

Nehemiah (God is Faithful)

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Nehemiah 2:1-4

1 In the month of Nisan, in the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes, when wine was before him, I took up the wine and gave it to the king. Now I had not been sad in his presence.

2 And the king said to me, "Why is your face sad, seeing you are not sick? This is nothing but sadness of the heart." Then I was very much afraid. 3 I said to the king, "Let the king live forever! Why should not my face be sad, when the city, the place of my fathers' graves, lies in ruins, and its gates have been destroyed by fire?" 4 Then the king said to me, "What are you requesting?" So I prayed to the God of heaven.

- In verses 8 and 11 Nehemiah makes the claim that his prayer is confirmed by God.

James 1:5-8

5 If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. 6 But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. 7 For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; 8 he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

James 4:8 Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

- **How do I know God is speaking to me?**

Everyone was created to hear God. It's not just the religious elite or spiritual experts. As Christians it is our right as His sons and daughters to know His voice.

John 10:27 *My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.*

Every person is created uniquely and therefore can receive information from God differently.

1 Peter 4:10 *As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: Cf. 1 Corinthians 12*

The majority of what is heard in a verbal exchange between people is not through the actual words spoken, but through tone and body language. We are not just hearers, but also seers, feelers, perceivers, and much more.

Three Dimensions of the Receptors:

1. External – Spiritual information revealed through the natural realm such as creation and the physical world around us.
2. Internal – Spiritual information revealed through our internal realm as in our inner man, including our mind, will, and emotions.
3. Mystical – Spiritual information revealed to our physical senses for the heavenly realm, including tangible experiences with the spirit realm, spiritual beings, etc.

God is speaking more than you think to you.

2 Timothy 2:13 *if we are faithless, he remains faithful—for he cannot deny himself.*

Discipleship Homework:

Spend time in prayer this week. But instead of just talking, **wait and listen for God to speak.**

Questions to ask if whether we are hearing God, our thoughts, or the enemy:

- Does the voice contradict God's Word? Cf. 1 Thessalonians 5:21
- Are the promptings confusing or vague? Cf. 1 Corinthians 14:33
- Does it lead to sin? Cf. Galatians 5:24-25
- Bonus, seek godly counsel from a Christian friend, family member, or pastor. Cf. Proverbs 15:22; Hebrews 13:17