

**Luke 8:16** “No one after lighting a lamp covers it with a jar or puts it under a bed, but puts it on a stand, so that those who enter may see the light.

**Luke 8:17** For nothing is hidden that will not be made manifest, nor is anything secret that will not be known and come to light.

**Luke 8:18** Take care then how you hear, for to the one who has, more will be given, and from the one who has not, even what he thinks that he has will be taken away.”

**Luke 8:19** Then his mother and his brothers came to him, but they could not reach him because of the crowd.

**Luke 8:20** And he was told, “Your mother and your brothers are standing outside, desiring to see you.”

**Luke 8:21** But he answered them, “My mother and my brothers are those who hear the word of God and do it.”

**Luke 8:22** One day he got into a boat with his disciples, and he said to them, “Let us go across to the other side of the lake.” So they set out,

**Luke 8:23** and as they sailed he fell asleep. And a windstorm came down on the lake, and they were filling with water and were in danger.

**Luke 8:24** And they went and woke him, saying, “Master, Master, we are perishing!” And he awoke and rebuked the wind and the raging waves, and they ceased, and there was a calm.

**Luke 8:25** He said to them, “Where is your faith?” And they were afraid, and they marveled, saying to one another, “Who then is this, that he commands even winds and water, and they obey him?”

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Lord Jesus is the light of the world (**John 8:12** ), when we follow Him, then we see the light and have the light of His life. Only in His light we can see Him as the light (**Psalms 36:9**) However, one individual light is not bright enough, neither hot enough, therefore there is a need of corporate light that is from the church. A church is a lampstand (**Rev. 1:20b** ) in a locality (city), it is also a testimony made manifest in that locality and should not be hidden. It will become the testimony of the Lord Jesus as light in that locality.

Also **the word of the Lord is the light of our path** ( **Psalms 119:105** ) which are “visions” to guide the direction of our whole life, and **also the lamp to guide every step** as (“revelations”) of our daily living to follow, enjoy, experience, gain and testify (live) Him. **We need to read, study, pursue and fellowship the word of the Lord diligently and rigorously.**

**John 8:12** Again **Jesus** spoke to them, saying, “**I am the light of the world**. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”

**Psalms 36:9** For with you is the fountain of life; **in your light do we see light**.

**Rev. 1:20b** and the **seven lampstands are the seven churches**.

**Psalms 119:105** **Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.**

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**What do we do with the word of God (symbolized by the lit lamp) that we hear? We can either cover it with a jar or put it under a bed, or we can put it on a stand so others may see the light.**

**We may hear the words of the Bible or the words spoken by the servants of the Lord, and even be impressed by them. We may even be eager to listen to such words. However, a good heart is not enough. We need to take care how we hear, and how we respond. For example, do we respond to the Lord by testifying or asking questions (lighting a lamp)? Otherwise, we will most probably forget what we heard, and even bury it (covering it with a jar or putting it under a bed). The more we respond, the more Lord will speak to us, and the more we will have. The less we respond, the less the Lord will speak to us, and the less we have. Such a hearing and response requires diligence and exercise. It does not come cheaply. For example, if we think that we can hear the Lord's speaking simply by attending one Lord's day meeting a week, for one hour, we may discover that even what we hear during that one hour will quickly disappear. The more we hear and the more we respond in writing, the more likely we will remember what the Lord spoke to us.**

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May the Lord bless us so that we have a pure and eager heart to follow the Lord, and then **let our ears to hear what the Spirit says to the churches (Rev. 2:7a )** and understand, so that **we may enjoy, gain, experience and testify (live out) the word of the Lord** and avoid keeping on hearing but not understanding (**Isa. 6:9** ).

It is mentioned in Matthew, chapter 25, that after our being saved, the Lord will grant us one talent as a gift (to Him an investment) to gain “interest” in the church life (bankers). If our hearing of the word of the Lord does not lead us to a timely and good understanding of His heart’s desire, we will not gain any “interest” for Him, thereby losing this gift during His 2<sup>nd</sup> coming (**Matt. 25:27-28**).

**Rev. 2:7a** He who has **an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.**

**Isa. 6:9** And he said, “Go, and say to this people: “**Keep on hearing, but do not understand**; keep on seeing, but do not perceive.’

**Matt. 25:27-28** Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. **So take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents.**

**Luke 8:19** Then his mother and his brothers came to him, but they could not reach him because of the crowd.

**Luke 8:20** And he was told, “Your mother and your brothers are standing outside, desiring to see you.”

**Luke 8:21** But he answered them, “**My mother and my brothers are those who hear the word of God and do it.**”

The Lord does not reject His physical relatives (**John 19:26-27**); His intention in **Luke 8:21** is to reveal that in order to have the life (eternal) relation with the Lord, one does not rely on the flesh and blood relation, but **on hearing and executing the word of the Lord.**

An excellent example is that after Jesus’ death and resurrection, the apostle John took care of Jesus’ mother Mary (**John 19:26-27**) for nearly more than 30 years, and then he went to Ephesus to serve together with Timothy.

**John 19:26** When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, **he said to his mother, “Woman, behold, your son!”**

**John 19:27** Then he said to the disciple, “**Behold, your mother!**” And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home.

“And he was told, “Your mother and your brothers are standing outside, desiring to see you.” But he answered them, “My mother and my brothers are those who hear the word of God and do it.”

### **Luke 8:20-21**

The Young People Team was reading these verses yesterday in Mark. We focused on the aspects of family, and what it means to be with the saints in a relationship that may even be closer than those of our families.

It is very admirable of Jesus to say that everyone who believes in God and who does His will is considered as a brother/mother. Some of the people He might not even know, but because they have one common thing, that is that they are able to hear the words of God, Jesus appraises them as people of His own family.

Family is extremely important for most of us. Can we consider the saints as close as the people that are related to us by blood? Can we love them and care for them as if they were of our own families?

**Luke 8:21** But he answered them, “My mother and my brothers are those who hear the word of God and do it.”

**This passage has sometimes been used to show that Jesus renounced His earthly ties with His mother and His brothers, and replaced them with the heavenly ties with the Father. On the contrary, instead of replacing the earthly relationship, Jesus brought the earthly relationship of parents and children into the heavenly realm.**

**Parents love their children and children love their parents with a love that normally takes precedence over all other loves. Parents will do anything that it takes to provide the best for their children and to elevate them. This is very normal and admirable. However, in the church life, such a demonstration of paternal "love" may weaken the love towards the saints, or the desire to preach the gospel, or the desire to pursue the Bible. Parents may be satisfied with thinking that if they love their children in such an absolute way, they are loving God. There is no blame to be attached here. Jesus, in verse 21, never negates parental or filial love, but brings it out of the tree of knowledge of good (loving and caring for parents) into the tree of life (hearing the word of God and responding to it). If, as parents, we really love our children, or if, as children, we really love our parents, we will first hear the word of God ourselves, and respond, and then we will preach the gospel to our family. This will cause us to love our family even more, not according to our natural love, but according to God.**

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**Luke 8:23** and as they sailed he fell asleep. And a windstorm came down on the lake, and they were filling with water and were in danger.

**Luke 8:24** And they went and woke him, saying, “Master, Master, we are perishing!” And he awoke and **rebuked the wind and the raging waves**, and they ceased, and there was a calm.

**Luke 8:25** He said to them, “**Where is your faith?**” And they were afraid, and they marveled, saying to one another, “Who then is this, that he commands even winds and water, and they obey him?”

The Lord Jesus rebuked His disciples, not for waking Him up but, but for their lack of “faith in His word”, because they did not **have faith in the power of His words: “Let us go across to the other side of the lake”**. Therefore, not only do we need to take heed to read, study, pursue and fellowship the word of the Lord, but we also need to gain “faith in His words and Him”.

The wind and waves have no personality or consciousness. The Lord rebuked the power in the air behind the windstorm and the raging waves (**Eph. 2:2**) and the evil spirits in the lake (**Luke 8:33**). **Luke 8:25 shows the power of the word of the Lord. Certainly Jesus has faith. How about us?**

**Eph. 6:12** For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, **against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.**

**Luke 8:33** Then **the demons** came out of the man and entered the pigs, and the herd rushed down the steep bank **into the lake** and drowned.

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**Luke 8:24** And they went and woke him, saying, “Master, Master, we are perishing!...”

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**Jesus had spoken to His disciples, telling them to cross over to the other side of the lake. When the storm arose, the disciples forgot what He had told them and immediately thought about their terrible predicament and how they could be saved.**

**We are no different. We may hear the Lord speak a word to us. For example, the Lord tells us to attach ourselves to a few other brothers and sisters, as a team, to pursue the Bible, or preach the gospel. We may have good intentions of responding to His word, and we may even begin to pursue the Bible with some saints, or attend a few conferences. However, if we are students, final exams may be approaching. Or we may be preparing for a big entrance exam to college. Or we may be looking for a job. We may be weighed down by the pressure of doing well on our exams, or sending out resumes. We remember all our problems and the pressure we are under, and we may even blame the Lord. It seems that the Lord is sleeping and does not care. We hardly remember the Lord's speaking to us to "go across to the other side of the lake." We are so much concerned for our own safety. Our faith is so small, not in the fact that the Lord can give us a job or good grades, but rather in bringing us to the other side, that is, to respond to His speaking.**