

WE HAD OUR EARS PIERCED

There is a difference between serving the Lord and being a bond servant of the Lord. If we are just serving the Lord out of duty, it can be hard work. We may be dealing with some very unlovely people, and there may be so many things that have got to get done, but we just don't have the time to do all of them, and we can get stressed out.

But serving the Lord is supposed to be fun, Jesus said my yoke is easy and my burden is light. We are to be co-laborers with God, working with him and not for him. There needs to be a flow of the Spirit in what we are doing, where the life of God is being manifested in us.

A bond servant has the first love gate in their spirit open and flowing. A bond servant serves the lord with joy, and because of this love relationship, the revelation gate in their spirit is open and flowing. This makes serving the Lord exciting, because when the revelation gate in our spirit is open and flowing we are receiving the thoughts of God, and his thinking always puts a smile on our face.

When we become a bondservant of the lord, we become more sensitive to hear the voice of the Lord, because we have had our ears pierced.

Deuteronomy 15:12–18. If your kinsman, a Hebrew man or woman, is sold to you, than he shall serve you six years, but in the seventh year you shall set him free. And when you set him free, you shall not send him away empty-handed. You shall furnish him liberally from your flock and from your threshing floor and from your wine vat; you shall give to him as the Lord your God has blessed you. And you shall remember that you were a slave in Egypt, and the Lord your God redeemed you; therefore I command you this today. And it shall come about if he says to you, 'I will not go out from you,' because he loves

you and your household, since he fares well with you; then you shall take an awl and pierce it through his ear into the door, and he shall be your servant forever. And also you shall do likewise to your maidservant. It shall not seem hard to you when you set him free, for he has given you six years with double service of a hired man; so the Lord your God will bless you in whatever you do.”

The Hebrews did not have slavery among themselves, but it was possible for a kinsman, a Hebrew who was in debt to become a contracted servant. However, he could only serve six years, and then the seventh year he was to go free.

This was God’s way of saying that after six thousand years of human bondage would come the glorious liberty of the sons of God and the time when the entire universe would be set free from the futility to which it had been made subject.

In this passage we see a beautiful truth: here is a man who has served six years. When the time comes to set him free, he is given plenty of grain and plenty of wine; so he won’t be sent away empty-handed. And he says, “But I don’t want to go.”

“But you’re a free man; you don’t need to serve another day of your life.”

“I know, but you’re my only family. I love you very much, I love your household. I want to stay and be a servant.”

So the master brings him over to the doorpost and takes an awl (which is something like an ice pick), and in the place where the ears are normally pierced, he rams it through his ear right into the doorpost. There he is, pinned to the door. When that man is released, he has

become a love slave, and from that time on he serves in his master's house.

Now what does all of this mean? It is one of the greatest truths that we'll ever learn: the ear is made for hearing, and the way to hearing is through becoming a love slave. It is the love slaves who will hear the Master's voice, and no one else.

Perception is irrevocably linked with dedication. When a person becomes a dedicated love slave, when they find that their ear is pierced, then God begins to speak to them. They do not hear many strange voices and strange things. They are not moved by many masters, but their very love has made their heart single to one master, and therefore their ear is now sensitive to hear what God has to say to them.

The relationship of a bondservant (a love slave) and the revelation and perception we receive are linked so closely together that it is almost impossible for us to separate them. Those who are not willing to do the will of the Lord with all their heart are at best curiosity seekers. They want to hear a new thing.

In John 12, when the Lord spoke, "This is my beloved Son; hear Him," the multitude who stood by said, it thundered. But a few who were ready to follow Him in discipleship—heard the Father's words clearly. They were of the order of the pierced ears. Those who have made the decision to be a love slave to the Lord the rest of their lives. To them the ear is pierced, and they come to hear the voice of the Lord as no one else ever hears it.

Looking to the Scriptures we cannot see that there is any way we can separate dedication and perception. John 7:17 tells us, "If any man will do His will, he shall know the teaching, whether it be of God." Oh,

blessed is he that hath ears to hear what the spirit saith to the churches (Revelation 2:7). They hear because of a humbling of the heart and a setting of the will to do the will of God. They enter into the relationship of a bondservant to the Lord Jesus Christ. And they will know the teaching, whether it be of God or man.

If we follow the Lord afar off, we will never learn to hear his voice. But the ones who will really hear His voice are the ones who press in to know Him. God said to Joshua after the death of Moses, "Now Moses My servant is dead. Arise therefore and go forth and lead the people" (Joshua 1:2). It was a bold command, but behind it was the fact that when God spoke to Moses, Joshua came, and Exodus 33:11 says that he departed not out of the tabernacle but abode there. He just couldn't leave it. He had to linger there. And also behind it was the fact that he dedicated himself to be the servant unto the man of God, Moses.

Wherever Moses went, Joshua served him. Because he became a servant, he was the one to hear the voice of God and to lead the people on after the days of Moses.

Elisha had this word spoken of him: "I am Elisha who poured water on the hands of Elijah" (II Kings 3:11). He was Elijah's body servant for some years. Where did it lead him? To a double portion of all the revelation and all the anointing that came.

When we learn how to serve, and not before, will we hear His voice clearly. To the extent that we become one of those with the pierced ears, with the awl rammed in the doorpost, and say, "I will not depart out of the House of God. I am hereby linked to it. I am a love slave of the Lord," we will come to hear the voice of the Lord .

The prophet has said, "Then shall we know, if we follow on to know the Lord" (Hosea 6:3). It is in that following with a whole heart

that we come to know Him. We come to know Him because we're following on to know Him. It is in our submission.

The message is a simple one, the ear that hears is the ear of the servant, the love slave, the pierced ear, the person who humbles themselves before the Lord. The word says, "Be still, be still, and know that I am God" (Psalm 46:10)?