

**Module** : The Spiritual Man

**Session 2** : Hear With and Obey From Your Spirit



A Brief Recapitulation of Salient Points From Session 1:

Man is **trichotomous or trinal**, in that he is spirit, soul and body. He is also **amphibious**, in that he can, in his body, effortlessly and almost simultaneously live in both the Heavenly unseen spirit world and the earthly seen/natural world. With his spirit he engages the Heavens and with his soul he engages life and function on Earth.

**His spirit is the platform in/on which God would transact and relate to him.** His soul expresses his 'being' – his capacity to live intelligibly in a physical world on planet Earth. Thus with his spirit, he can relate to God and also engage the unseen, Heavenly dimension.

**With his soul, he can engage the earthly, seen dimension.** As Heaven is the resource of the Earth, so must his spirit resource and inform his soul. Before the original sin of Adam, man's soul blindly followed his spirit, the platform from which man functions, being empowered through communication with God, whose voice was carried in the 'spirit' (cool) of the day.

God, who is Spirit, would commune with the spirit of man. Before man's sin in the garden of Eden, **his soul was not dormant or inactive, but it did not occupy a primary leading or influencing role in how man would execute obediently the instruction of the Lord.** The eyes of his soul were shut. His perspective was not conditioned by the sight or view of his own reasoning. The mind, will and emotion of the soul simply followed the mind, will and emotions of the spirit without doubt or question.

**At the first sin, the eyes of the soul were opened – and actually proceeded to rival and so dominate the pre-eminent ranked position of the spirit.** Thus man lived **independantly** from the voice of God in his spirit and sought to be the architect of his own destiny. Our salvation experience today involves a reinstatement of our spirit into a dominant position of influence over the fallen soul.

**The soul of man is not evil and must not be prejudiced against.** It just needs to **be renovated, renewed and repositioned into its proper place and function.** This necessitates the soul being progressively renewed in time through the **Word of God.** For this to occur effectively, areas of the darkened state of the soul need to be perpetually **illuminated** by the light of God's Word – which comes when the Word is unveiled, decoded, revealed by a sent-one/spiritual father/preacher whom God has positioned to speak into your life.

These Words from God, expressed in and through a spiritual father, are actually **'spirit and life'** spoken by the Spirit of the Father. For these words to have their total effect, they must, in the recipient or hearer, **be received and encoded first**, not with the mind of the soul, but **with the mind of the spirit.** Thereafter, the mind of the soul is to be brought into alignment to that which was received in the spirit.

Man's spirit and soul each have a mind, will and emotions. With the **mind of the spirit**, we may **receive, comprehend and assimilate what God attempts to communicate to us.** We have received the mind of

the Spirit at salvation, but it must be continuously immersed under the sound of God's Word for **it to develop in strength and so willingly accede and accept the TRUTH it is exposed to.**

As the light and revelation of God's Word fills our spirit, from the platform of the spirit, illumination is cast upon the darkened areas of our souls. At this point the **mind of the soul must respond in repentance of a wrong position it has held and adjust to that which the spirit informs it.**

Also too, the will of the spirit, i.e. the capacity to make spiritual decisions, must affect and influence the will of the soul. The same applies to the emotions of the spirit configuring and actually determining the emotion of the soul.

In this sense, spiritual fathers father you representatively on behalf of the Heavenly Father who is the Father of your spirit. **Spiritual fathers father your soul by speaking spiritual words by the Spirit of the Father to your spirit man, which will then bring fine-tunement to your soul.**

Thus it is vitally important for those of us who position ourselves under the sound of the Word/Voice of God, to condition our hearing – in that we must train ourselves to receive the Word from the platform of our spirits, and not from the areas of our souls that have not being entirely renewed yet. Otherwise we may reject a valid and true Word or instruction from God to us.

### **TRANSFORMATION THROUGH THE RENEWING OF THE MIND**

Transformation only comes through the process of the renewal of the mind of the spirit and soul.

**Romans 12:2** And do not be conformed to this world, but be **transformed by the renewing of your mind**, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

**God's** good, acceptable and perfect **will** can only be understood, pursued and executed fully and to finality, from **a soul which has been renovated**. This renovation happens **in one of two ways:**

- The preferred position is when we understand in our souls because we have allowed the understanding in the spirit to influence it.
- But oftentimes, the mind of the soul lags behind the understanding within the mind of the spirit. In these times, we are to **simply engage our wills** – i.e. **the will of the spirit** – and allow it to lead the will of our souls into making a decision to obey God, despite the fact that the mind of the soul is still unfruitful. In this study we will demonstrate a few examples of this.

## A STRONG SPIRIT MUST OVERRIDE WEAKNESS OF THE BODY/FLESH

- ✓ The **spirit must be immersed strongly** within the **speaking of God's Word** – it must develop in strength, potency and dominance so that it can command the soul to the degree **where the soul would eventually volitionally and eagerly follow its dictates** and leading without doubt or question.
- ✓ Another obstacle to overcome is the **weakness of the flesh**. To His three disciples who slept after a request for them to pray with him, Jesus made this statement: **"the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak"** – **Matt 26:41b**. The willingness of the spirit must override the weakness of the flesh, so that no longer will it be a refrain that the "spirit is willing but the flesh is weak".

## OBEDIENCE TO THE WORD OF TRUTH PURIFIES THE SOUL

Every time we obey a truth, doctrine or specific command from God via His Word to us, this act of obedience, **even though at times we cannot make complete sense of it in the mind of our soul**, has the effect of **purifying the soul, bringing maturity** to it and alignment to the mind of the spirit.

**1 Pet. 1:22a** Since you have in **obedience to the truth** purified your souls ...

An act of total obedience to something you heard God command you in the realm of your spirit, will, **after the act of obedience is done**, have **the effect of bringing your soul into alignment with your spirit**. At times only, when you actually DO His command, will understanding come.

**Psalms 111:10b** A good **understanding** have all those who **do His commandments**

Every **opportunity to obey** is an occasion for alignment of spirit and soul. This brings wholeness and completeness to our human-ness. Each entrenched inward mentality of obedience and every successive outward act of obedience is a step closer or another opportunity for the ongoing purification of the soul. Purity of soul is a perpetual personal process fuelled by obedient attitudes and acts.

## DOUBLE-MINDEDNESS

For the soul to be disconnected from the spirit is **division**. There will always be vacillation between obedience and disobedience, between doing what God wants and what we or people want, between faith and unbelief, etc. In this sense James speaks of a **DOUBLE-MINDED** man being unstable in all his ways. A double-minded man is one who allows the mind of his soul to challenge the revealed and accepted truth in his spirit, eroding his commitment to obey it with the mind of the spirit.

### **James 1:5-8**

- 5 But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him
- 6 But he must **ask in faith without any doubting**, for the one who doubts is like the surf of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind.
- 7 For that man ought not to expect that he will receive anything from the Lord,
- 8 being a **double-minded man, unstable in all his ways**.

**James 4:8** Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. **Cleanse your hands**, you sinners, and **purify your hearts**, you **double-minded**.

### A UNITED HEART

Consider this request: "Unite my heart to fear your name".

**Psalm 86:11** Teach me **Your way**, O Lord; I will **walk** in **Your truth**; **UNITE MY HEART** to fear Your name.

Note here that the Psalmist requests of God to teach him HIS WAYS and also expresses a desire walk in or obey HIS TRUTH. To effectively do this, he requests a UNITED heart. He wants there to be a singular position within his heart, for he knows that a 'divided heart' is already less prone to obey God. This quest for a united heart can be seen as a desire for the alignment of spirit and soul. He expresses an intolerance for there to be two positions within himself. The TEACHING of God's ways with a view to walking obediently in HIS truth, is facilitated and made easier where there is an undivided heart of spirit and soul in complete harmony.

**Jer. 32:38-39** And they shall be my people, and I will be their God. **I will give them one heart and one way**, that they may fear me forever, for their own good and the good of their children after them.

**Ezek. 11:19,20** And I will give them **one heart**, and **a new spirit** I will put within them. I will remove the heart of stone from their flesh and give them a heart of flesh, that they may **walk in my statutes** and **keep my rules and obey them**. And they shall be my people, and I will be their God

[For your personal study, consider how men came to David with an 'undivided heart': 1 Chron. 12:33-40 (KJV)]

He who has an ear must HEAR what the SPIRIT is saying to the churches. Paul argues that we speak spiritual things with spiritual words. These words must be heard with the spirit, not with the soul. This is what the 'spiritual' (2 Cor.2:15) man does.

**NOTE:** Both the spirit and soul have a mind, will and emotions. With our mind we understand or comprehend; with our will we make decisions and choices; with our emotions we feel. Hence, what we THINK, DECIDE and FEEL occurs in two realms – spirit and soul. **The mind, will and emotion of the spirit must predominate over their counterparts in the realm of the soul.**

### AN UNDERSTANDING SPIRIT AND AN UNDERSTANDING SOUL

In our previous study, we demonstrated from John 6 how a multitude departed from Jesus after listening to a 'hard' teaching that He gave. Jesus spoke 'spiritual words' using spiritual symbolism or thought, viz. the necessity of 'eating His flesh and drinking His blood'. But the people could not understand this because they sought to understand spiritual things from the fallenness of their unrenewed mind of the soul. It was in this context that Jesus said "the words I speak are spirit and life". WORDS from God ARE

SPIRIT – and that which the SPIRIT speaks must be received within the domain of our spirits FIRST. If we function pre-eminently from the basis of our soul, then we might just reject a valid Word of God, as well as a valid messenger of God, for failure to accept something that does not fit within the construct of our accepted understanding or theology – an understanding which may just be warped due to the fact that we have not allowed the fullness of LIGHT or revelation to penetrate completely into it.

## A WILLING SPIRIT AND A WILLING SOUL

### OBEDIENCE FROM THE REALM OF YOUR 'SPIRIT'

The unrenewed soul only operates through logic and reason, devoid of any influence of a Word-illuminated spirit. **The spirit operates through truth and revelation. God often works through illogicality.** Here are a few examples (there are many more in Scripture) where in each case, the command of the Lord did not make rational sense to the realm of the unrenewed mind of the soul, but only to the mind of the spirit. And in each case, the persons concerned obeyed because they chose to function not from the position of reason or logic, but purely from hearing the Word of God from their spirits.

- **Noah** being asked to **build a boat** in preparation to survive a flood which would be caused by excessive rain, a phenomenon he had not known nor experienced.
- **Abraham** commanded to **sacrifice his only son**, Isaac, through whom it was promised that he, Abraham, would be a father of nations.
- The will of God for **Joseph** triumphed through a range of negative experiences designed by the enemy to bring abortion to his divine destiny. He did not permit **personal trial or difficulty** to impede his progression in his divine mandate toward a place of rulership in Egypt. Consistently, he **kept the content of his soul free from defilement, bitterness, unforgiveness**, etc. His purity of spirit aided his capacity to hear and so represent the nature and character of God in whatever situation he found himself.
- **Gideon** being commanded to deliberately **reduce the size of his army** from 32000 to just 300 in preparing to fight a formidable Midianite enemy.
- **Israel** **standing still**, being sandwiched between an attacking Egyptian army and a raging Red Sea.
- **Israel** obeying a seemingly **foolish military strategy** by marching around the city of Jericho once everyday for six days and seven times on the seventh day in absolute silence.
- **Ruth** obeying Naomi's instruction to **lie down at Boaz' feet**, an act that could have possibly led to her death.
- **Esther's** boldness in **approaching the King** to seek deliverance for the Jews - as per Mordecai's instruction (She said, "If I perish I perish").

- The **Widow at Zapheth** baking **cake for Elijah FIRST** before her and her son.
- **Naaman** sent to wash in the **dirty River Jordan seven times** at the instruction of Elisha, who sent the instruction via his '**servant**' – a '**lesser**' in Naaman's perception.
- **Singers** positioned in **front of an army** going to war by Jehosaphat obeying a prophetic directive – a suicidal mission by natural warfare strategy standards.
- Filling water in **clay water pots** in preparation for the miracle of turning **water into wine**. Clay pots are not conducive for the maturation of wine.
- **Serving water** at the Wedding Feast at Cana to guests at the latter **end of the wedding** reception , a time when the best wine should have been served.
- **Peter** being asked by God in a vision to **kill and eat food**, which his theological training in reference to Jewish dietary laws had prohibited.
- **Mary** being informed that she would be **pregnant by the Holy Ghost** & bear the Christ-child.
- **Joseph** being asked to take **Mary**, who was pregnant (not by him) to be **his wife** – an act that would have brought him (and her) into disrepute.
- **The disciples** instructed by Jesus to **seat the multitude** (5000 men) in specific groupings in **preparation to be fed by two fish and five loaves of bread**.
- The **command of Jesus at Lazarus' funeral** to '**roll back the stone**' which blocked the entrance to the burial tomb. This act would have tainted the entire proceedings with the 'smell' and stench of death – yet the promise was that the 'glory of God' would be the lasting character and feature of that event.

### **KNOWING THE WILL IN SPIRIT BUT EXECUTING IT FROM A WRONG PERSPECTIVE IN THE SOUL**

In seeking to obey that which you have heard in your spirit, **do not attempt to work it out in the realm that part of your soul which has not been renewed.** Our hearing must be fine-tuned, not only in terms of accessing His Word or Will in our spirits, but also we must then HEAR in our spirits for God's WAY – His methodology of executing His will. **The possibility exists for us to hear correctly yet fail to implement it accurately.**

#### **Examples:**

- **Abraham:**

Through impatience he succumbed to a suggestion by Sarah for him to sleep with Hagar in order to bring to pass the prophetic word concerning his fatherhood over nations. Impatience led to this. The mind of the soul was not aligned to the timing of the Lord in the realm of the spirit. He

produced Ishmael – which posed a perpetual obstacle to Israel throughout time up to the present day.

- **Jacob:**

From his birth, it was clear he would be the recipient of Isaac's first-born blessing, yet he sought to attain it through deceitful means by defrauding Esau. To do this, he deceived his father, Isaac. This led to estrangement between him and Esau, and he was forced to flee for his life and then submit himself to the deception and manipulation of Laban for at least 20 years. What he sowed, he was reaping. God had to change him internally through a series of dealings with him, e.g. the wrestle with the angel, the crossing of the river – Jabbok (meaning 'my emptying') to reconcile with Esau. His destiny, once deferred by almost 20 years, was now ready to play itself out forcefully, only once he submitted his way to God's Way.

- **Moses:**

When he became of age (mature) at about 40 years old, Moses refused to call himself the son of Pharaoh's daughter. He knew instinctively that Israelite enslavement and oppression was wrong in Egypt. This awareness was in his spirit, yet he initially sought to solve the problem his way, by killing an Egyptian taskmaster. His soulish actions led to his self-imposed exile from Egypt for 40 years. God would send him back to deliver Israel HIS way – not setting one or two Israelites free (a process that would have taken a very long time), but a whole nation within one night. God's way is always superior to man's.

- **Jonah**

Jonah expressed displeasure at the graciousness and mercy of God toward Nineveh after that city had repented. He reasoned wrongly from a facet within his soul that was not renewed and not in sync with a complete revelation of God's nature yet. **[Jonah 4:1-4]**

- **Samson**

Samson was a Nazarite, one who was separated unto God and His purposes. He was used mightily by God as a Judge in Israel as the Spirit of the Lord would come upon him. Sadly though, He allowed his soul to lead him astray through the weakness of his flesh and he lost strength – his grace enablement to do God's will. **Judges 16:16** "It came about when she pressed him daily with her words and urged him, that **his soul was annoyed to death.**"

## **THE EMOTION OF THE SOUL MUST BE INFLUENCED BY THE EMOTION OF A WORD-ILLUMINATED SPIRIT**

### **Examples:**

- **Mary :**

Mary's spirit rejoiced at the announcement that she would bear the Christ-child. Her soul magnified the Lord. When the spirit is jubilant - the soul easily follows suit by magnifying the Lord.

**Luke 1:46,47** And Mary said: My **soul exalts the Lord**, And my **spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior**.

○ **Cleopas and the Un-named Disciple.**

**Luke 24:17b** And they stood still, looking **sad**

The two disciples who walked to Emmaus after the resurrection of Jesus, were SAD at his death, not knowing that He was already raised from the dead. The lack of awareness of the current revelation of the Christ to their spirits made them prone and susceptible to an inaccurate emotional state. Jesus drew near to them and revealed to them His identity through opening the Scriptures and in the breaking of the bread. Their emotion was transformed from one of depression to ecstatic joy.

**Luke 24:52** And they, after worshiping Him, returned to Jerusalem **with great joy**

Again, relevant proceeding Word illuminates one's spirit so that it could give accurate definition to and configuration of the emotion of one's soul. Their sadness was turned to great joy through WORDS directed at their spirits that literally caused their 'heart' or spirit to burn and become enlivened and illumined.

**Luke 24:32** They said to one another, Were not our **hearts** burning within us while He was speaking to us on the road, while He was explaining the Scriptures to us

**Burning = kaio** = to set on fire, to kindle, light

○ **David**

At Ziglag, even David's men sought to kill him, after their wives and children were taken captive. David, wracked by depression, deliberately encouraged himself in the Lord by speaking to his soul – he sought to bring his soul into alignment with his spirit so that he could hear God clearly and proceed forward with absolute divine clarity.

**1 Sam. 30:4,6** Then David and the people who were with him lifted their voices and wept until there was no strength in them to weep. .... Moreover David was greatly distressed because the people spoke of stoning him, for all the people were **embittered**, each one because of his sons and his daughters. **But David strengthened himself in the Lord his God**

**Psalms 42:5** Why are you in **despair, O my soul?** And why have you become disturbed within me? Hope in God, for I shall again praise Him For the help of His presence



## HE AWAKENS MY EAR TO LISTEN

**Rev. 2:7** He who has an ear, let him hear **what the Spirit** says to the churches.

Words which are spirit and life must be heard with the spirit. To **'hear'** implies a **conscious willingness to obey**. Our 'ear' is our hearing mechanism and ability. Spiritual words are heard in one's spirit first. The soul must be submitted completely to what is accurately heard in our spirit. The state of the soul must not in any way pose an obstruction to both the reception of God's Word or the obedient execution thereof.

**Isa. 50:4-5** The Lord GOD has given Me the tongue of disciples, That I may know how to sustain the weary one with a word. **He awakens Me morning by morning, He awakens My ear to listen as a disciple.** The Lord GOD has opened My ear; And I was not disobedient Nor did I turn back.

**Listen = shama** = to hear intelligently with a view to obedience.

The ear of our spirits needs to be far more keenly attuned and receptive to the hearing of the Word of God.

This phrase **'morning by morning'** stresses the **regularity and hence consistent discipline** of accurate hearing.

We hear **'as a disciple'** i.e. one poised and ready to **take instructions**, so as to **embody the life and values of the teacher**. We hear always, with a view and desire to want to change – to be transformed. If obedience is to result, our hearing is to be improved. We hear with the mind of our spirit, not our souls, so that we will obey what we hear **'and not turn back'** from accurately following the Lord, even being obedient to so-called **'difficult sayings'** or seemingly hard instructions.

The Hebrew word for **'AWAKENS'** here is **'ur'** which means **'to wake'** but it is identical to a Hebrew word which contains the idea **of OPENING the EYES**. Our accurate hearing gives us accurate perception. If we hear it right, we see right and thus do it right. In this sense Paul prayed that the 'eyes of our understanding would be enlightened' (Eph. 1:18).

As we have taught in prior sessions, the opening or entrance of God's Word by one's spiritual father brings light into one's spirit, and from here is able to illuminate his entire being. The same idea is used here in Isaiah 50:4 - **The Lord God 'opens our ears'** -

**Opened = pathach** = to open wide; to loosen, plough, etc.

The prophet affirms that he was **not 'disobedient' and did not 'turn back'** to that which God opened his ear to.

**Disobedient = marah** = to be bitter, to rebel

**Turn = sug** = to flinch, to go back

As is evidenced by the meanings of the words cited above, **disobedience, translated as bitterness here, can at times result because of depression, disappointment**, etc., within the soul that did not blindly follow the light received with the spirit. Many times we ‘flinch’ at the command of God, for although we have heard correctly, **we allow the negative state of the soul to predominate to a degree where our actual intention to obey established within our spirits is eroded by negativity within the soul**. In a forthcoming study on MEDITATION’, we will address the process involved in allowing the Word in our spirits to permeate our souls, and so bring wholeness to it.

In this regard, here is an interesting verse:

**Exod. 6:8,9** I will bring you to the land which I swore to give to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and I will give it to you for a possession; I am the Lord. So Moses spoke thus to the sons of Israel, but **they did not listen to Moses on account of their despondency and cruel bondage**

The KJV translates **‘despondency’ as ‘anguish of spirit’**. The literal rendering of the term ‘despondency’ in this verse is “shortness of spirit”. Long-term slavery of almost 430 years made Israel so despondent that even when the Word of the Lord came to them, they could not embrace it and obey it, by virtue of the depression of the soul, that ultimately impacted their spirit capacity to resolve to obey.

Keep your spirit pure and ‘awakened’ by the Spirit of the Lord, morning by morning, to hear Words from God. **Guard against discouragement and despondency.**

Just before his arrest in the garden of Gethsemane, Jesus subjected His will to the will of His Heavenly Father, and did not allow permit the intense grief within his soul to dilute the resolve of the will of His spirit to obey. If He did it – so can we.

#### **Matthew 26:38-42**

- 38 Then He said to them, **My soul is deeply grieved**, to the point of death; remain here and keep watch with Me.
- 39 And He went a little beyond them, and fell on His face and prayed, saying, **My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; yet not as I will, but as You will.**
- 40 And He came to the disciples and found them sleeping, and said to Peter, So, you men could not keep watch with Me for one hour?
- 41 Keep watching and praying that you may not enter into temptation; the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.
- 42 He went away again a second time and prayed, saying, My Father, if this cannot pass away unless I drink it, **Your will be done**

In our next session we will discuss the necessity of keeping our spirit pure and undefiled – as well as keeping our flesh disciplined in our bid to hear the Word of God and obey it with greater effectiveness.

#### **GRACE BE WITH YOUR SPIRIT !**

**Gal. 6:18** The **grace** of our Lord Jesus Christ be with **your spirit**, brethren. Amen

**2 Tim. 4:22** The Lord be with **your spirit**. **Grace** be with you.

**Philem. 1:25** The **grace** of the Lord Jesus Christ be with **your spirit**.

It is interesting to note that the intended destination of Paul's GRACE impartations in his apostolic valedictions were directed to the SPIRIT of his audience - not so much their soul. Grace is communicated through the Word of God. Thus the Word's destination or landing point is your spirit that should then positively affect your soul, and manifest as obedience in your body. Remain 'sober in spirit' – 1 Peter 1:13. Grace and peace be with your spirit!

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### QUESTIONS AND ISSUES FOR PERSONAL REVIEW AND GROUP DISCUSSION

1. Distinguish between man's trichotomous parts, providing a brief description of each.
2. Biblically, how does 'transformation' occur in a son of God?
3. What act/principle purifies the soul? Explain.
4. Illustrate how the MIND of the spirit can dominate the MIND of the soul to the point where the two are in synchrony and agreement in the execution of God's will, even though the mind of the soul may not have complete understanding.
5. Is it possible for the MIND of the SPIRIT to be illumined as to a truth or specific command of God, and yet this is practically executed or expressed in an inaccurate manner by the WILL of the SOUL which has not yet been renewed? If so, how can this be corrected?
6. Explain how deeply entrenched hurt/bitterness/depression/unforgiveness/etc. within the soul may impede the flow of revelation from the spirit, and so abort obedience in the body.
7. What do you understand by Paul's specific and focused apostolic valediction, viz. "Grace be with your SPIRIT"?

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**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 20<sup>th</sup> 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.thamonaaidoo.com](http://www.thamonaaidoo.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](http://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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