

# He Who Has Ears, Let him Hear

## *The Importance of Hearing and What to Pay Attention to*

### A. Introduction

1. This teaching is about the importance of hearing (WHY it is important to hear) and WHAT the Lord exhorts us to pay attention to. It refers to God's call to believers to have an ear to what the Spirit is saying and emphasizing.
2. The verse is taken from the most repeated exhortation in Jesus' earthly ministry — mentioned 16 times.
  - a. Eight times in the Gospels (Matt. 11:15; Matt. 13:9, 43; Mark 4:9, 23; Mark 7:16; Luke 8:8; Luke 14:35) and once in Rev. 13:9 Jesus exhorts,

***“If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear!”***

- b. Another seven times in Revelation 2 and 3, Jesus exhorts,

***“If anyone has an ear to hear, let him hear what the Spirit is saying to the churches.”***

3. In this teaching, I seek to cover the following:
  - a. A brief overview of passages that contain this exhortation. This is not a teaching of each passage but a highlight of the following:
    - i. WHAT: The main issues that Jesus wants us to “give ear” and pay attention to.
    - ii. God's heart behind the repeated exhortation and thus why it is important to hear, especially in such a time as this.
    - iii. The response that is required, especially convictions that we need to establish based on God's Word concerning these issues.

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## B. Overview of the Passages

### 1. Eight Times in the Gospel

- a. The Parable of the Sower: The Call to hear and Cultivate the soil of our heart. Take heed what we hear and how we hear (3 times in Matt. 13:9; Mark 4:9; Luke 8:8).
- b. The Parable of the Wheat and Tares: The Call to Persevere in God's Refining and Perfecting Work in us (Matt. 13:43).
- c. The Pharisees Finding Fault: The True Nature of Defilement. The Call to pursue inward righteousness and not outward form or expression (Mark 7:16).
- d. Salt losing its saltiness: The Call to be Useful to God and Live out the Beatitudes (Luke 14:35).
- e. Lamp on the Lampstand or under the Basket? The Call to Shine and Steward well what God has entrusted to us (Mark 4:23).
- f. The Generation/Times of Elijah & John the Baptist: The Call to Walk in the Authority and Power of Elijah in a Lukewarm Generation (Matt. 11:15).

### 2. Eight times in the Book of Revelation

- a. The Seven Areas of Spiritual Maturity (Rev. 2:7, 11, 17, 29; 3:6, 13, 22)
  - i. Embracing first love for Jesus through all seasons;
  - ii. Remaining faithful and fearless even in persecution;
  - iii. Loving the Truth and Enduring sound doctrine;
  - iv. Perfecting holiness in the fear of God;
  - v. Being Real, Deep and Authentic, rooted in God's Word;
  - vi. Perseverance in obedience and loving Jesus and not denying Him even if it costs us;
  - vii. Being zealous for Jesus, living with a fiery spirit and passion for Jesus with a single-minded devotion.
- b. The call to develop understanding regarding the person of the Antichrist (Rev. 13:9).

**C. Emphasis — What does God desire and call us to see?**

1. The issue of hearing is often related to the issue of our hearts and thus impacts our decisions and the course that we will take. Are we on track to reach the fullness of our destiny?
2. Our life journey is like a route map where Jesus emphasised 16 times to give ear because how we respond with regard to the issues He highlighted will affect our heart and us reaching the fullness of our inheritance in Christ.
3. God is zealous for our hearts and fullness. He desires us to:
  - a. Grow in maturity both at the heart level and also in partnership with Him.
  - b. Receive the blessings of more understanding and intimacy of His heart which He longs to give to those who *has ears to hear*.
  - c. Understand the consequences of not hearing and thus rend our hearts, repent, and return to Him.
4. May we reckon with the issues Jesus highlighted and cultivate conviction so that we can not only stand and shine but also help others to stand and shine in this decade of 2020s where things will not get better, but we can grow stronger, burn hotter, and shine brighter!