

Be 'In the Spirit' Every Day in the New Year (2013)

by Zac Poonen

To hear God's voice, we must keep ourselves in the Spirit every day, being sensitive to sin and walking in humility before God.

Scripture: Acts 20:7, 1 Corinthians 16:2, Colossians 2:16-17, Colossians 3:2, Revelation 1:10

Topics: "Hearing God's Voice", "Being in the Spirit"

Description

Zac Poonen emphasizes the importance of being 'in the Spirit' daily, particularly as we enter a new year. He explains that the early disciples gathered on the Lord's Day to strengthen one another, free from the constraints of special days, and that being in the Spirit allows us to hear God's voice amidst the distractions of the world. Poonen likens our minds to a radio, suggesting that tuning into spiritual matters enables us to receive divine messages, while tuning into worldly concerns leads to confusion and anxiety. He challenges believers to remain sensitive to sin and humble before God to fully experience His guidance and communication. As we embark on a new year, he encourages everyone to cultivate a spirit-filled life to hear the Lord's voice clearly.

Transcript

John received a revelation on the Lord's Day (Rev 1:10). The first day of the week was called "the Lord's day" because that was the day that Jesus rose from the dead, having conquered sin, Satan, death and the grave. The early disciples met together on the first day of every week, to build one another up and to break bread (Acts 20:7; 1 Cor.16:2). They had no special days in the year. They had no "Good Friday" or "Easter" or "Christmas". They had been freed from keeping days and seasons etc. for they had come under the new covenant (Col.2:16,17).

John was "in the Spirit" and that was why he heard the voice of the Lord. We can hear that voice too - if we are in the Spirit. It all depends on where our mind is set. If our mind is set on the things of earth, then the voices that we hear will be concerning earthly things.

We know, for example, that there are many voices in the radio-waves in the air around us. The voice that we pick up will depend on the frequency that our radio-set is tuned to. You can hear God's Word over radio or you can hear Satan's rock-music over it. The choice is yours.

It is just the same with our mind. If we are in the Spirit - that is if we are filled with the Spirit and our mind is set on the things that are above (Col.3:2) - we will be able to hear the Lord's voice.

But there are other voices in the air that are clamouring for our attention too. There are voices that would like to tell you how to make more money, how to get your share of the family property, how to settle scores with that person who cheated you, and how to defend yourself against those who are spreading false stories about you, etc., etc. Satan's radio stations are broadcasting lies, bitternesses and anxieties etc., 24 hours of every day. All you have to do is tune in, and you can pick up what you like!!

When believers complain that God doesn't speak to them, it is not because God does not speak. He is speaking all the time. But their minds are tuned in to this world and its interests. I am convinced that there is much that the Spirit has spoken in the past that was meant for us, but which we never "picked up", because we were not in the Spirit.

You can sit in a meeting of the church and hear absolutely nothing that the Spirit is saying, even though you may understand everything that the preacher said. Someone sitting next to you who is "in the Spirit" may, however, hear the Lord's voice just like John did.

John heard the Lord's voice so clearly that he says it was as loud as a trumpet! That's how loudly God speaks! But those who are deaf won't hear even the blast of a trumpet.

Let me exhort and challenge every one of you to keep yourself in the Spirit every day - especially in these the last days of this age. Keep yourself sensitive to sin and walk in humility before the face of God, so that your ears can be open to hear what the Lord has to say to you.

Wish you a very happy New Year.

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