



## Daily Verse and Comment

### [John 5:25](#)

(25) I tell you the truth, a time is coming and has now come when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God and those who hear will live.

*New International Version*

Jesus Christ's declaration is interesting because the subject directly involves a resurrection, and it is also tied to a vital process that sets the elect apart. The key words in this verse are "hear" and "dead."

We need to add a thought from [Ephesians 2:1](#): "And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins." Before God's calling, even though we were physically alive, we were spiritually dead because of [sin](#). However, [John 5:25](#) says that the dead "hear" His voice. Similarly, those who are spiritually dead cannot "hear" God's Word until they are called, made part of the elect, and enabled by [God](#) to hear and thus understand His Word clearly.

Another important factor appears in [Hebrews 10:38](#): "The just shall live by [faith](#)." Also, [Ephesians 2:8](#) says that we are "saved by grace through faith." [Romans 10:17](#) adds, "Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." Finally, in [John 6:63](#), Jesus clinches the point: "The words that I speak to you, they are spirit and they are life."

This linkage of truths makes vitally clear the importance of the calling and election by God. His enabling of us to "hear" is what begins to sweep away the spiritual blindness that has kept us ignorant of the purpose He is working out here below. This miracle of hearing gives rise to truly effective faith. It makes God's Word truly logical and believable, making commitment in obedience to His purpose possible.

Yet, what if a person cannot "hear" what God is saying? None of these saving elements comes to pass in life because no faith is produced!

Jesus utters another awesome, humbling truth in [John 10:3-4](#), 6, 16:

"To him the doorkeeper opens, and the sheep hear his voice; and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. And when he brings out his own sheep, he goes before them; and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice." . . . Jesus used this illustration, but they did not understand the things which He spoke to them. . . . "And other sheep I have which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they will hear My voice; and there will be one flock and one shepherd."

He describes our calling and relationship with our Shepherd—Himself—in intimate and personal terms. "He calls them by name." He personally leads them out of their pen, a symbol of [the world](#) in which we are held captive, enslaved, and spiritually dead. Conversely, verse 6 plainly depicts the spiritual condition of the uncalled: They did not understand. God had not enabled them because He was not calling them to be a part of His purpose at that time. Thus, the miracle that opens our minds so we could "hear" was not performed on them.

[Romans 8:30](#) adds another startling truth: "Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and who He justified, these He also glorified." Only the called are justified! Justification through [repentance](#) and the atoning blood of [Jesus Christ](#) is what permits us into the presence of God, enabling further growth to glorification in God's Kingdom!

— John W. Ritenbaugh

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