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"PERCEPTIONS"

by Carol Gordon

“‘If any man has ears to hear, let him be listening and let him perceive and comprehend.’ And He said to them, ‘Be careful what you are hearing. The measure [of thought and study] you give [to the truth you hear] will be the measure [of virtue and knowledge] that comes back to you - and more [besides] will be given to you who hear.’” (Mark 4:23-24 AMP)

Communication is one of the biggest challenges in relationships. Words are a vital part of communicating with one another. We were created as “speaking spirits” (literal translation of “living soul” in Gen. 2:7), which sets us apart from all other creatures. We both speak, producing sound, and hear, receiving sound. Our world is so full of noise it is often hard to distinguish the varied sounds coming to us. We can even be unaware of how sound, positive or negative, impacts our life.

Have you tried to identify what you are really listening to? It is said that we all have a conversation with our self going on in our heads. Are we aware of our own thoughts? Some people are uncomfortable unless they are hearing a TV, radio, music, or other mechanical input, or more recently, calling or texting someone. None of this is real communication. Eye to eye, voice to ear, and especially heart to heart connections, are essential.

To intentionally and purposefully listen to someone is to give them great honor. No one enjoys being ignored or misunderstood. So many of us listen with ten percent of our attention on the speaker and ninety percent on our own response. THIS IS NOT LISTENING. We are dishonoring the one speaking to us. And we do this continually to our nearest and dearest. Most people pay much more attention to their boss’s words than their spouse’s. How often do we only half listen to our children when they are trying to tell us something of great significance to them?

We all have a deep desire to be heard, to be valued enough to be listened to and understood. We get this from our Heavenly Father, Who has the same desire. He has the answer to our every question and yet we usually fail to spend the time to tune in to Him. There are many ways to access His Word, in the Bible itself, by recorded preaching and teaching, on TV, and in anointed books. These are helps we should use. Most importantly, He wants us to hear Him directly as we build a close relationship with Him.

We have to practice hearing the Lord, and we have to practice hearing each other. Notice this interesting structure of the word “heart”: **HEAR > EAR > ART > HEART**. All of these are built into the word HEART. We have to HEAR with the EAR of our HEART and it is an ART we are responsible to develop. No one can do your listening for you. No one but you can bless the One, or one, attempting to share from their heart to you. It is a great gift to give your undivided attention to someone. It is a blessing to their heart and very affirming to

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them when you can indicate you comprehend what they are sharing with you! Practice! Practice! Practice!

We also have to work at articulating what is in our heart and mind clearly. I often find I start talking before I have organized what I wanted to say. I can start saying what I am thinking about without letting my hearer in on the subject. My granddaughter, Faithe, and I both have to work on this and we often laugh at ourselves for doing it yet again!

We have to have clear thoughts to communicate well. Are we really thinking things out? What is the source of the information on which we found our belief system? Our upbringing? Our experiences? What we were taught in school? In Sunday School? By our peers? Proverbs 22:17 tells us to incline our ear to wisdom and apply our hearts to understand what the Lord has for us. We must work at developing skill in seeking the wisdom the Lord has promised to provide for us.

Most of us think that the way we see things is how they really are. Life provides many experiences that teach us we were totally wrong. Failure to understand that there are many ways to look at a given scenario will hamper our success. Most of our perceptions are incomplete and need other views or information to give us a complete picture. The Lord is the only One Who has the whole view of anything. This is why He must be our counselor and guide.

This is a good thing to remember when we are trying to state our position. We are apt to be seeing from a partial comprehension of what the whole situation is. Therefore, we should humbly present how we see something and be open to learn more. We can articulate our perceptions well, but our attitude is what will make our ideas and opinions welcome and not resisted. When we communicate our feelings, however valid our feelings are, they are apt to change as new information comes. Feelings often change when we hear ourselves express them in a humble way.

The Body of Christ is responsible to show the Kingdom of Heaven to the Earth. To do this, we get to represent Jesus in our homes and work. For His presence to predominate, we have to change the way we see and respond to people and circumstances. We cannot help what comes our way, but we are totally responsible for what we say and do in it.

Our perception of "how life works" is termed our "world-view". We all operate from a world-view of one kind or another. We may not have consciously chosen how we see life, but just assumed some things to be true and others not. We often learn new things that change this viewpoint. One of the challenges of becoming a Christian is that we enter a process of changing our traditional way of seeing life to seeing from our Father's view. We have to fight our own comfort zone to do it. It is a very pro-active position. However, if we say we love Jesus, but don't love Him enough to obey His direction to renew our minds, we really don't love Him as we think we do!

Walking with the Lord will change the way we PERCEIVE everything and THE WAY WE COMMUNICATE. Embrace this!!

(All Scripture references are from the New King James Version unless otherwise noted)



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NEWS AND NOTES FOR APRIL

Dear Partners and Friends:

Spring! Spring! Bright sunshine and warm days - sometime! Blooming plants and trees! I had a lovely trip Resurrection Weekend to celebrate Katherine's birthday. I was able to attend EMPOWER21 at ORU in Tulsa. Our latest big news is that Karen was chosen as The Oklahoma Special Education Teacher of the Year! We are so thrilled for this honor, she has taught the deaf for thirty years.

We had a grand celebration on April 6 of TWENTY YEARS of Tuesday evening meetings at Faith Fellowship Church. Sixty-five people enjoyed a meal and great fellowship Pastor B.J. Willhite, founder and director of National Call to Prayer, came from Fort Worth, Texas to share. My senior advisory board all attended and spoke blessings. Pastor Gail and Pastor John Youell closed the meeting.

There is a lot going on in OKC in the 'Prayer Department'. We are so excited to be involved. October 1 and 2, Heart Menders will host a **PRAYER EXPLOSION**, with Brother Willhite, Dr. Larry Lea, and other prayer leaders. Dr. Lea is coming to OKC for teaching on Prayer, throughout the year. We expect a mighty move of the Lord in this area, through this and other prayer efforts.

I have begun offering "**MARRIAGE COACHING**" classes. Please cover this in prayer. I spoke at a local church recently with great success. We can sense that our momentum is increasing and the Lord is sending just the right people for us to partner with and minister to.

My March guests on HeartMenders.tv were Danny Daniels and Brian Hill. We changed the live broadcasts to Tuesday. This is helping our schedule, and relieving Steve, who has a new job. Pray for Faithe as she learns the Tech Support job for the Broadcast. We had one week of technical difficulties and another where we had a cancellation at the last moment. Hope you are tuning in each week to see what is new. Be patient as we make adjustments. We have been streaming live for a year now! It is so much fun and I am meeting such wonderful people!

THE PRAYER MOVE ACROSS THE WORLD IS GROWING! CHALLENGES ABOUND. DO YOUR PART! KEEP YOUR FOCUS ON THE LORD AND NOT ON THE CIRCUMSTANCES. COVER YOUR FAMILY AND THE BODY OF CHRIST! Pray for A GREAT AWAKENING TO GOD and for His people to RESPOND to Him. Again I invite you to join any of our prayer teams: for HM Prayer Requests, HM Support Team, and Media Outreach. Be active in a prayer group where you live, or online. Always include your home church and Heart Menders, as well.

Thank you again to our financial partners. Your gifts of \$5 to \$10, \$20 to \$30, or \$50 or larger, are urgently needed to help us share the message of healing for the broken hearted and restoration of families.

Please keep praying, "LORD, HELP CAROL FULFILL YOUR CALL ON HER LIFE!"

Your sister in Him,

Carol Gordon

JOIN A HEART MENDERS PRAYER TEAM:

- Prayer Requests for Needs for Healing
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- Prayer for the Radio Ministry

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