

Questions Concerning Spiritual Growth

Part 3



Are you
hearing
God's
word?

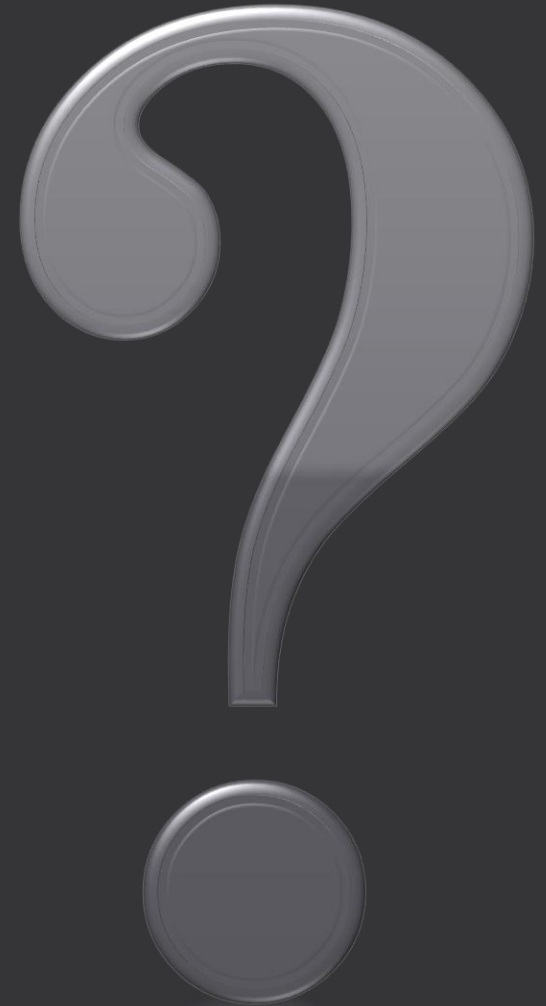


Hear God's Word

- **Communication** – God's word is spoken, while we listen
- **Comprehension** – We must understand what is spoken
- **Confidence** – We must trust that what God says is the truth and needed in our lives
- **Conformity** – We must conform to His word (obey), allowing it to transform our lives



God has spoken,
but His people do
not always hear



The Jews from Egypt

- Many were refused entrance in the Promise Land because they **did not hear** God's word – Heb. 3:7-11; 3:16 – 4:2
 - God was angry with them for rebellion, testing Him, going astray in their hearts, and **not knowing His ways!** – 3:7-11; Rom. 1:18-20
 - The problem: They **chose not to hear in faith** – 3:16-4:2
- Why did they refuse to hear in faith?
 - The problem was not the **power** of God and His word – Ex. 9:13; 19:4-5
 - The problem was not in the **communication** of the word – Ex. 19:7-9, 16-19; 20:18-19; 24:3



What Happened?

- They lost the battle of the **flesh vs. the Spirit**
- They were too attached to the physical—what could be seen and touched – Ex. 32:1; Num. 11:1-6
- **We are not immune**
 - The call of the same worldly gods is strong and relentless today...and many succumb – 2 Tim. 4:10
 - We must strive to hold on by faith to God and His promises, while refusing to love this present world – Mk. 4:18-19; 1 Tim. 6:6-10



How can I know
I am listening to
God's word?



Effective listening requires...



- That you see the words of Christ, the Deliverer, as *life* – Jn. 6:63, 67-69
- That you view our times of worship and Bible study as times of *God speaking to you* – Mk. 16:15; Isa. 28:13; 1 Thess. 2:13
- Hearing God's word for *correction* and *instruction*
 - This is the *purpose* of the word and preaching – 2 Tim. 3:16-17; 4:1-2
 - Those who hear the word seek *sanctification* through it – 1 Thess. 4:1-8