

Improve Your Hearing

Thrive – Part 3

Luke 8:4-15

January 17, 2010

God Speaks to People Primarily Through...

1. **The Holy Spirit**. John 14:26 (NKJV)
2. **Gifted Teachers**. Ephesians 4:11-12 (NKJV), 1 Corinthians 2:13 (NLT)
3. **Godly Friends and Family**. Proverbs 12:26 (NLT)
4. **Pain**. Psalms 119:71 (NLT)
5. **The Bible**. 2 Timothy 3:16-17 (NLT)

Whether You Hear God or Not Will Depend On Your Heart Condition.

1. A HARD HEART: NO RECEPTION SO THE WORD IS STOLEN.

"A sower went out to sow his seed. And as he sowed, some fell by the wayside; and it was trampled down, and the birds of the air devoured it." Luke 8:5 (NKJV)

"Those by the wayside are the ones who hear; then the devil comes and takes away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved." Luke 8:12 (NKJV)

"Today, if you will hear His voice, do not harden your hearts." Hebrews 4:7b (NKJV)

2. A SHALLOW HEART: NO ROOT SO THE WORD IS STARVED.

"Some fell on rock; and as soon as it sprang up, it withered away because it lacked moisture." Luke 8:6 (NKJV)

"But the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, who believe for a while and in time of temptation fall away." Luke 8:13 (NKJV)

3. A CROWDED HEART: NO ROOM SO THE WORD IS STRANGLER.

"And some fell among thorns, and the thorns sprang up with it and choked it." Luke 8:7 (NKJV)

"Now the ones that fell among thorns are those who, when they have heard, go out and are choked with cares, riches, and pleasures of life, and bring no fruit to maturity." Luke 8:14 (NKJV)

- **Worries can weaken our ability to hear God.**

- **Wealth can weaken our ability to hear God.**

- **Wants can weaken our ability to hear God.**

4. A SURRENDERED HEART: NO RESISTANCE SO THE WORD IS SUCCESSFUL.

"'But others fell on good ground, sprang up, and yielded a crop a hundredfold.' When He had said these things He cried, 'He who has ears to hear, let him hear!'" Luke 8:8 (NKJV)

"But the ones that fell on the good ground are those who, having heard the word with a noble and good heart, keep it and bear fruit with patience." Luke 8:15 (NKJV)