**Have You Heard?**

**Do You Hear What I Hear? Part 1**

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**Overview Of the Series**

Christmas is very much about communication. Meaning that heaven has communicated with the earth and broadcasted good news, the Gospel! The arrival of Christ was communicated by angels to various people including Mary, the Shepherd’s, Joseph, Anna and Simeon the prophet. In fact, through prophetic function the entire nation would have known that the arrival of the Messiah was at hand.

The question is, however, who said what and who heard what? The famous song of old indicates, “Angels we have heard on high…”.

The good news needs to be heard because God is speaking.

It is inevitable. If you spend time in God’s vicinity you are going to hear from Him.

# **Central Truth**

Have you heard the Good News? The foundational basis of the Christian faith is that it is a two-way dialogue with God, speaking and listening.

# **Main Passage**

**Jesus Presented at the Temple**

**Luke 2:22-38**

**22**Now when the days of her purification according to the law of Moses were completed, they brought Him to Jerusalem to present *Him* to the Lord **23**(as it is written in the law of the Lord, “Every male who opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord”), **24**and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the law of the Lord, “A pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.” **25**And behold, there was a man in Jerusalem whose name *was* Simeon, and this man *was* just and devout, waiting for the Consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him.

**26**And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Christ. **27**So he came by the Spirit into the temple. And when the parents brought in the Child Jesus, to do for Him according to the custom of the law, **28**he took Him up in his arms and blessed God and said: **29**“Lord, now You are letting Your servant depart in peace, According to Your word; **30**For my eyes have seen Your salvation **31**Which You have prepared before the face of all peoples, **32**A light to *bring* revelation to the Gentiles, And the glory of Your people Israel.” **33** And Joseph and His mother marveled at those things which were spoken of Him.

**34**Then Simeon blessed them, and said to Mary His mother, “Behold, this *Child* is destined for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign which will be spoken against **35**(yes, a sword will pierce through your own soul also), that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed.” **36**Now there was one, Anna, a prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age and had lived with a husband seven years from her virginity; **37**and this woman *was* a widow of about eighty-four years, who did not depart from the temple, but served *God* with fastings and prayers night and day. **38**And coming in that instant she gave thanks to the Lord and spoke of Him to all those who looked for redemption in Jerusalem.

**Observations From the Passage**

The Bible states that the Lord does nothing without first notifying His prophets. Both Simeon and Anna testify about Christ Jesus, the baby child, who He is, and what He shall accomplish in Israel and in the world. The Bible communicates that everything must be established by the mouth of two or three witnesses. So, what did these two prophets hear?

**Anna:**

* Served the Lord, day and night in fasting and prayer
* Broke out into praise and thanksgiving when she recognized the Christ
* Spoke.

**Simeon:**

* Lived in prayerful expectancy
* Was a good man
* Was just
* Was devout
* Wanted to see the help and the redemption of the nation of Israel
* Wanted to see the salvation of God for his country
* The Holy Spirit was upon him and revealed to him that he would not die before he saw the Lord’s Christ
* He was led by the Word of the Lord into the temple on the very day that Jesus was being presented
* He spoke by the Spirit of God.

**Main Points**

1. Those that hear from God experience His consolation

1. The Lord our peace
2. “Now I can die in peace”
* Comfort
* Peace of heart
* Jesus is the Prince of Peace
* The God all of peace
* The peace of God guards our hearts.
1. **Consolation G3874 (****Thayer****)**
* paraklēsis
* Thayer definition:
* A calling near, summons, (especially for help)
* Impartation, supplication, entreaty
* Exhortation, admonition, encouragement
* Consolation, comfort, solace; that which affords comfort or refreshment
* Thus, of the Messianic salvation (so the Rabbis call the Messiah the Consoler, the Comforter)
* Persuasive discourse, stirring address
* Instructive, admonitory, conciliatory, powerful hortatory discourse.
1. Fear also comes from hearing – the enemy loves to intimidate us and threaten us by causing us to hear things that will derail us in our faith
* Intimidation of the enemy
* Doubt and unbelief set in.
1. Those that hear from God receive His revelation
2. The Lord our illumination
3. *By revelation we mean the insight into God’s promises and handiwork. Even as the Bible says that Moses “knew His ways”, it is the understanding and knowledge of the inner workings of the Almighty.*
4. They receive the secret of the Lord
* They are in the know - people that are close to God know things
* They are sensitive to the voice of God
* As much as it was broadcast it was kept quiet.
1. Revelation is understanding – Do you hear what I’m saying?
* Revelation is light
* The eyes of your understanding being enlightened.

**Romans 10:17**

So, then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

1. Hearing is a way that God reveals who He is and what He will accomplish. Consider:
* First, we hear, then we see what we heard
* The prophets of old - some are seers, and some are hearers.
1. Those that hear from God will do the works and exploits of God.
2. Those that hear from God OBTAIN His **salvation**
3. The Lord our defender
4. They recognize the work of God both corporately and individually. They see the hand of God at work, His incredible plan and His relentless love for humanity and for the salvation of their souls.
5. This is the salvation that comes from the Messiah and the prophets testify of the Messianic blessings and promises.
6. **Salvation** meaning:
* Strong’s concordance: defense and/or defender
* Deliverance
* Rescue
* Eternal life.
1. **Salvation: G4992 (****Thayer****)**
* Thayer Definition:
* Saving, bringing salvation
* He who embodies this salvation, or through whom God is about to achieve it
* The hope of (future) salvation
* Part of Speech: adjective.

# **Quotes**

*“The anthem of the Christianity faith is for freedom”.*

*“Hearing is believing”.*

*“Salvation is a Person and not just an event”.*

*“It is inevitable, if you spend time in God’s vicinity you are going to hear from Him”.*

**Group Questions & Discussion**

1. Describe what is the peace of God, with God, and from God.
2. How have you seen and experienced the salvation of God in your life beyond being born again?
3. Give an example of how you have heard the Word of the Lord in your life. What impact did it have? What did you accomplish and how did faith grow in your heart?
4. How has God been your defense and defender?
5. Define the following words: just and devout.
6. What is meant by the statement, “The thoughts of many will be reveled”?
7. What is meant by the statement, “A sign that will be spoken against”?
8. Why should we pray that God would guard our hearing?