**Simon Peter “Hearing God”**

**We Could Learn From Mary.**

38 While Jesus and his disciples were traveling, Jesus entered a village where a woman named Martha welcomed him as a guest. 39 She had a sister named Mary, who sat at the Lord’s feet and listened to his message. 40 By contrast, Martha was preoccupied with getting everything ready for their meal. So Martha came to him and said, “Lord, don’t you care that my sister has left me to prepare the table all by myself? Tell her to help me.”

Luke 10:38–40 CEB

**It’s not only possible to hear from God, it’s absolutely necessary!**

Mary took the time to sit and listen to Jesus. (See [Luke 10:39](https://app.logos.com/references/bible.63.10.39).) Later, while Peter attempted to persuade Him not to go to the cross, she anointed Him with oil in preparation for it. *Mary heard Him; Peter didn’t!* Have you learned yet how to hear God?

Fifteen times in the New Testament our Lord says, “He that hath an ear let Him hear.” That tells you three important things. First, you were born into God’s family with spiritual ears; second, you have to learn how to use them; third, hearing from God must become the highest priority in your life. A baby is born with the ability to hear, but he doesn’t know what he’s hearing. Understanding takes time; it takes intimacy with his parents. Listen: “Then he opened their minds so they could understand” ([Luke 24:45](https://app.logos.com/references/bible.63.24.45), NIV). He’ll teach you!

Why is it that we can hear from God in times of crisis, yet not at other times? Because we have to! Until that changes, we’ll keep living from crisis to crisis, so we’ll never learn to hear from Him, either quickly or correctly. Jesus said, “I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge” ([John 5:30](https://app.logos.com/references/bible.64.5.30)). Jesus did only the things placed in His mind by the Father.

HE WANTS YOU TO LEARN TO LIVE THAT WAY, TOO. JUST TRY IT FOR ONE DAY; YOU’LL NEVER WANT TO LIVE ANY OTHER WAY!

***Main Scripture Text.***

13 Now when Jesus came to the area of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say the Human One is?” 14 They replied, “Some say John the Baptist, others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the other prophets.” 15 He said, “And what about you? Who do you say that I am?” 16 Simon Peter said, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” 17 Then Jesus replied, “Happy are you, Simon son of Jonah, because no human has shown this to you. Rather my Father who is in heaven has shown you. 18 I tell you that you are Peter. And I’ll build my church on this rock. The gates of the underworld won’t be able to stand against it. 19 I’ll give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven. Anything you fasten on earth will be fastened in heaven. Anything you loosen on earth will be loosened in heaven.” 20 Then he ordered the disciples not to tell anybody that he was the Christ.

Mt 16:13–20 CEB

***1. Hearing God***

Hearing God correctly is one of the major problems facing all Christians. One part of the problem is hearing anything at all. The other part is discerning whether the voice you hear is God or some other voice such as self, Satan, or just another man’s advice.

Peter was a man like us. As a Jew he had been trained to believe God spoke once, from Mt. Sinai, and what He said was recorded in the Law of Moses. He may have spoken also through the prophets. While the Jesus considered the Law inerrant, they considered the prophets merely inspired. This idea of God speaking today was foreign to them.

How did the writer of Hebrews say God had spoken? Hebrews 1:1-2

In the past, God spoke through the prophets to our ancestors in many times and many ways. 2 In these final days, though, he spoke to us through a Son. God made his Son the heir of everything and created the world through him.

Heb 1:1–2 CEB

How did the prophet Joel say God would speak when the Holy Spirit was poured out on all people?

Joel 2:28

28 After that I will pour out my spirit upon everyone; your sons and your daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, and your young men will see visions.

Joel 2:28 CEB

Where did God say He would put and write the new law? Jeremiah 31:33

33 No, this is the covenant that I will make with the people of Israel after that time, declares the Lord. I will put my Instructions within them on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people.

Jeremiah 31:33 CEB

***2. Speaking For God***

With the coming of the Holy Spirit the gift of prophecy was given to the Church.

What is prophecy? 2 Peter 1:21

21 because no prophecy ever came by human will. Instead, men and women led by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

2 Pe 1:21 CEB

What gift did Paul say we should especially desire? 1 Corinthians 14:1

14 Pursue love, and use your ambition to try to get spiritual gifts but especially so that you might prophesy

1 Co 14:1 CEB

It is quite profound to consider that before Paul talks about the Gifts of the Spirit. He spends a whole chapter ( 13 ) teaching and promoting love in the Church, then as he starts chapter 14 begins with pursue love, then the gifts and prophecy.

When men prophecy what do they speak to me for? 1 Corinthians 14:3,4

3 Those who prophesy speak to people, building them up, and giving them encouragement and comfort. 4 People who speak in a tongue build up themselves; those who prophesy build up the church.

1 Co 14:3–4 CEB

***3. Revelation Knowledge***

Peter was a prophet in that he heard from God. The first time he received “revelation knowledge” was at Caesarea Philippi. Jesus had taken His disciples north into Gentile country to this stronghold of all the ancient gods of Syria, Greece, and Rome. Here, in this dramatic setting, He asked them the first of two world-changing questions.

What was the first question Jesus asked His disciples? Matthew 16:13

13 Now when Jesus came to the area of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say the Human One is?”

Mt 16:13 CEB

What was the second question Jesus asked His disciples? Matthew 16:15

15 He said, “And what about you? Who do you say that I am?”

Mt 16:15 CEB

How did Peter answer? Matthew 16:16

16 Simon Peter said, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”

Mt 16:16 CEB

Where did Jesus tell him the answer came from? Matthew 16:17

17 Then Jesus replied, “Happy are you, Simon son of Jonah, because no human has shown this to you. Rather my Father who is in heaven has shown you.

Mt 16:17 CEB

Earlier, Jesus had told Simon he would one day receive a new name meaning “rock.” At that time he used the the Aramaic name.

What was the name Jesus said Simon the fisherman would be given? John 1:42

Jesus looked at him and said, “You are Simon, son of John. You will be called Cephas” (which is translated Peter).

Jn 1:42 CEB

At Caesarea Philippi, Jesus tells Simon he is ready for his new name. This time He uses the Greek name for Rock.

What did Jesus name Simon? Matthew 16:18

18 I tell you that you are Peter. And I’ll build my church on this rock. The gates of the underworld won’t be able to stand against it.

Mt 16:18 CEB

Jesus said His church would be built on those who are able to receive revelation knowledge about His Lordship, who confess that Jesus is the Son of God and hear God daily through the power of the Holy Spirit.