



Sensitivity to the Lord

How can one become more sensitive to the Lord? One thing is true, we can all be more sensitive to the Lord than we currently are. It is to our benefit to be more sensitive to Him. Why? One of the reasons we miss God is we are more alert, soft and sensitive to other things other than Him.

A person set to have a sensitive heart toward God has to forego or set aside their own opinions, thoughts, emotions, and desires for God's as revealed in His written Word.

Developing a sensitive heart toward God is gradual and progressive. It is not instant, but rather takes time. We need to allow that process to play out.

It's a journey rather than a destination but there are certain tell-tale signs that reveal its development in our lives.

- 1) 2 Chronicles 34:27 because your heart was tender, and you humbled yourself before God when you heard His words against this place and against its inhabitants, and you humbled yourself before Me, and you tore your clothes and wept before Me, I also have heard you," says the LORD.

2) Proverbs 4:23 Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it *are* the issues of life.

A) One of the reasons for keeping, guarding and protecting our heart with all diligence is to allow it to be soft and sensitive to the Lord. A heart that is unkept, protected and guarded will only be a hard heart—unsoft and untender to the Lord and the things of the Spirit. Such as a person will miss God.

3) Ephesians 4:17-19 This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind, Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart: Who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.

This passage describes an example of a heart that is not sensitive to the Lord.

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| A) Walk as gentiles walk | F) Blindness of their heart |
| B) Vanity of their mind | G) Past feeling |
| C) Having the understanding darkened | H) Having given themselves over to lasciviousness |
| D) Alienated from the life of God | I) Work all uncleanness |
| E) Ignorance | J) Greediness |

Note: How we walk plays a part in whether our hearts will be sensitive—soft and tender toward the Lord. To the degree that our hearts are sensitive to the Lord is to the degree that we hear God better and are led by Him.

- 4) Psalm 37:3-5 Trust in the LORD, and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed. 4 **Delight thyself also in the LORD**; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart. 5 Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass.

A) The word **"Delight"** simply means to make pliable or soft toward the Lord.

B) 'Soft' speaks to being sensitive to the Lord. We receive better from the Lord when our hearts are soft toward Him.

1. Relationship with the Lord—Born again.

Romans 10:9 "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved."

a) **It all starts here.** If you have not committed your life to Jesus and accepted Him in your heart as your personal Lord and savior believing that He died on the cross for all our sins, you cannot have a heart that is sensitive to the Lord.

- i) And I will give them one heart [a **new heart**] and I will put a **new spirit** within them; and I will take the stony [unnaturally hardened] heart out of their flesh, and will give them a heart of flesh [sensitive and responsive to the touch of their God], That they may walk in My statutes and keep My ordinances, and do them. And they shall be My people, and I will be their God. (Ezekiel 11:19-20, AMP)

- ii) Ezekiel 36:26 A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh.
- b) We have all been separated by sin and until were born again, our spirit man is still dead and has no capability to have the sensitivity to the Lord that could last long or be consistent. Once we have a new spirit and new man (Ephesians 4:24), we have begun a journey to being sensitive to the Lord like never before.
- c) Our spiritual sensitivity flows out of our relationship with the Lord. No relationship with the Lord, no sensitivity to Him.

2. Word

One of the most profound and critical aspect that softens a person's heart toward the Lord is through exposure to the teaching of the truth of God's word.

- a) We need to be in the Word. This does not mean to be constantly in the Bible. We need to be at a place, position, or default where we constantly filter every voice and everything through the Word of God, looking and listening to and for His voice.
- b) God speaks to us more through His Word and as He speaks to us our sensitivity to Him increases.
 - i) Luke 24:32 And they said one to another, Did not our heart burn within us, while he talked with us by the way, and while he opened to us the scriptures?

- He (God) talks to us while He opens the scriptures (The Word). We need to be in the Word if we want Him to talk to us.

- ii) Psalms 119:104-105 Through thy precepts I get understanding: therefore I hate every false way. Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.

3. Prayer

- a) Prayer causes us to be focused on the Lord which in return increases our sensitivity to Him.
- b) One time I was praying about a specific direction from the Lord about a decision to rent a house, but I did not hear a thing in all the time of prayer, but the answer came after prayer and because I was not sensitive, tuned in, and listening to the Lord, when He spoke through my friend, I missed His voice.

4. Praying in tongues

Jude 1:20-21 But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost, Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.

- a) My experience while praying in the spirit is, I have gotten sensitivity to the Lord like never. We can grow in our sensitivity to the Lord through this.

5. Meditation

Meditating on the works of the Lord and His Word, it opens us to hearing the Lord and becoming sensitive to Him.

- a) Psalm 77:12 I will meditate also of all thy work, and talk of thy doings.
- b) Psalm 119:15 I will meditate in thy precepts, and have respect unto thy ways.

6. Fellowship with Him and practicing His presence

- a) Acts 13:2 As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them.
 - i) We fellowship with the Lord by ministering to Him.
- b) Every believer has relationship with the Lord, but having relationship is not synonymous to having fellowship with Him. **We need fellowship after relationship.** This involves talking to the Lord through the day and constantly listening in to Him.
 - i) This includes praising, giving thanks, and giving Him glory. This includes acknowledging (to know, inquire of Him, recognize, give ear to Him, let Him lead us, remember Him, and listen for His voice) Him in all we do and before we do.

- c) We will grow in sensitivity to the Lord as we yield and respond to His leadings even the slightest things.

7. Spend time with the Lord

- a) Mark 3:14 And he ordained twelve, that they should be with him, and that he might send them forth to preach,
 - i) Every relationship requires time. Time is a crucial investment to growing in our sensitivity to the Lord.

8. Be still

- a) Psalm 46:10 Be still, and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth.
 - i) There is a time for us to be still and slow down from too much activity. This allows us to hear from the Lord better and clearer.

9. Obedience to the Lord

This is big. Every act of disobedience to the Lord adds a layer of insensitivity to the Lord and hardens your heart toward Him gradually.

- a) James 4:8 Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse *your* hands, ye sinners; and purify *your* hearts, ye double minded.

- i) God has already drawn near to us spiritually but there is a soulish and physical drawing near on our part to experience another manifestation of His drawing near. If we draw near to Him, He will draw near to us as well.
- b) The increase of our spiritual sensitivity is connected to our obedience to the Lord, first in believing and in action.
- c) We need promptness in following the leading of the Lord at the first hearing of the Lord. When the Lord speaks to us, and we take a long time without following Him we gradually become insensitive to the Lord and His leading.

10. Living a godly life

- a) Hebrews 3:13 But exhort one another daily, while it is called Today; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.
 - i) Sin hardens our hearts to the Lord. If we want to be sensitive to the Lord, we need to live a separate and godly life.