



## Yielding To His Spirit

*How To Hear And Heed The Holy Spirit*

*Planted Christians Study #25*

*“Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God...”*  
*Romans 6:13*

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EVERY believer has at least one tremendous weapon in their Christian life.

The weapon of which I am referring to is not the Word of God, although the Word of God is without a doubt a crucial weapon for a believer. Every believer does not have a copy of God's inspired and preserved word in their language. There are thousands of people around the world that have yet to have God's Word translated into their native tongue.

While some Christians may go without their own copy of God's Word in their language, no Christian will go without the Holy Spirit's indwelling their life!

It is the Holy Spirit that enables every Christian to both do and be what God desires!

The Holy Spirit is what makes the impossible in us become the possible.

As powerful as the Holy Spirit is, there is one stipulation for a Christian to receive the benefits of the Holy Spirit. A Christian must YIELD to the Holy Spirit before he can be empowered by the Holy Spirit.

Without yielding to the Holy Spirit, a Christian limits His greatest strength. Failing to yield to the Holy Spirit can be likened to a driver possessing his license but ignoring every road sign and traffic light. He has the tools to drive but by his failure to yield to instruction he becomes a liability to himself and others.

We have already learned the doctrine of the Holy Spirit in the letter "H" of our planted Christian's study. For this reason, we will forgo many of the truths of the Holy Spirit and focus on the importance and power of yielding to the Holy Spirit.

We can only yield to Holy Spirit if we hear the Holy Spirit. A person that cannot or will not hear will never yield to the direction or request of another's voice.

## **I. Yielding Requires Us To Hear The Holy Spirit**

There are so many voices that are screaming for our attention. They all believe that they are worthy of our time and attention. Some of these voices believe that they know what is right and what is best for us. Some of the voices know they are promoting wickedness and lasciviousness, yet they promote it just the same.

It can be a bit confusing when we hear all of these voices at one time. We must learn how to become excellent hearers of the Holy Spirit.

This takes effort and determination, especially in the world in which we live, nevertheless it must be learned if we are to fully utilize our weapon of the indwelling Holy Spirit.

### **A. By Turning Off Competing Voices**

When learning to hear the Holy Spirit the first step that we must learn is to get rid of those voices that are trying to crowd out the Holy Spirit's Voice. The Holy Spirit works through a still small voice. The Holy Spirit is not a screamer he is a whisperer.

*1 Kings 19:9-13 And he came thither unto a cave, and lodged there; and, behold, the word of the LORD came to him, and he said unto him, What doest thou here, Elijah? And he said, I have been very jealous for the LORD God of hosts: for the children of Israel have forsaken thy covenant, thrown down thine altars, and slain thy prophets with the sword; and I, even I only, am left; and they seek my life, to take it away.*

*And he said, Go forth, and stand upon the mount before the LORD. And, behold, the LORD passed by, and a great and strong wind rent the mountains, and brake in pieces the rocks before the LORD; but the LORD was not in the wind: and after the wind an earthquake; but the LORD was not in the earthquake: And after the earthquake a fire; but the LORD was not in the fire: and after the fire a still small voice. And it was so, when Elijah heard it, that he wrapped his face in his mantle, and went out, and stood in the entering in of the cave. And, behold, there came a voice unto him, and said, What doest thou here, Elijah?*

Did you notice how the Lord came to Elijah. He could have come in the more demonstrative forms, yet He came in a still small voice. Often that is how the Holy Spirit of God communicates with us. For this reason we must learn to turn off competing voices.

#### **1. Turn Off The Voice Of The World**

*1 John 4:3-6 And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world. Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world. They are of the world: therefore speak they of the world, and the world heareth them. We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us. Hereby know we the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error.*

In These verses the Apostle Paul, under inspiration, encourages the disciples against the spirits that are seeking to confuse and hinder them. Other spirits are competing for their attention. In verse six Paul writes, "...know we the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error." We are to have a discernment of the spirits. We are then to turn off the voices of the world.

How are we to know which spirits are of the world and which spirit is the Holy Spirit? The answer is found in I John.

*I John 4:1 Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God:*

The command is given to try the spirits. That literally means to place them on trial. Try them to see if they line up with the truth of God's Word. Try them to see if they promote Jesus Christ or something else. The Holy Spirit complements Christ. The Holy Spirit NEVER competes with Christ!

*John 15:26 But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me:*

*John 16:13-14 Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come. He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you.*

The voices of the world speak of themselves and promote the world and its corrupt philosophy! These voices may be the voices of:

- popularity
- pleasure
- pride
- perversions
- power
- promiscuity

Know how to try them against God's Word, and when you find them TURN THEM OFF!

## 2. Turn Off The Voice Of Your Will

There is yet another voice that still needs to be silenced. It is the voice of your own will.

This voice does not speak from the outside. This voice speaks from the inside. This is the voice of the old sinful nature. This is the voice of the Adamic nature. This is the voice of the old man. He still lives within you. Even Paul wrestled with this man.

*Romans 7:21-24 I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me. For I delight in the law of God after the inward man: But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?*

While it is true that this nature will never leave us until we reach heaven, it is also true that we can learn to recognize this nature and turn him off!

*Romans 8:11-13 But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you. Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh. For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live.*

Did you notice the phrase, "mortify the deeds of the body." We can apply that verse to the silencing our sinful nature as it screams for its way. What our flesh has to say is not important. What the Spirit has to say is what is important!

After we have turned off the voices that are competing against the Holy Spirit, we must then learn how to turn into the Spirit's still small voice.

## B. By Tuning Into His Voice

Here are a few helpful ways to tune into His voice.

### 1. Be Attentive

I have had quite a few people tell me over the years that they just can't seem to hear the voice of the Holy Spirit. I have often replied kindly with the question, "Are you listening carefully for the Holy Spirit?"

How many times have parents given their children instruction and those instructions went unheard. It wasn't that the parents did not speak clearly. It wasn't that the parents did not speak loud enough. What happened? The children were not "paying attention." They heard blah, blah, blah, yada, yada, yada. The parents then respond, "Pay attention to me when I am talking to you."

Christian, pay attention the Holy Spirit is talking to you! We must learn to be attentive to the Holy Spirit. We must expect to hear Him daily. We must tune our ears to that still, small voice of God!

In Revelation chapters 2 and 3, we have seven letters that were written to seven churches in Asia Minor. All seven of these letters are different. Some contain strong warnings. Some are contain great reproofs. Some are complementary. With all of the differences, there is one similarity. All of them are commanded to be attentive to the Spirit! Here are the seven references and their warning.

*Rev 2:7 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith*  
*Rev 2:11 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith*  
*Rev 2:17 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith*  
*Rev 2:29 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith*  
*Rev 3:6 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith*  
*Rev 3:13 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith*  
*Rev 3:22 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith*

Now that is amazing. Seven times the Lord repeated himself word for word. Do you think He wanted us to grasp the idea? I sure do, and the idea is this. BE ATTENTIVE TO THE SPIRIT

### 2. Be Still

We hear the voice of the Holy Spirit best when we are still. I know that we can't be still all of the time. The Spirit can certainly speak to us while we are bust and moving, but there is something about just being still while being attentive that draws the Holy Spirit to lead us.

*Psalms 46:10 Be still, and know that I am God:*

*Psalms 4:4 Stand in awe, and sin not: commune with your own heart upon your bed, and be still.*

Christians ought to have a still time with the Lord every day.

### 3. Be Patient

Allow me to remind us all that God is not on our timetable. God does not speak just because we want Him to speak. The Spirit of God speaks to our hearts in His time.

This means that we often are waiting on the Lord. We do not wait because He is late. We wait because in His perfect knowledge. He knows the time is not right.

Many Christians get jumpy at this point and quit waiting on God's voice and begin doing things their way. David experienced this waiting on the Lord. He knew the frustration of waiting on The Spirits Voice.

*Psalms 13:1 How long wilt thou forget me, O LORD? for ever? how long wilt thou hide thy face from me?*

God did not forget David. God was not playing hide and seek. God was teaching David a valuable lesson by having him wait on His Spirit.

Isaiah 40 teaches us this same principle.

*Isaiah 40:29-31 He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength. Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall: But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.*

#### 4. Be in His Word

Here is a valuable lesson for every Christian to learn. The Holy Spirit speaks in conjunction with the Word of God. Let me put it this way. When the Word of God is spoken or read the Holy Spirit often magnifies it in our hearts and says:

“This is for you.”	“This Will Help”
“This is what you need.”	“Change this”
“Here is what you are to do”	“Learn this”

The Spirit's chosen method for communication is through the perfect Word of God! Therefore every time we are in the Word we are positioning ourselves to hear from the Holy Spirit!

When was the last time you were in position to hear from Him? Don't complain about not hearing from the Holy Spirit when you are not in God's Word!

Ephesians 6:17 calls the Bible the Sword of the Spirit.

*Ephesians 6:17 “...the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:”*

Hebrews 4:12 then teaches us what the power of that sword is.

*Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.*

When we put these two verse and two Bible truths together, we learn that the Bible is like a surgical instrument in the hands of the Holy Spirit. The surgeon is invaluable. The tool he uses is invaluable, but when they get together they can do miraculous things! The Word of God is a mighty tool when used by the Holy Spirit!

Every Christian should read their Bible daily and ask the Holy Spirit to use it to accomplish that which we need the most. Oh my how the Spirit longs to use the Word of God to shape us!

#### 5. Be In His Church

Just as the Spirit uses His Word to speak to us, He also uses the preached Word to speak to us. Consider this verse in Titus.

*Titus 1:3 “But hath in due times manifested his word through preaching...”*

Do you see the connection? The Holy Spirit speaks through the Word, and the Word is made known through preaching. Preaching is the megaphone of God's Word!

Get a steady diet of Bible preaching and you will have many golden opportunities for the Spirit of God to speak to you.

Every time you miss a preaching service you are missing a chance for the Spirit of God to speak to you! How many sessions with the Holy Spirit have you missed lately?

Once we have learned how to hear the Holy Spirit, we must then apply what we have heard. We must learn to heed his warnings.

## II. Yielding Requires Us To Heed The Holy Spirit

It is not enough to hear the Holy Spirit. We must heed the Holy Spirit. To hear the Spirit without heeding to the Spirit is to render the Spirit of God powerless.

*James 1:22 But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.*

*Hebrews 2:1 Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip.*

### A. Heed His Warnings

I want to draw your attention back to the seven churches in Revelation chapters two and three. We have made the point that they were all instructed to be attentive to the Spirit. Many of these seven churches were also warned of coming judgments if they did not heed these warnings. Here are two examples.

*Revelation 2:5 Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.*

*Revelation 2:16 Repent; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth.*

Do you see the importance of heeding the Holy Spirit's warnings? He is serious about the consequences of ignoring His warnings!

### B. Heed His Leading

Failure to heed the leading of the Spirit will result in us going in our own direction. The Spirit will always lead us in the path that we should go.

*Proverbs 4:11 I have taught thee in the way of wisdom; I have led thee in right paths.*

Our flesh will always lead us in a path of destruction.

*Proverbs 14:12 There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.*

When we choose to go our own way and do not heed his leading we have chosen to go down a path of destruction that we are bound to regret.

### C. Heed His Convicting

Failure to heed the convicting of the Holy Spirit can have devastating results. One of these results can be having our conscious become numb to the working of the Holy Spirit.

What a terrible thing to have happen! This numbness is possible when we continually fail to heed His convicting of sin in our lives.

*1 Timothy 4:1-2 Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron;*

D. Heed His teaching

Consider the simple Bible principle found in Luke 12:48.

*Luke 12:48 "...For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required: and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the more."*

Simply put, when God gives you something he holds you accountable for it. This is true with all that the Spirit has taught you. We would be wise to heed all that the Spirit has taught us. One day we will be accountable for all that we have learned at the hand of the Holy Spirit and God's Word.

*1 Timothy 4:16 Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them*

The full power of the Holy Spirit is made available to every believer through our YIELDING to Him. This yielding requires a hearing and a heeding. Will you receive all that God's Spirit has for you by yielding to Him?