

Grace in Hearing

Introduction and Review

- ❑ **Grace in Speaking.** Prayer is a means of grace for personal communication with God.
- ❑ Prayer can be defined as **words** of grace spoken from **people** of grace to the **God** of grace at the **place** of grace (Heb. 4:16).
- ❑ The ability to communicate with other people is a gift of grace from God (Gen. 1:27). Words of grace accomplish the purposes of grace (Col. 4:6).
- ❑ Godly conversation is **words** of grace spoken by **people** of grace to other **people** in grace to accomplish the **purposes** of grace.
- ❑ Believers must take care to use gracious words from the heart when speaking to God and to other people (Mt. 12:36-37)!

I. Grace in Hearing from God (Mt. 11:15)

A. Grace gives the ability to hear spiritually

Physical or natural hearing alone does not provide spiritual understanding nor does it lead to obedience (Is. 6:9). Spiritual understanding must come from the Holy Spirit (1Co. 2:14). "He who has ears to hear" means that God has given the ability to understand spiritual truth.

B. Grace gives the ability to obey what is heard

People are often willing to listen to God, but not obey what is heard (Jas. 1:22; Heb. 3:15). The meaning of biblical hearing often includes obedience. "let him hear" means that God has given the ability to respond in obedience to what is heard – human responsibility. Temporary or partial obedience to what is heard is unacceptable (Mt. 13:3-9, 18-22). Only willing obedience from the heart is acceptable to God (Mt. 13:23).

APPL: How do you respond to what you hear from God – prayer, reading scriptures, bible study, sermons, counsel, etc.? Do you reject it immediately; accept it temporarily & emotionally; accept parts that are convenient; or are you willing to submit yourself to the will of God regardless of the personal sacrifice? The grace of God will give you the ability to hear & obey God from your heart!

II. Grace in Hearing from People (Jas. 1:19)

A. Grace gives the ability to hear from people

Physical or natural hearing alone is insufficient for understanding people in communication. The bible warns against hasty unwise speech (Pr. 18:13; Jn. 7:24, 51) – leads to outbursts of anger, hurtful words, etc. Grace enables a believer to demonstrate love & respect for people while listening to understand (Pr. 18:2; Rom. 14:1; Phil. 2:3-4; 1Co. 13:7).

B. Grace gives the ability to obey wise counsel

By the grace of God, the Holy Spirit enables a believer to determine when wise counsel is given to them (Pr. 12:5; 20:18). Grace also enables a believer to obey wise counsel even when it calls for radical changes in their life (Pr. 1:8; Mt. 18:15).

APPL: Are you prone to emotional outbursts of anger? James says that can never accomplish God's purposes (v. 20). Wise silence is an extremely effective & powerful means of contemplation & communication (1Pe. 3:1; Mt. 18:15; Mt. 27:11-14).

CONCLUSION

So then my beloved brothers & sisters in Christ, how well do you hear & obey God? Do you willingly hear from & obey God from the heart without reservation, procrastination & making excuses? Do you accept the fact that no one has better counsel than God – His word & the Holy Spirit? If you are struggling with hearing from & obeying God, then you will certainly struggle with hearing from & obeying the counsel of people! You will not be effective in listening to people if you are not effective in listening to God. Neither will you be willing to take godly counsel from people if you will not take counsel from God. We must all humble ourselves & becoming better listeners, better hearers; listening to **understand**; listening to **contemplate** & **take under consideration**; listening to **hear** the will of God; and listening to **do** the will of God. The grace of God enables us to do this!

And if you are not a Christian, you must also become a good listener. The grace of God will enable you to hear Jesus calling you to salvation. He's calling you to be free from the penalty & power of your sins; calling you to have a new heart, new life, new future & be a new creation. But you must believe in Jesus...

SUBJECT: [Grace in Hearing](#)

TEXT: [Matthew 11:15; James 1:19](#)

LOCATION: [Trinity Community Church](#)

DATE: [July 1, 2012](#)

OCASSION: [Sunday Morning Worship Svc](#)

SERMON INDEX NUMBER: [1001](#)

FILE LOCATION: [BX4](#)

[Prepared by Willie D. Woodmore](#)