

## HEARING, TRUSTING, AND OBEYING JESUS

“Therefore I speak to them in parables; because while seeing they do not see, and while hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand. In their case the prophecy of Isaiah is being fulfilled, which says,

‘YOU WILL KEEP ON HEARING BUT WILL NOT UNDERSTAND. YOU WILL KEEP ON SEEING, BUT WILL NOT PERCEIVE; FOR THE HEART OF THIS PEOPLE HAS BECOME DULL, WITH THEIR EARS THEY SCARCELY HEAR, AND THEY HAVE CLOSED THEIR EYES, OTHERWISE THEY WOULD SEE WITH THEIR EYES, HEAR WITH THEIR EARS, AND UNDERSTAND WITH THEIR HEART AND RETURN, AND I WOULD HEAL THEM.’

But blessed are your eyes, because they see; and your ears, because they hear” (Matthew 13:13-16 NASB).

- 1 Seeing the fruitlessness in so many churches, we have to ask, “Have our hearts become dull, and are we no longer hearing the voice of God?” Pray that the church will awaken from her slumber and respond obediently to the words of Jesus (Matthew 13:13-14).
- 2 The Hebrews saw the power of God as He delivered them from the Egyptians, yet they failed to trust their God (Deuteronomy 1:32). In remembering all that God has done for the church, pray that we will never lose our trust in Him as the One who delivers us from evil.
- 3 Knowing that eternal destruction awaits “those who do not know God” and “who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus” (2 Thessalonians 1:8-9), pray that every person in your neighborhood will repent, place his or her faith in Jesus, and be saved.
- 4 Our churches and our nation desperately need a healing touch from the hand of God. Pray that we will understand our need for revival and will return to the kind of attentive love relationship with Jesus that pleases the Father (Matthew 13:15).
- 5 King Asa “did good and right in the sight of the LORD his God” and led Judah to put their trust in God when attacked by Ethiopia (2 Chronicles 14:2-11). Please pray that God will place godly leaders over us who will walk in righteousness and manifest this same kind of faith in God.
- 6 Knowing our need for spiritual awakening, pray that more and more people will be “chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, by the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to obey Jesus Christ and be sprinkled with His blood” (1 Peter 1:1-2).
- 7 In longing for another great spiritual awakening, pray that the heart soil of those who are lost will be fertile and receptive to the word of the gospel. Pray that Satan will be bound from snatching away the word that has been sown on their hearts (Mark 4:15).
- 8 When an enemy rose up against them and the people of Judah feared for their lives, King Jehoshaphat exhorted God’s children to put their trust in God (2 Chronicles 20:20). Regardless of the persecution that may come on Christians, pray that we will continue to seek God’s will and follow after Him with confident trust.
- 9 Please pray that the members of your church family will no longer obey the lusts of their mortal bodies, but will present their lives to God as instruments of righteousness (Romans 6:12-13).
- 10 On one occasion when His mother and brothers came to visit Him, Jesus told His disciples that His real mother and brothers were those who heard and obeyed the word of God (Luke 8:21). Pray that your church family will be authentic in listening to Jesus and obeying His commands.
- 11 Pray that we will learn how to wait for the Lord, the One who is our help and our shield (Psalm 33:20). Pray that we will also rejoice in Him and trust in His holy name (Psalm 33:21).
- 12 Please pray for the people in your community to understand that “he who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him” (John 3:36).

- 13** Not being able to see where the wind comes from or where it is going, at least one can hear its movement. Jesus taught, “So is everyone who is born of the Spirit” (John 3:8). Pray that the Spirit will move powerfully through your community, drawing the lost to put their faith in Christ and His saving work.
- 14** Pray that the members of your church family will “trust in the LORD and do good” by delighting in His presence and committing their ways to Him (Psalm 37:3-5).
- 15** While under persecution from the religious leaders, Peter and the apostles said, “We must obey God rather than men” (Acts 5:29). Pray that Christians today will be just as committed to obeying Jesus, even in the midst of attacks from family, friends, or authorities.
- 16** Those who walk under the influences of the devil have trouble hearing the words of Jesus (John 8:43-44). Pray that everyone in your community whose ears are muted to the truth of the gospel will be set free from Satan’s deafening lies and vain philosophies.
- 17** Pray that your Christian friends will trust in God at all times and pour out their hearts before Him, since He is a refuge to those who believe in Him (Psalm 62:8).
- 18** Knowing our need for the fullness of the Holy Spirit, pray that your Christian friends will understand the importance of Peter’s words when he said the Holy Spirit is the One “whom God has given to those who obey Him” (Acts 5:32).
- 19** Jesus said that His sheep hear His voice and follow Him (John 10:3, 27). Pray that the members of your church family will be quick to hear and obey both the voice of the Spirit (John 16:13) and the written words of God (John 14:24).
- 20** Please pray that believers will encourage each other to never place their trust in mortal man, but in the One from whom our salvation comes (Psalm 146:3).
- 21** Pray for those around you who may be “selfishly ambitious and do not obey the truth,” knowing that “wrath and indignation” will be headed their way (Romans 2:8).
- 22** Pray that church leaders will not harden their hearts and continually test God when it comes to hearing His commands and faithfully following Him (Psalm 95:7-9).
- 23** Just as Paul trusted God when he faced the kind of insurmountable trials that made him fear for his life, pray that we too will “not trust in ourselves, but in God who raises the dead” (2 Corinthians 1:8-9).
- 24** Knowing that God sometimes relents of the chastening we deserve because of our rebellion, pray that today’s church will amend its ways and its deeds, turning from sin to obey the voice of the Lord (Jeremiah 26:13).
- 25** Jesus taught, “Blessed are those who hear the word of God and observe it” (Luke 11:28). Pray that today’s church will not be a people who constantly hear God’s Word but never apply it to their daily lives.
- 26** Please pray that your Christian friends will trust in the Lord and prosper instead of foolishly trusting in their own hearts (Proverbs 28:25-26).
- 27** Remedial judgment often fell on the Hebrews because they would not “obey the voice of the LORD their God” (2 Kings 18:11-12). When God’s discipline comes our way, pray that we will repent and once again hear and obey His commands.
- 28** Jesus said, “The men of Nineveh will stand up with this generation at the judgment and condemn it, because they repented at the preaching of Jonah” (Luke 11:32). Pray that our generation will be one that truly repents when the Word of God is preached.
- 29** Knowing that “he who trusts in his riches will fall” (Proverbs 11:28), pray that your church family and friends will put their trust in Christ alone for salvation and the grace needed for daily living.
- 30** Knowing historically that God blessed His children when they obeyed His commands, pray that the blessing of His manifest presence will once again be known throughout the church as we repent of our sins and obey His holy commands (Deuteronomy 6:1-3).