves, and hear; which among them hath declared these things? The LORD hath loved him: he will do his pleasure on Babylon, and his arm shall be on the Chaldeans. I, even I, have spoken; yea, I have called him: I have brought him, and he shall make his way prosperous.*”

James 1:19, “*Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath.*”

In view of the fact that God is the provider of all good things, is the Father of lights, and is dependable; Christians ought to be swift to hear what God has to say.

The need to hear

In times past, God spoke to man through his prophets; today, God has spoken through His Son, Jesus.

Heb. 1:1-3, “*God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds; Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high.*”

His message has been recorded.

Eph. 3:3-5, “*How that by revelation he made known unto me the mystery; (as I wrote afore in few words, Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ) Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit;*”

We should hear it. We need to have reverence for God’s word and understand the importance of listening to it.

Matt. 17:5, “*While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him.*”

God was pleased with Jesus and commanded us to listen to Him.

Jesus said in John 6:63, “*... the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.*”

We will be judged according to it.

John 12:48-50, *“He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day. For I have not spoken of myself; but the Father which sent me, he gave me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak. And I know that his commandment is life everlasting: whatsoever I speak therefore, even as the Father said unto me, so I speak.”*

Our salvation depends upon our listening to His message.

- Rom. 1:16, *“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.”*
- 1 Cor. 1:21, *“For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.”*
- Jude 1:3, *“Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.”*

Many people are careless about the handling of God’s message.

There are many different kinds of hearers who are unacceptable to God.

There are those who hear, but hear with dull ears.

Matt. 13:15, *“For this people’s heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, and should understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them.”*

These may hear some things well, but are not keen or sharp in hearing God’s will.

There are those who hear with itching ears.

2 Tim. 4:1-4, *“I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.”*

These want to listen to things that are pleasing to them and not listen to God's truth.

There are those who listen with stopped ears.

Acts 7:57-58, *“Then they cried out with a loud voice, and stopped their ears, and ran upon him with one accord, And cast him out of the city, and stoned him: and the witnesses laid down their clothes at a young man's feet, whose name was Saul.”*

They refused to listen.

There are those who listen with curious ears.

Acts 17:18-20, *“Then certain philosophers of the Epicureans, and of the Stoicks, encountered him. And some said, What will this babblers say? other some, He seemeth to be a setter forth of strange gods: because he preached unto them Jesus, and the resurrection. And they took him, and brought him unto Areopagus, saying, May we know what this new doctrine, whereof thou speakest, is? For thou bringest certain strange things to our ears: we would know therefore what these things mean.”*

They listen because of their curiosity, not because they want to learn.

There are desirable hearers — those who are swift to hear.

A swift hearer is one who is quick to listen, quick to consider, and quick to obey. Examples of swift hearers abound in the New Testament.

3000 on the Day of Pentecost. Acts 2:41, *“Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.”*

Cornelius. Acts 10:30-33, *“And Cornelius said, Four days ago I was fasting until this hour; and at the ninth hour I prayed in my house, and, behold, a man stood before me in bright clothing, And said, Cornelius, thy prayer is heard, and thine alms are had in remembrance in the sight of God. Send therefore to Joppa, and call hither Simon, whose surname is Peter; he is lodged in the house of one Simon a tanner by the sea side: who, when he cometh, shall speak unto thee. Immediately therefore I sent to thee; and thou hast well done that thou art come. Now therefore are we all here present before God, to hear all things that are commanded thee of God.”*

The Bereans. Acts 17:10-11, *“And the brethren immediately sent away Paul and Silas by night unto Berea: who coming thither went into the synagogue of the Jews. These were more noble than those in*

Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.”

Hearers who will have the Lord’s blessings must also be obedient hearers.

James 1:21-25, “Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls. But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.”

Conclusion

Go beyond listening to God’s word and put them to action in our lives.

