

Hearing the WORD

Revelation 1:3: "blessed are those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it."

Training Session 2: Hearing vs. Listening

"Too often today we listen to be entertained instead of instructed, to be moved emotionally rather than moved to obedience. We do not take to heart what we hear and apply it in our daily lives." *Bridges*. Ch.3 p.29

Ezekiel 33:31,32 – "my people come to you, as they usually do, and sit before you to listen to your words, but they do not put them into practice... to them you are nothing more than one who sings love [*actually lustful!*] songs with a beautiful voice and plays an instrument well, for they hear your words, but they do not put them into practice"

How are we to hear it?

It's all about **attitude**! A right humility before God.

"Humility toward God is akin to the fear of God: It begins with a high view of God's person. As we see God in his majesty, awesomeness, and holiness, we are humbled before him... even the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders in heaven of Revelation fell down before the throne of the glorified Lamb...The person who is truly humble before God is also humble before God's Word. God says he esteems the person who is humble and contrite in spirit and who trembles at his Word... We also must develop this kind of humility toward the Bible. As we search the Scriptures, we must allow them to search us, to sit in judgement upon our character and conduct. We must treat the Scriptures not only as a source of knowledge about God but also as the expression of his will for our daily lives." *Bridges*, Ch. 6 pp. 69-72

"Tuning" our ear to wisdom... applying our heart to understanding...

Who is our coach?

the Holy Spirit

We hear the Word *where*?

Pastors, teachers, one another... but who is really speaking to us in Scripture? God! And who IS the Word? Jesus Christ!

It's also about context: the *whole* Word and within the body of Christ (the Word made flesh)

Acts 17:11 - the Bereans "received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true."

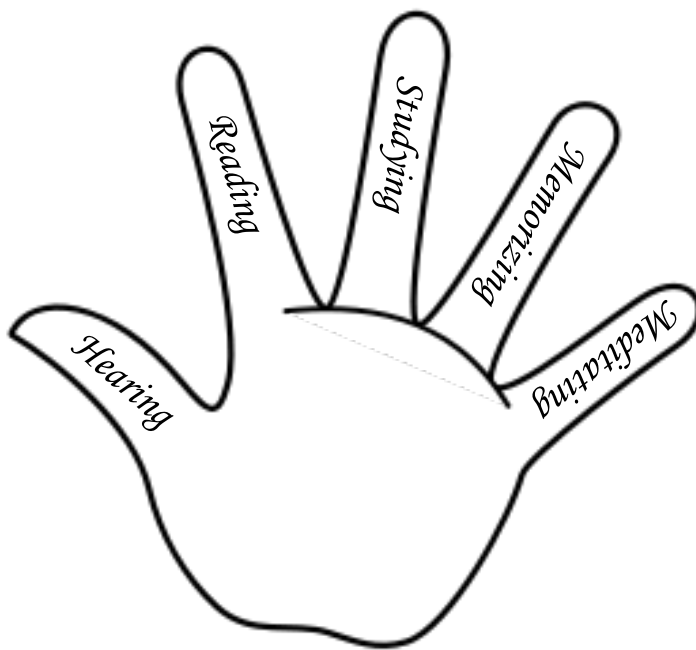
What is the goal again? Godliness! Holiness!

to pray, and speak, and relate, and do our work... to LIVE in the spirit
to have our desire redirected God-ward; to grow into Christ-likeness; to be fully united
with our Savior (our mind, heart and will one with God)

Psalm 73:25-26 – *Earth has nothing I desire besides you... God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.*

Proverbs 2:1-5

*My son, if you accept my words and store up my commands within you,
turning your ear to wisdom and applying your heart to understanding,
and if you call out for insight and cry aloud for understanding,
and if you look for it as for silver and search for it as for hidden treasure,
then you will understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God.*



The 5 Methods of Intake of the Word of God

(from the Navigators)

References:

The Practice of Godliness, *Jerry Bridges*

Rediscovering Holiness, *J.I. Packer*

With Christ in the School of Prayer, *Andrew Murray*