

Module : The Spiritual Man
Session 1 : Hearing With Your Spirit



Here is a brief reminder of the importance of 'hearing', extracted from Sessions 5 and 6 of the series, 'The Primacy of the Word':

*Jesus was concerned about both **WHAT** and **HOW** the people heard or listened.*

Mark 4:24a And He was saying to them, "Take care **WHAT** you listen to"

This stresses the importance of being selective in what teachings you listen to.

Luke 8:18a "So take care **HOW** you listen;

This highlights the need for personal responsibility and the right attitudes to be present in those who hear an accurate, relevant and present-day Word. The attitude in which God's Word is received determines its potential fruit or result in your life. How you receive the Word is very important.

The following are some important principles that should be present every time we HEAR the Word.

- a. Hearing with understanding, which includes both the ability to comprehend and obey what is heard.
- b. Receiving the Word with 'humility'.
- c. Receiving the Word with fear, reverence and high esteem.
- d. Receiving the Word as God's Word, not man's Word, even though it is expressed through men whom we also receive.
- e. Receive the Word with eagerness and then commit to examining that which we have heard.
- f. Mixing faith with the Word you've heard.
- g. Hear with Your Spirit (see below)

HEAR WITH YOUR SPIRIT

Another important aspect of our effective hearing is to hear with our spirit. Mankind is a tripartite being. He is spirit, soul and body.

1 Thess. 5:23 Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely; and may your **spirit and soul and body** be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Heb. 4:12 For the **word of God** is living and active, sharper than any two- edged sword, piercing to the **division of soul and of spirit**, of **joints and of marrow**, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart

In one verse in which the creation account of man is recorded, we can see the three parts of man.

Gen. 2:7 Then the Lord God formed man of **dust from the ground**, and **breathed** into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a **living being**

- ‘Dust from the earth’** = A reference to the BODY.
- ‘Breathed’** = A reference to the spirit of man, the primary means through which man would interact with God and also the platform from which he would rule on the earth.
- ‘Living Being’** = A reference to the soul, through which he could engage and live on the earth intelligibly.

‘Living being’ is translated ‘living soul’ in the KJV. The body depends on the spirit for its life and existence. James taught that the body, without the spirit, is dead (James 2:26). When a person dies, the spirit leaves the body and ascends to God who gave it (Eccl. 3:21; 12:7). The soul dimension of man is what allows him to have ‘being’ – to literally engage and interact with his world. But the soul was not to be the primary platform from which man would live. Through the five senses of the body, the soul life expresses itself, but it was originally designed to be dominated and led by the spirit (which is ultimately the life generating principle in man). Man was designed to live on Earth under the directorship of his spirit.

The soul incorporates the capacity to reason - this dimension was completely closed before he sinned. After Adam sinned, his ‘eyes were opened’, i.e. the eye of his soul. He was introduced to the possibility and reality of allowing his soul to dominate his spirit. The order became wrong. The salvation renewal process now incorporates God’s plan to get the spirit of man back into a place of ascendancy and domination over the soul. The soul is to be positioned in its predetermined place, submitted to the spirit.

Both the spirit and soul of man has a mind, a will and emotions. Study the following scriptures:

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|--|-------------------|---|----------------------------------|
| THE <u>SPIRIT OF MAN</u> has ...: | - A Mind | : | Phil 2: 5; Rom 8:27; 1 Pet 4:1-2 |
| | - Emotions | : | John 13:21; Luke 1:47 |
| | - Will | : | Mark 14:38 |
| | | | |
| The <u>SOUL OF MAN</u> has ... : | - A Mind | : | Lam. 3:20 |
| | - Emotions | : | Psalms 42:11 ; 43:5 |
| | - Will | : | Psalms 84:2 |

God has intended for the soul to be directed by the spirit. The mind of the soul is to be subject to the mind of the spirit; the emotion of the soul is to be subject to the emotion of the spirit; the will of the soul is to be subject to the will of the spirit.

The temptation in the garden was one of **independence** from God - “You will become like God”. The spirit of man was given to him from the breathe of God Himself and it is this dimension of spirit that is our interface with God – it thus also expresses dependence upon God since it is that component of man which is directly akin to God, who is Himself essentially Spirit. When the soul functions outside of being led by the spirit, it therefore seeks to operate independently from God.

Gen.3:4-7

- 4 The serpent said to the woman, You surely will not die!
- 5 For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.
- 6 When the woman **saw** that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make one wise, she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate.
- 7 Then the **eyes of both of them were opened**, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loin coverings

Compare the statements “The woman SAW that the fruits were good”(before the sin) **vs.** “The eyes of both of them were opened” (after the sin). Eve saw with the sight of her physical eyes. The second sight is the eye of the soul that was meant to be shut, which was now opened. The soul was meant to blindly follow the spirit. When Adam and Eve sinned, the eyes of the soul were opened and they chose to function from the soul platform instead of the spirit platform. The danger is that the soul, outside of being conditioned and led by the Voice of God, is prone to be influenced by the voice of the enemy that seeks to mar the image of God in man through instilling disobedience in man. When man sinned, his soul became darkened, void of the light and voice of God. His soul became sick and degenerate, and thus is in need to renewal and restoration. At his sin, man gave tactic empowerment to his soul over his spirit, as the prevailing principle by which he would live. God was thus factored out of the equation. Presently , through the preaching of the Word, we seek to restore the soul to its proper place and function which is to blindly follow the spirit.

The mind and will of the spirit and the mind and will of the soul are in constant conflict. Paul went through this warfare (Read Romans 7). At the first sin, the soul was opened into dominance. Man became carnally-minded and death crept in. This is why the Scripture says, “**A double minded man is unstable in all his ways**” (see **James 1:8**). The mind of the Spirit may be in agreement with the Word or Will of God, and at times, the unrenewed soul might oppose the Word and Will of God. In the garden of Gethsemane, Jesus submitted His will (i.e. the will of his soul) to the will of His Father (to which the will of His spirit agreed).

The **mind of the Spirit** (i.e. the Holy Spirit) was imparted when you were born again through the Word of God. The mind of your soul is to be brought to perfection and maturity, through continual exposure to the Word of God. The soul is purified through the continual process of repentance (to change the mind and construct of one’s thinking) and obedience to the Word of Truth.

1 Peter 1:22-25

- 22 Having **purified your souls by your obedience to the truth** for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart,
- 23 since you have been **born again**, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the **living and abiding word of God**;
- 24 for All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls,
- 25 but the **word of the Lord remains forever**. And this **word is the good news** that was **preached** to you

Note: The word which purifies the soul is the Word which is preached to you, i.e. it comes to you through someone else, to whom you must listen and hear attentively and encode correctly what is been said.

To live as God originally intended, we simply have to obey the Word of God, without allowing human earthly logic, rationalisation or power of reason or negotiation of the soul, to affect the decision from our spirit to obey God.

Man can Engage Heaven and Earth

Heaven is like a vault, a storehouse of every resource we would need to effectively live and execute God's will on the earth. Light was made on the first day of creation. This light was formed by the Word of God ('Let there be'). Thus the Word formed light, which informs the Heavens, which informs the earth. With his spirit, man can engage the heavens. With his soul – through his five senses of sight, smell, hearing, taste and touch, he can engage the environment of the earth. In this sense man was built to easily access and engage both the unseen heavenly realm, and the seen earthly realm. The first man, Adam, before the fall, did this effortlessly. Jesus, the second man, the last Adam, also demonstrated this.

The sequence of the creation order is (1) Light; (2) Heaven; (3) Earth. But a WORD from God initiated this LIGHT. Similarly, man is (1) spirit; (2) soul; (3) body; and also it must be the WORD of God which illuminates the spirit, which will illuminate the soul, and be expressed through the body.

The Word of God is a Light and a Lamp, and illumines every darkened area of our existence.

Psalm 119:105 Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path

Psalm 18:28 For You light my lamp; The Lord my God illumines my darkness

But the spirit of man is also the lamp or candle of the Lord. Hence the Word of God must first illumine our spirits – and from this platform it will beam and radiate light into the soul.

Prov. 20:27 The spirit of man is the lamp of the Lord, Searching all the innermost parts of his being

The illumination that the word of God brings to the spirit lightens up the spirit of man, which is the lamp of the Lord. This illuminated spirit then casts light on every darkened area of those parts of the soul still unrenewed and unaligned to the spirit. At this time the soul must be brought into subjection to the revelation produced within the spirit through the Word of God. If the soul is not brought into alignment with the spirit, disobedience to what was revealed could result. Job asserted that when God's LAMP (i.e. A Word-illuminated spirit) shone over his head (i.e. the mind of his soul illuminated by the lamp of his spirit), by it's light he was able to walk through darkness.

Job 29:3 When His lamp shone over my head, And by His light I walked through Darkness

The spirit was built to cover and inform the soul, which covers and informs the body. Before the fall of man, his spirit dominated his entire being. God walked with Adam in the 'cool' of day.

Gen. 3:8 They heard the **sound** of the Lord God **walking** in the garden in the **cool** of the day,

Sound = **qol** = voice (from a root word meaning 'to call aloud')

Cool = **ruach** = breathe or wind – spirit.

God would speak with Adam. Adam would hear words from God. These words would clothe Adam in his spirit. Every time Adam engaged God through him hearing the Voice of God, he would progressively understand more and more dynamics of the nature, person and will of God. He would be incrementally receiving impartation of more of God's nature and character too. He was completely reliant upon the hearing of God's voice for his effective functionality in the earth in representing Him accurately and efficiently executing His will.

At the time of our initial salvation experience, our spirit is entirely renewed, our soul is being renewed daily and our body literally awaits final redemption at the return of our Lord. When we hear the Word of God, it is important to train ourselves not to hear from the domain of our fallen soul. We have got to hear from the platform of our spirits, and then allow this to filter down through and condition the hearing in our souls.

Adam would hear firstly and primarily with the ear of his spirit man, not his soul. Before his sin, the eye of his soul was closed. He only saw through the eye of his spirit – thus he heard through his spirit.

The process of Divine communication is always from Spirit to spirit – from God's Spirit to our spirits. The spirit of man is the place of reception, encoding and understanding spiritual words released by the Spirit of God. Jesus said the words He speaks ARE SPIRIT.

John 6:63 It is the **Spirit who gives life**; the flesh profits nothing; the **WORDS** that I have spoken to you are **spirit and are life**.

Words are carriers of Spirit. He, the Holy Ghost, is also called the Spirit of Truth. The Word of God is 'Truth'. Hence the Holy Ghost is a Spirit of the Word. When spiritual fathers speak the Word of God to you, it is actually the SPIRIT of the Heavenly Father speaking in and through them.

Matt. 10:20 For it is not you who speak, but it is the **Spirit of your Father** who speaks in you

We are all 'fathered' by the voice of the Heavenly Father, communicated to us by the SPIRIT OF GOD operational within our spiritual fathers, who speak the Word to us.

If Words from God are Spirit, and these Words are communicated to us by the Spirit speaking in and through a spiritual father and/or other vessels, then that which is 'Spirit' contained in Words spoken by the SPIRIT, must be received and engaged first and foremost primarily with my spirit - which would then direct my soul - and thus condition my body's obedient response.

New wine has got to be received in new wineskins. A wine skin, in part represents a mindset or mentality – a pattern of thought or framework/construct of thinking. Many times, when God speaks, ‘new wine’ or revelation that does not fit within the framework of our present understanding, we may reject it as error because we are attempting to receive something ‘new’ with an old mindset. We may easily reject proceeding or present TRUTH that is authentic and valid because our construct of thinking does not accommodate for it.

John 6:59-64

- 59 These things He said in the synagogue as He taught in Capernaum.
- 60 Therefore many of His disciples, when they heard this said, This is a difficult statement; who can listen to it?
- 61 But Jesus, conscious that His disciples grumbled at this, said to them, Does this cause you to stumble?
- 62 What then if you see the Son of Man ascending to where He was before?
- 63 It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing; the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and are life.
- 64 But there are some of you who do not believe

In John chapter 6, Jesus delivered a difficult teaching. He asserted that He was the Bread from Heaven and that eating His flesh and drinking His blood were essential to have eternal life. Many were offended and grumbled at this and left Jesus, never to follow Him again. They thought he was teaching cannibalism. Jesus was actually teaching the need for His disciples to internalise, assimilate and imbibe into their personality, the total of all that He, the SON, represented. Failure to understand what he meant caused many to be offended and they departed. They attempted to engage spiritual words with the mind of an unrenewed soul. It was in this context that Jesus said the Words He speaks ARE SPIRIT.

The people, after hearing, actually conclude that ‘This is a difficult saying’ – verse 60.

Hard = skleros = harsh, hard, rough, offensive, intolerable

The result was unbelief and departure from God’s Will and way.

Only the twelve were left. On asking them if they too would leave, Peter responds as follows:

Lord, to whom shall we go? You have WORDS OF ETERNAL LIFE.
We have believed and have come to know that You are the Holy One of God

John 6:68,69

The five thousand who left, acted inaccurately and departed from an accurate representation of the Heavenly Father in their midst (Jesus Christ), simply for failure to understand, accept and obey what was to them ‘a difficult saying’. Peter, in responding to Jesus’ question, indirectly reaffirms his and the rest of the disciples’ commitment to remain as loyal followers and doers of His Word by isolating four things:

1. **There was no one else to go to.** This highlights the scarcity of valid and relevant apostolic leadership in their day. The same holds true today.

2. **The quality character of the words they were hearing were 'ETERNAL'** - i.e. timeless - from beyond the realms of temporality and impermanence. These words are not just relevant but enduring by their very nature. These words spoke to and touched the eternal dimension within them - their spirit man.
3. **They have already believed His words up to that point** - and although what He is currently saying may seem difficult from the vantage point of the darkened areas of an unrenewed soul, yet their spirit man is acceding to it.
4. **They have come to know that Jesus is the Holy One of God, i.e., through the process of time, and a sequence of consistent exposure to His person and teaching, His claim and credibility as God's Son has been repetitively endorsed and confirmed in their own minds.** Paul also, in persuading Timothy not to depart from "the things he has learned and become convinced of", uses as the basis for this argument, that the 'things' were learned from himself as credible apostle and spiritual father over Timothy.

2 Tim. 3:14 You, however, continue in the things you have learned and become convinced of, knowing from whom you have learned them.

Although they could make full sense of what Jesus was trying to communicate to them, the credibility of Jesus as their leader and representative of the Father in their midst, allowed them to receive His Words – however difficult to understand it was at that point in time.

This highlights the role of spiritual fathers in their function to bring restoration of our souls through the speaking forth of the Word of God, which is Spirit, to our spirits – leading our souls in blind obedience to every dictate of God no matter how hard it may be to understand.

A Reminder: (See Session 8 of the series, The Primacy of the Word; Page 7)

The Heavenly Father is the father of your spirit.

Heb. 12:9 Moreover, we have all had human fathers who disciplined us and we respected them for it. How much more should we submit to the **Father of our spirits** and live!

Earthly spiritual fathers shepherd your soul (Heb. 13:7,17), with the intent of restoring the soul to its former position in Christ.

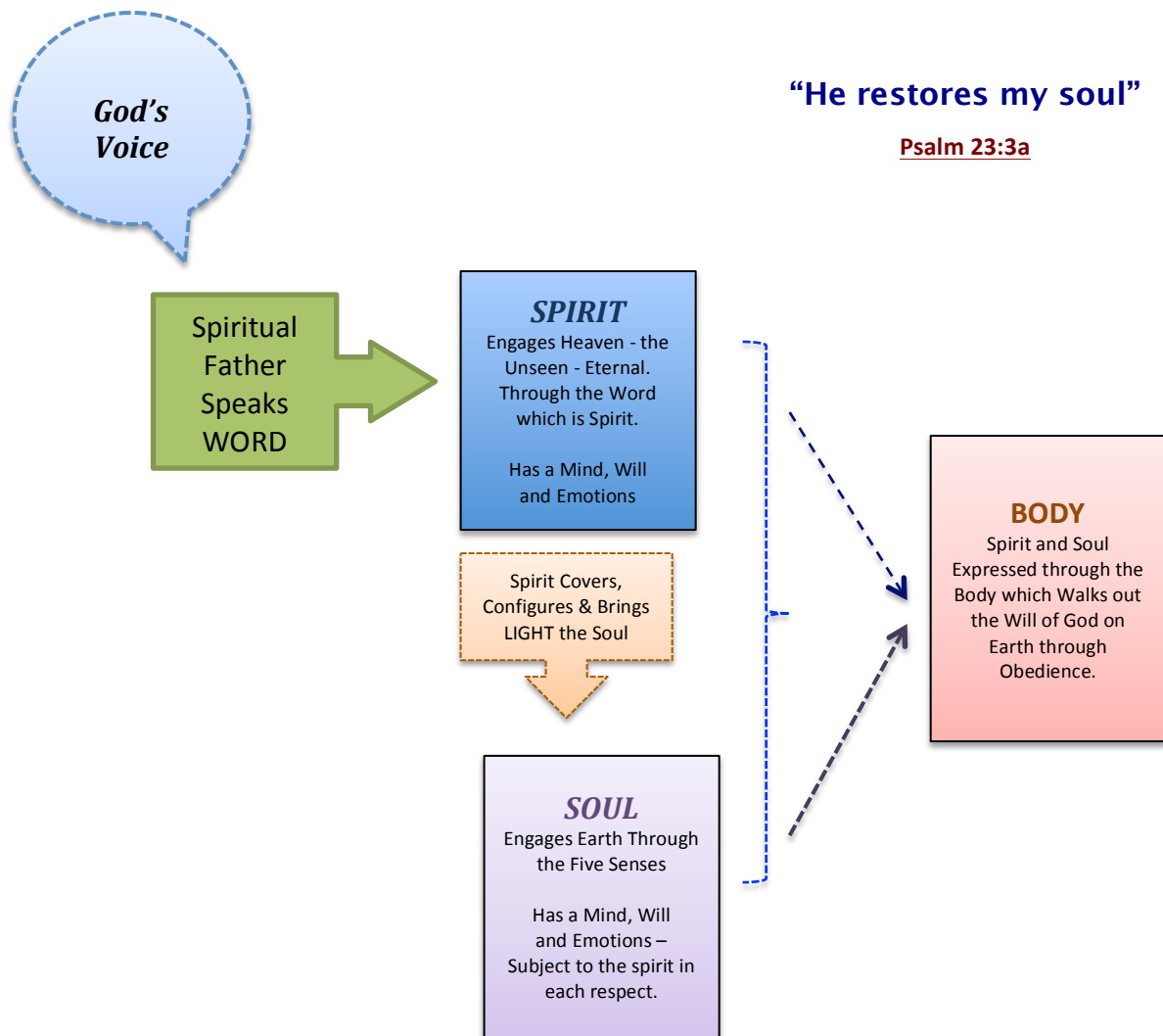
Heb. 13:17 **Obey your leaders** and submit to them, for they **keep watch over your souls** as those who will give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with grief, for this would be unprofitable for you.

Heb. 13:7 Remember **those who led you**, who spoke the word of God to you; and considering the result of their conduct, imitate their faith.

Note: You are LED by the WORD OF GOD being spoken to you. Your soul is fathered in the House of God by the WORD of GOD spoken by your spiritual father in the Lord. By feeding you the Word of God, your soul becomes renewed and is realigned to “think, decide and feel” in terms of the way God originally designed it to – and thus your thought-pattern, your soul, will be in sync with your regenerated spirit, fathered by the Heavenly Father.

There are biblical examples of individuals who received a Word from God that did not INITIALLY make rational sense to the mind of the soul, but they, after encoding it with the mind of the spirit, were able to embrace and walk obediently in it. Examples are Joseph, Mary and Peter. We will explore these examples in forthcoming sessions.

The ultimate position is that of a fully restored soul that is completely submitted to the spirit.



N.B.: I strongly recommend that the reader listen to audio recordings of the five sessions of Thamo Naidoo's teaching on the 'Spiritual Man' delivered at his 20th Apostolic School of Ministry – Nov. 2011. This teaching provides accurate perspective to the Divine design for the position and function of man's spirit and soul in his body. Go to www.thamonaidoo.com; 'Downloads'; 'ASOMs'; '7-12 November 2011'; then each day there is one session on the subject. Also consult Dr SY Govender's teaching on 'ZOE LIFE' from www.apostolicleader.co.za. In our present study at hand, we simply discuss some of the issues relevant to this topic in as far as it has reference to HEARING God's Word correctly with a view to obeying it fully from the vantage point of an enlightened spirit.

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