

Radiant Church, September 6, 2015
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Gospel Rhythm #7: Listen
John 15:26-16:15

John 10:1-5 Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door but climbs in by another way, that man is a thief and a robber. But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. To him the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers.

His sheep follow because they know the Lord's voice...they listen for it.
The sheep do not follow other voices

Everyone is listening all the time. But who are we listening to?
Are we paying attention to what we're hearing? Truth, or lies?

What is the loudest voice in your life?

Is it your own?

Proverbs 10:16 *when words are many, transgression is not lacking, but whoever restrains his lips is prudent.*

LISTENING, as an intentional rhythm

We set aside regular times to listen to God both backward and forward.
Jesus listened to God in prayer to know his Father's will. We are also called to listen to God.

We listen backward by regularly interacting with God through His Word alone and in community together.

We listen forward by making space to hear his Spirit guiding and directing us.

We also take time to listen well to one another, ensuring we know one another's stories so we might know how to care for and bless one another best, and because God often speaks to us through other people

Listening Backward

Creation:

Romans 1:19-20 for what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. For His invisible attributes, namely, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that He has made. So they are without excuse.

Scripture:

Hebrews 1:1-3 *Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days He has spoken to us by His Son, whom He appointed the heir of all things, through whom also He created the world. He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of His nature, and He upholds the universe by the word of His power.*

“Prophets” references the OT
“the Son” references the NT

Listening Forward

Prayer:

Mark 1:35-37 *and rising very early in the morning, while it was still dark, He departed and went out to a desolate place, and there He prayed.*

Prayer is as much about listening as it is about talking
We often start talking to God when we are in trouble, or have a need
But...the open door for us to prayer is confession...acknowledging our own sin
Confession is not appeasement - it does not mean we're off the hook
Confession does not make things easier for us
Confession does not make God look the other way
Confession does not absolve us of our responsibility
Confession prepares us for a conversation with God and acceptance
of His forgiveness, His terms, His sovereignty

In/by/through the Spirit:

John 14:15-17 *if you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be with you.*

John 15:26-27 *but when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, He will bear witness about me. And you also will bear witness, because you have been with Me from the beginning.*

The Spirit “bears witness” - reminds us of the gospel
So we can also bear witness to the gospel
The apostles had been with Jesus
The Spirit is “Jesus with us”

John 16:1-3 *I have said all these things to you to keep you from falling away. They will put you out of the synagogues. Indeed, the hour is coming when whoever kills you will think he is offering service to God. And they will do these things because they have not known the Father, nor me.*

Threat of “falling away” - circumstances more truth than gospel
Reality of persecution...primarily by the hands of religious people

John 16:4-7 but I have said these things to you, that when their hour comes you may remember that I told them to you. I did not say these things to you from the beginning, because I was with you. But now I am going to Him who sent me, and none of you asks me, “Where are you going?” But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart. Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send Him to you.

Jesus says that having the Spirit is the advantage...even over Himself
The Spirit can be everywhere all at the same time
God’s plan for full New Covenant power is through the Spirit

John 16:8-11 and when He comes, He will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: concerning sin, because they do not believe me; concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer; concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.

The Spirit convicts of sin, bringing some to repentance in Jesus
The Spirit reminds us that Jesus is on the Throne of Heaven
The Spirit gives us hope through the victory of Jesus

John 16:12-13 I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak, and He will declare to you the things that are to come.

The Spirit teaches us through the authority of Jesus

John 16:14-15 He will glorify me, for He will take what is mine and declare it to you. All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that He will take what is mine and declare it to you.

The act of “declaring” truth is God’s alone. The Spirit is God too!
The Spirit glorifies Jesus and the Father
The Spirit makes real in us our riches in Christ

Opening your ears to God is an act of love. Opening your ears to other people is also an act of love.