

HEARING PROBLEMS

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Many folks develop serious hearing problems during sermons. These problems are not due to old age or physical disease. These hearing problems indicate a deeper problem within the soul.



HARD OF HEARING

This hearing problem afflicts those who have no interest in hearing what the Bible says. Jesus spoke of those whose “ears are hard of hearing” (Matthew 13:15). It is not that they *cannot* hear, but that they *do not want* to hear. This hearing problem is hard to detect because a person may appear to be interested, but in reality, is not listening to the truth. And if one is not willing to hear, he will not learn the truth nor obey it. This problem, left untreated, will lead to spiritual death.

PRETEND HEARING

“Pretend hearing” is when one looks very interested in what is being said and may even say that they love hearing a good sermon but is only pretending to hear and be interested. Such folks try to fool everyone around them into thinking they are very religious and enjoying listening to the truth preached. Most everyone will be fooled, except those who notice that these folks never really retain or apply what they “hear.” And of course, the Great Physician is not fooled, for He can detect the sad state of their hypocritical heart. Those who pretend to hear will end up as blind fools.

SELECTIVE HEARING

Some have the problem of “selective hearing,” that is, hearing only what they want to hear. If something is said in the sermon that upsets their sensitive ears, they will tune it out until the offensive preaching is past. They will pick and choose what to hear instead of listening to all of God’s word, which will instruct and correct us. Such hearing leads to a deficient, ineffective faith.

NO-APPLICATION HEARING

Some can hear the truth quite well, but that truth is never sent from the ears to the heart for application in daily living. There is no spiritual growth and no maturity. Sins are repeated over and over. Spiritual labor is lost in increasing apathy and ignorance. The common problem behind all these hearing problems is found in an ungodly heart (mind, spirit). If the heart of a person is not right, the hearing will not function properly.

HOW’S YOUR HEARING?

MATTHEW 11:15 - *He who has ears to hear, let him hear!*