

Faith Comes by Hearing -1

Rev. Michael J. Mattil using FCBH materials

Show video “**Every Tribe**”

You and I live in Easter victory and certainty. On this Fourth Sunday of Easter, we are continuing to celebrate that He is Risen, He is Risen Indeed! We have heard the message that Jesus Christ, God’s Son, came into the world to live a perfect life in our place and offer that life in payment for the sins of all people. You have heard and believed that He was crucified for you and raised again on the third day. You have heard and believed, so you have the confidence that because He lives, you will live also. But not everyone shares our conviction, our certainty, our hope. 1.7 Billion people in the world have not heard and have not believed. What can we do about that? What can YOU do about that? How can YOU help? That is what we will be considering today and next Sunday.

Romans 10:13-17 ¹³ For “whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.” ¹⁴ How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? ¹⁵ And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, Who bring glad tidings of good things!” ¹⁶ But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, “Lord, who has believed our report?” ¹⁷ So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. (NKJV)

We begin with a matter of literacy. In order for people to believe, they have to hear the message. And if you and I are going to share the message, we need to have it in us. That is why I am introducing the Faith Comes by Hearing program to you today. Here are some statistics from Hosanna Ministries, the ones behind this Faith Comes by Hearing program.

- Only 40% of Americans know that Jesus delivered the Sermon on the Mount.
- More than 50% of American teens believe that Jesus committed sins
- Fewer than half of American adults can name all four Gospels.
- 65% of adults who identified themselves as Bible readers have never read the entire New Testament.
- Only 54% of Protestant adults read the Bible each week.
- By the year 2010, an estimated 10% to 20% of Americans will obtain religious information exclusively or primarily through the Internet.
- 85% of American adults own at least one type of personal computer.
- Apple Computer Inc. has sold over 42.2 million iPods since introducing the product in October 2001.

- By 2009, total iPods sales in the U.S. are expected to top 65 million.
- 40% of people born between 1984 and 2002 own mobile music players such as iPods.

In my recent travels, I've noticed that people of all ages have headphones or earbuds and are listening to iPods or similar devices. They are everywhere and used constantly- in the airport, on the planes, on shuttles, in hotel lobbies and restaurants. People listen to their iPod or MP3 players in what would otherwise be "down time." On the other hand, how often have you heard or used the complaint or excuse that you simply don't have enough time to do everything you'd like to do? One of those things is spending time in God's Word on a daily basis, isn't it? Doesn't that get neglected? So why not use you iPod to remedy that? **If you could listen to the Bible everyday for 40 days – Would it IMPACT your life?** Of course it would – and here's the thing: **You've Got the Time!**

Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. Romans 10:17 (NKJV)

I'd like you to read that verse with me. I hope you will commit it to memory. It is a good reminder for all of us to listen to the Word. What better way to be built up in your faith than to fill yourself with God's Word! And to help each of you be filled with that Word, I am giving everyone present an audio Bible before you leave today. It is the entire New Testament on one CD in MP3 format. Some of you know what that is, others don't. MP3 files allow you to put a lot more audio on a CD, but they don't work in normal CD players. This might be confusing to some of you, so I've got a short clip that explain how you can listen to these files. **How to MP3**

You can go through the entire New Testament in 40 days by listening just 28 minutes each day! The average American spends almost that much time in the car each week. Or you could give up one television program and listen to the Bible for a half hour. Or how about when you are getting ready in the morning, or while you are eating lunch? **You've got the time.**

The video at the beginning of this message reminded us that many people have not heard the Good News of Jesus. The only way people will know about Jesus as their Savior is if they hear about Him. That can happen in a lot of different ways, but it has to happen. I've got one more clip to show you today that shows the impact listening to the Word can have upon lives. **You've Got the Time video clip**

The key is for you to listen! Listen to the word. Less than 30 minutes each day. I'm going to do it, and I invite you to join me. The effect on your life can be dramatic.

One more thing – you're wondering, **Why are they free?** They really are free. You can copy it onto your computer and then give it away to someone else if you want. The idea is to get the Word, God's Word, out to as many people as possible. **Next Sunday**, I'm going to share with you how each of you can help others, people of every tribe and language and nation, many who have never heard the message of Jesus as Savior...I will share how you can give them to opportunity to be a part of Faith Comes by Hearing as well.