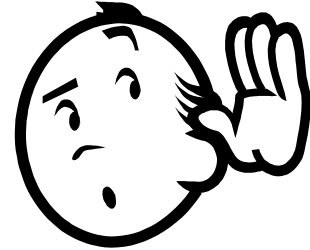


HEARING

It is one thing to hear, but it is another thing to understand. It one thing to see, but it is another thing to perceive. You may hear my words but you may not be listening enough to understand the meaning; you may see my actions, but you may not be watching closely enough to perceive my intentions.



Sometimes, I am so busy trying to prepare to say something or be heard, that I do not listen to the comments of others. Sometimes I am so concerned about how I look or what impression I am making that I do not observe others with sufficient detail. In both circumstances, I am missing-out because I am not using my senses to learn, to understand, and to respond properly. If my emotions are heightened, such opportunity is even less likely. Help me God to be silent and attentive, to listen and to understand, to see and perceive with accuracy and resolve.

What does it mean to perceive? How does the ability to perceive, or perception, occur? It means to use your senses to the maximum. These senses include sight, smell, hearing, touch, and vision; but, also the sense that comes through Jesus Christ – the spiritual sense. It is this last supernatural sense that will be the topic of the remainder of this letter...and maybe more letters.

In the Book of Isaiah, and in several New Testament books, the following scripture is presented: *Be ever hearing, but never understanding; be ever seeing, but never perceiving.* The scripture continues by indicating that such a condition occurs when our hearts become calloused; when we lose sensitivity to and love for other people enabled by God through Jesus. Continuing in the scripture, this condition will prevail as long as we remain convinced that we do not need God, that the absolute truth (the Bible) offered by God is not important or desired, and that the blessings of God are of no value and purpose in our destiny. This condition is to reject Christ as Savior and Lord.

To reject our Lord will mean a certain destiny of destruction and death; for without him, we have no hope, no faith, no love...nothing but flesh for this time. Paul wrote in 2 Timothy:

What you heard from me, keep as the pattern of sound teaching, with faith and love in Christ Jesus. Guard the good deposit that was entrusted to you—guard it with the help of the Holy Spirit who lives in you.

The Holy Spirit, our helper and intercessor, is the “spiritual sense” that allows us to hear, to learn, to embrace, and to be that which God has purposed for our lives. From his presence, we are able to understand and perceive.

In a **WORD**