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DULL OF HEARING

As a young child growing up in the 1950's I had every childhood disease that came along. There were mumps, measles, chickenpox, whooping cough, and chronic bronchitis. Every time that I had something it settled in my ears and it started a hearing loss. When I was in sixth grade, they put me closer to the front of the classroom because I had a hard time hearing.

Over the years I lived with this problem, but eventually I had to get help with hearing aids. What a difference it made for me. I had not realized how much I had missed. I was now hearing the birds again. I didn't know that my wall clock ticked, and I didn't have to ask everyone to repeat themselves. It literally changed my life. Anyone with a hearing loss can understand how this is, and those that never have had a hearing loss find it difficult to understand. You could say that if you haven't experienced it you wouldn't have a clue.

There is another kind of hearing loss that is worse than any physical hearing loss. It is when we become dull of hearing spiritually. Hebrews chapter 5 speaks about this. Paul was writing to Jewish believers that were in great need of correct teaching. Verse 11 speaking about Jesus as our high priest says, ***"Of whom we have many things to say, and hard to be uttered, seeing ye are dull of hearing."*** In other words, they weren't hearing what he was trying to tell them. Verse 12 goes on to say, ***"For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, (they had been taught the things of God for a long time) ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat."***

He admonishes them in verse 13, calling them babes, ***"unskillful in the word"***. As I write this, there are many that have been in church for years but are "spiritually" hard of hearing. They have heard the word of God taught but never acted on it. They always think it is for someone else. Also, there are those in leadership that don't teach anything that feeds the flock more than milk also. They, too, are "dull of hearing."

When I was in my 30's, and that is a long time ago, I was in a Bible study. It was a study of the book of James. Chapter 1:22-24 says, ***"But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like a man beholding his natural face in a glass (mirror): For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was."***

In other words, the mirror represents the Word of God. If we look into it and see ourselves for what we truly are but do nothing to change ourselves then we are a hearer only. This causes us to be dull of hearing from that moment on.

I realized in that Bible study that I was a hearer but not a doer. I made the choice to repent and do what the word said. What do you do if you are in that same position? Are you a hearer but not a doer? If this message alone has brought conviction, then read the word and when it convicts you of sin, repent. Then make the choice to do what the Word of God says. It speaks to us when we are listening. Selah