

# Planting the Word: Recognizing God's Voice

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January 20 & 21, 2001

*The Lord God has given me the tongue of the learned, that I should know how to speak a word in season to him who is weary. He awakens me morning by morning, He awakens my ear to hear as the learned. The Lord God has opened my ears; and I was not rebellious, nor did I turn away.*

— Isaiah 50:4-5

## FOUR ATTITUDES THAT EFFECT OUR HEARING

*Main Text:* Matthew 13:3-9; 18-23



### 1. The Unresponsive Mind is the Roadside.

#### a. Reasons for an unresponsive mind.

- Pride — “I don’t need God.”
- Fear — “I’m afraid of God.”
- Bitterness — “I’m mad at God.”
- Fixed Traditions — “I ignore God.”

#### b. Characteristics of the Unresponsive Mind

- Thoughts are captivated by rejection, fear, doubts, and insecurity.
- The inability to concentrate when the Word of God is publicly or privately read.
- The inability to memorize Scripture.

### c. Strategy for Overcoming the Unresponsive Mind

- Enliven the mind through large quantities of truth.
- Discern the strongholds of the mind and then commit to renew your thinking process.
- Learn to memorize and meditate upon Scripture.

### 2. The Weak Will is the Stony Ground.

#### a. Reasons for an unresponsive will.

- Inordinate amount of distractions from the media.
- Improper parental training.
- An incomplete presentation of the Gospel.

#### b. Characteristics of the Unresponsive Will

- Circumstances dictate actions instead of a strong determination.
- Emotions dictate actions instead of prior decisions.
- Strong personalities dictate actions instead of settled convictions.
- An inability to make decisions or initiate actions.
- A tendency to leave tasks unfinished.

#### c. Strategy for Overcoming the Unresponsive Will

- Break passivity by activating the will.
- Exercise the will by making decisions.
- Stop allowing circumstances to dictate your direction.
- Determine to resist the devil.
- Strengthen your will by knowing God’s will.

### 3. A Divided Heart is the Thorny Ground.

#### a. Reasons for a divided heart.

- A worldly value system.
- An overemphasis on temporal things.
- Living in a materialistic world.

#### b. Characteristics of the Divided Heart

- Over-preoccupation with the cares of this life robs true worship of God.
- Will not initiate great things for God because they are fixated on natural obstacles.
- Unwilling to surrender their riches and comfort zones for a cross.

#### c. Strategy for Overcoming the Divided Heart

- Focus on eternal pleasures over momentary joys.
- Make room for spiritual growth by removing unnecessary activities.
- Realize the shortness of life.
- Realize that only true, full devotion to God satisfies the human heart.

### 4. The Responsive Heart is the Good Soil.

#### a. Reasons for a responsive heart.

- Good preaching/church.
- Godly parents and influences.
- True conversion.

#### b. Characteristics of the Responsive Heart

- It allows for the dealings of God.
- It aggressively seeks to hear and then obey the Word.
- It produces good fruit.
- It hides the Word within the heart.

- It meditates on the Word day and night.

#### c. Benefits of the Responsive Heart

- An overflowing spiritual life.
- The ability to have a strong and healthy body.
- Deliverance from evil.

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