

# Those Who Have an Ear to Hear

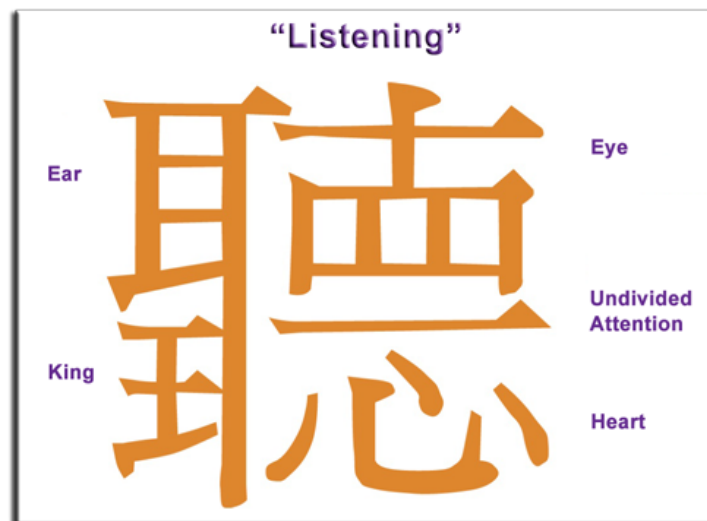
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God speaks! Not too many will argue with that statement. The first account of Dad speaking is in verse one of Genesis one... **“And God said...”** Throughout scripture we read of the accounts of God speaking to His people. In the Old Testament, He spoke through His prophets, priests, and kings. At times, He spoke through fire, wind, cloud, and rain. He even spoke through an animal. In the New Testament, He spoke through Jesus, the apostles, prophets and prophetesses, and through Holy Spirit. **The fact is God is always speaking!**

Even though we do not doubt that Dad is always speaking, we certainly doubt whether He is speaking to us. Just the other day, while I was driving the 85 mile route back to my house from my teaching job, I kept hearing one phrase over and over in my spirit. **“Let those with an ear hear. Let those with an ear hear what I Am saying.”** I meditated on this as I drove that day and Dad downloaded some amazing truth to me about His character. I shared this encounter with my ministry partner Kym and she replied by saying, **“LISTEN.”**

Beloved, as simple as it may sound, that is the very KEY that Holy Spirit was speaking to me. **“Let those who have an ear hear what I Am saying. Let those who will - LISTEN to what I Am saying.”** Dad is always speaking to us, always answering our questions, always pursuing us to inquire of Him, but we aren't always listening. All too often the noise of this world is drowning out His voice. We need to **“come away with Him”** (Mark 6:31 & Song of Solomon 2:10). We need to start listening!



I believe we can learn a great deal from the Chinese character for **“Listening”**. As you can see in the picture, it encompasses our ear, eye, undivided attention, heart, and the KING. We see that listening is much more than simply hearing something, even though we often think the two are synonymous. In order to really **“hear”** what God is speaking to us, every part of our being must be involved. We must **“incline our ears”** (Isaiah 55:3a) to hear His voice. We must set

our gaze upon Him with single vision (**Matthew 6:22**)... division = dual vision = double vision. ***“Pay attention! Listen to what I have to say; Pay attention, and hear my speech” (Isaiah 28:23 ISV).*** As we set ourselves to Listen, Dad must have our undivided attention and our whole heart. The last part of this Chinese character is the King. In **John 15:5**, Jesus says, ***“I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.”*** Apart from the King of kings, we will not hear Him, and we should not expect to.

Over the years, I have heard so many people give many explanations as to why they don't believe God is speaking to them. Most of these reasons (if not all) are in stark contrast to the character and nature of our Daddy God. This leads me to believe one of several things: first, people don't really know Him; second, they are angry at Him because of the circumstances of life; or third, they won't quiet themselves long enough to hear Him speak. Unfortunately, often it is all three of these things muffling and deadening our Father's voice in our lives.

**Psalm 46:10** says, ***“Be still, and know that I am God...”*** I once heard this verse like this..

***“Be still and know that I AM!”***

***“Be still and know...”***

***“Be still...”***

***“Be...”***

**Be** is the beginning of listening! Until we can **BE**, I do not believe we will hear Dad's voice with clarity. ***“For thus the Lord GOD, the Holy One of Israel, has said, “In repentance and rest you will be saved, in quietness and trust is your strength.” But you were not willing...” (Isaiah 30:15).*** Change your thinking and trust Dad! Learn to rest, to abide in Him and He will teach you how He speaks to you personally. ***“My sheep know My voice...” (John 10:27).***

I know we all have busy lives. We have family obligations, work obligation, church obligation, and so on; but there is one thing that is true for each and every one of us – we each have 24 hours in a day and we will spend our time, attention, and resources on that which is important to us. If you aren't hearing Him speak to you, perhaps you need to set aside some time to simply ***“BE”*** in His presence. It is worth the time!

There are times when Dad will draw us away to the wilderness. Oh, but we have a wrong perception of what the wilderness looks like and its purpose. ***“Therefore, behold, I will allure her, will bring her into the wilderness, and speak comfort to her. I will give her her vineyards from there, and the Valley of Achor (trouble) as a door of hope; She shall sing there, as in the days of her youth, as in the day when she came up from the land of Egypt” (Hosea 2:14-15).*** You see, Dad does not take us to a desolate place (*wilderness*) to leave us out there in silence. He allures us to the wilderness – wide open places – so that He can speak to us! It is in this place, with Him that He will give us vineyards; places of fruitfulness as we listen to His comforting voice. But, when we have the wrong idea of what He is doing, it automatically closes our eyes, ears, and hearts to hear Him, thus the wilderness is a lonely quiet place, where He isn't speaking to us.

Let's get His eyes and heart on this: ***“I will lead you beside still waters and give you rest in green pastures” (Psalm 23).*** This is the wilderness to our Father; an expanse of lush land; a

place where He can have you all to Himself, in quietness and peace, and speak to you! It is in this place where He restores us, strengthens us, and gives us direction and hope. He can't do that if we are unwilling to be where His is.

**Our Father is always speaking to you!** Are you hearing Him? Are you listening? I encourage you today to stop for a moment and simply **"Be"**. Quiet yourself in His presence and ask Him to speak to you. You may not always hear what you want to hear, but I promise if you are really seeking – really listening, you will hear His voice! What He has to say is what you need to hear, and it is always good!

***"Let those who have an ear hear what the Spirit is saying to you! LISTEN!"***