May 5, 2014

This morning our family and the whole country of Japan were awaken by an earthquake a little after 5 a.m. We have experienced earthquakes here before but this was the first time one actually woke our family up out of sleep. The quake only lasted seconds and then the earth was still again and everyone proceeded with their day.

Little did I know that when I continued my reading in the book of Luke this morning that the Holy Spirit would have three profound Words to share with us. So like any leading of the Holy Spirit, I will be obedient and share what the Lord is saying to us today. Children of God TAKE HEED! Children that have not made a decision to serve Jesus Christ, LISTEN!!

A Word from Our Lord

“Why do you call Me, Lord, Lord, and do not [practice] what I tell you? For everyone who comes to Me and listens to My words [in order to heed their teaching] and does them, I will show you what he is like: He is like a man building a house, who dug and went down deep and laid a foundation upon the rock; and when a flood arose, the torrent broke against that house and could not shake or move it, because it had been securely built or founded on a rock. But he who merely hears and does not practice doing My words is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation, against which the torrent burst, and immediately it collapsed and fell, and the breaking and ruin of that house was great.” Luke 6:46-49 AMP
“Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

Luke 12:40

Listening Defined

To **listen** according to Dictionary.com means to give attention with the ear; attend closely for the purpose of hearing; give ear and to pay attention; heed; obey. So a person who listens to the Word of God is one who does so with the intent to understand and obey what the Lord is saying. A person who listens seeks for understanding through meditating on the Word of God and praying to God that what has been heard will be downloaded into our hearts.

Right after the earthquake the Word that immediately came to my heart was found in Philippians 4:6-7, “Don’t worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. If you do this, you will experience God’s peace, which is far more wonderful than the human mind can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.” Those who listen and practice obeying the Word of God will have peace in the midst of any storm. God’s desire is for His children to listen to His Words because only His Words can give peace and calm in the midst of any storm.

Hearing Defined

Now hearing means to perceive by the ear, to learn by the ear or by being told; be informed of; to listen to; give or pay attention to. The one main characteristic that listening has over hearing is obedience. Anyone can hear the same Words but only those who listen will build according to the standards of Christ through obedience. The Words of the Lord are promises that you can stand on. His Words are true and a sure foundation.
The Difference between Hearing and Listening

“Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

Luke 12:40

This quake caught us off guard. It came while many were still sleeping. We are truly living in the last days and we want to make sure that we take heed because the Lord can come back at any time and He wants us to be ready. God does not give us the spirit of fear but of faith. Those who walk by faith stand on the promises of God through faith and believe what He says is TRUE. If you are reading this take heed to what the Lord is telling us in this hour. Several times the Holy Spirit reminded me to include this next scripture. So in closing let’s LISTEN to what the Spirit is saying to His church.

“You should also know this, Timothy, that in the last days there will be very difficult times. For people will love only themselves and their money. They will be boastful and proud, scoffing at God, disobedient to their parents, and ungrateful. They will consider nothing sacred. They will be unloving and unforgiving; they will slander others and have no self-control; they will be cruel and have no interest in what is good. They will betray their friends, be reckless, be puffed up with pride, and love pleasure rather than God. They will act as if they are religious, but they will reject the power that could make them godly. You must stay away from people like that. They are the kind who work their way into people’s homes and win the confidence of vulnerable women who are burdened with the guilt of sin and controlled by many desires. Such women are forever following new teachings, but they never understand the truth. And these teachers fight the truth just as Jannes and Jambres fought against Moses. Their minds are depraved, and their faith is counterfeit. But they won’t get away with this for long. Someday everyone will recognize what fools they are, just as happened with Jannes and Jambres.”

2 Timothy 3:1-9 NLT
The Difference between Hearing and Listening

“Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

Luke 12:40

"Now, learn a lesson from the fig tree. When its buds become tender and its leaves begin to sprout, you know without being told that summer is near. Just so, when you see the events I've described beginning to happen, you can be sure that His return is very near, right at the door." (Read also Mark Chapter 13). “I assure you, this generation will not pass from the scene until all these events have taken place. Heaven and earth will disappear, but my words will remain forever. "However, no one knows the day or hour when these things will happen, not even the angels in heaven or the Son himself. Only the Father knows. And since you don’t know when they will happen, stay alert and keep watch. "The coming of the Son of Man can be compared with that of a man who left home to go on a trip. He gave each of his employees instructions about the work they were to do, and he told the gatekeeper to watch for his return. So keep a sharp lookout! For you do not know when the homeowner will return – at evening, midnight, early dawn, or late daybreak. Don’t let him find you sleeping when he arrives without warning. What I say to you I say to everyone: Watch for his return!” Mathew 13:28-37 NLT

"...Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. But go and learn what this means: "I desire mercy and not sacrifice.' For I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance.” Mark 9:12-13

For those who are listening to this Word from God and do not know Him as your personal Savior and King then take this time and repent from your sins by changing your mind and course of action and confess Jesus Christ as Lord and be baptized in His precious name Jesus Christ and you will be saved.
The Difference between Hearing and Listening

“Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

Luke 12:40

“Peter said to them, “Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.” Acts 2:38 NAS.

"He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned." Mark 16:16 NAS

“That if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.” Romans 10:9-10 NAS

The Holy Spirit is given to guide us into all truth. It is very important to surround yourself with believers and begin studying the Word of God and seeking the Lord for understanding through His grace. For a video on a Complete teaching on Salvation and How to Receive It by Derick Prince, please visit ElightenmentSeries.org and click the tab Frequently Asked Questions. Included is a PDF copy of the teaching below the video.

I can attest that there is no other way of life than a life in Jesus Christ for He is the Way, the Truth and the Life. My life is secure as long as I stay secure in Him and it is my desire and my prayer that it becomes yours. Be Blessed!!!

Stay tuned for the second Word.

Inspired by the Holy Spirit and written by Michele Bryant.