



Christian Faith Fellowship

- We are not a perfect church

-We are not a perfect people

**-We are here because we know we need
God's help and He has provided this help
through Jesus Christ our Lord!**

**CFF exists to Know Christ and to make Him
Known!**

- **Did you spend 5 minutes a day at least 5 days last week reading the Bible?**
- **Did you pray about "WHO" for salvation Sunday Sept 25?**
- **Did you share a God story with a non-believer this week?**
- **Did you spend some time alone with God this week?**
- **Are you hearing what the Holy Spirit is saying to you?**

- Last week we began looking at One of the biggest issues Christians seem to bring up regularly to me:
“I don’t hear God talking to me”
- One of the first steps in our discipleship process NEEDS to be how to “hear/know God’s voice”
- A baby learns the voice of its mother in the womb - it’s one of the first things a baby knows!!
<http://www.parenting.com/article/what-babies-learn-in-the-womb>
- Shouldn’t one of the 1st things we know is God’s voice?

Matthew 13 (Parable of the Sower)

3 Listen! A farmer went out to plant some seeds. 4 As he scattered them across his field, some seeds fell on a footpath, and the birds came and ate them. 5 Other seeds fell on shallow soil with underlying rock. The seeds sprouted quickly because the soil was shallow. 6 But the plants soon wilted under the hot sun, and since they didn't have deep roots, they died. 7 Other seeds fell among thorns that grew up and choked out the tender plants. 8 Still other seeds fell on fertile soil,

and they produced a crop that was thirty, sixty, and even a hundred times as much as had been planted! 9
Anyone with ears to hear should listen and understand.”

- There is a call for any to hear what Jesus is teaching!
- Listen to Jesus interpretation of the parable of the sower...
- His teaching is based on “Levels of hearing”!

Matthew 13

18 “Now listen to the explanation of the parable about the farmer planting seeds: 19 The seed that fell on the footpath represents those who hear the message about the Kingdom and don’t understand it. Then the evil one comes and snatches away the seed that was planted in their hearts. 20 The seed on the rocky soil represents those who hear the message and immediately receive it with joy. 21 But since they don’t have deep roots, they don’t last long. They fall

away as soon as they have problems or are persecuted for believing God's word. 22 The seed that fell among the thorns represents those who hear God's word, but all too quickly the message is crowded out by the worries of this life and the lure of wealth, so no fruit is produced. 23 The seed that fell on good soil represents those who truly hear and understand God's word and produce a harvest of thirty, sixty, or even a hundred times as much as had been planted!"

- *“those who truly hear & understand”*
- There is an expectation of those who “hear with understanding” & the expectation of those who hear is that they produce!!
- The hearer is actively living the faith!! There is an obedience factor to what is heard!
- The parable is a witness to the selective hearing that many have!
- We hear to a point!

Philippians 1:1 Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus, To all God's holy people in Christ Jesus at Philippi, together with the overseers and deacons:

- Notice who is being addressed “to all...”

Philippians 1:9-11 And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God.

2 Timothy 4:1-4 1 I solemnly urge you in the presence of God and Christ Jesus, who will someday judge the living and the dead when he comes to set up his Kingdom: 2 Preach the word of God. Be prepared, whether the time is favorable or not. Patiently correct, rebuke, and encourage your people with good teaching. 3 For a time is coming when people will no longer listen to sound and wholesome teaching. They will follow their own desires and will look for teachers who will tell them whatever their itching ears want to hear. 4 They will reject the truth and chase after myths.

- The Christian community today by and large look for teachers giving a favorable message!
- We don't want to hear what God has to say about what we want to do!
- We will simply leave the church and find the one that fits our lifestyle!
- It's a lot easier to find another church to attend than to deal with the issues we have in our life!
- What does God have to say about the way you're living?

- God's word addresses many of today's issues: racism, sex outside of the covenant of marriage, same sex relationships, divorce, respect of political officials, care of the poor, etc. BUT we don't want to hear what we don't want to hear!

Matthew 13: 16 “But blessed are your eyes, because they see; and your ears, because they hear. 17 I tell you the truth, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see, but they didn't see it. And they longed to hear what you hear, but they didn't hear it

Action Steps – Life Application

- Is there an area of your life you're not willing to hear about?
- When you read the Bible are there times a specific idea or item stands out? (This is God's voice or prompting to you).
- Is your ability to hear/listen increasing or decreasing?
- God is speaking – Do you hear Him?