

## WHY DO SO MANY CHURCHES SUFFER WITH AUDIO/SOUND ISSUES?

On the 1st Saturday in May of 2000, I attended a conference at a church in Bowling Green, KY. So many nuggets from that event have helped me to this day. I remember relaxing in my seat in the sanctuary as the calming mood music streamed softly in the background. As I fingered through my conference handouts, a gentleman walked to the microphone and said, "Good morning and welcome." As he spoke, the sound lifted me up in my seat. His voice resonated in and around me in such away that it transported me into an IMAX movie theater experience. But I thought this was a church?

So why do I still remember that experience over 2 decades later? Why was it so impactful? Could it be that we only expect to hear quality sound from a movie theater or an award winning musical artist? Shouldn't we expect quality sound when it comes to our worship of God? Doesn't our worship of the Almighty God of the universe - who gave us the BEST that He had (His only begotten son. *John 3:16*) - motivate us to give Him our best? I think we truly intend to worship him with all our heart, soul, mind and strength. (*Deuteronomy 6:5*) Perhaps it's about more than our sincere intentions. Maybe, just maybe there is a more sinister reason why sound issues are common place in so many churches.

Wouldn't you agree that faith is an essential element in our discipleship development? We're saved by grace through faith. (*Ephesians 2:8*) Without faith, it is impossible to please God. (*Hebrews 6:11*) We walk by faith. (*II Corinthians 5:7*) How do you extinguish the fiery darts of the evil one? With the shield of faith. (*Ephesians 6:16*) Hopefully, I don't need to quote the entire chapter of Hebrews 11.

Faith is essential to discipleship. But how do we obtain faith? The Bible tells us very clearly, "Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." (*Romans 10:17*) Read that 1st part again. Faith comes by hearing. Hearing? Merriam-Webster defines hearing this way: the process, function, or power of perceiving sound specifically: the special sense by which noises and tones are received as stimuli. Okay. So if an enemy was determined or had an assignment to steal, kill and destroy the development of disciples, what better way than to infect and disrupt the hearing process?



Feedback. Interference. Too loud. Not loud enough. Muffled sound. Improper equipment placement. Distortion. Operator error. Weak batteries. Poor equalization. Improper training. Poorly maintained equipment. Improper application. Do you want to add a few items to this ever-expanding mountain of HPDs? (**H**earing **P**rocess **D**isrupters) Perhaps these symptoms and so many others are open doors for the enemy to infiltrate the ranks and diminish, deteriorate, and destroy the faith of your congregation. He is shrewd. It's not a coincidence. It's a tactic. We as members of the faith community cannot forget that we are under attack!

And the struggle is real! I know this mountain seems insurmountable. But I read somewhere that if we have a little bit of faith [there's that word again], we can tell that mountain to move and it has to go. (*Matthew 17:20*) For the sake of disciple making, we have to fight. It's tempting to yield to the excuses. "That's what we have to put up with." "It costs too much to fix." "We used to have church

without a sound system.” “It doesn’t take all that.” But if God’s word is true, then I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. (*Philippians 4:13*) And if I don’t know how to get it done, I can ask for wisdom and he’ll hook me up. (*James 1:5*)

When your physical body exhibits symptoms of distress, you may try some home remedies. You might purchase an over-the-counter medication. But when the symptoms become intensely painful, debilitating, or life-threatening, you reach out to a trained, licensed healthcare professional. “Doc, give me something NOW!” Not another second or minute. Right now!! In the same fashion, is the health of your congregation’s faith approaching a similar state of crisis? Is it time to call in a trained professional and even get a second opinion? And when you receive a diagnosis, prescription, and treatment plan, follow the plan.

Perhaps God is directing us as he did the Israelites after 40 years in the wilderness. “You’ve been traveling around this mountain long enough. Head north.” (*Deuteronomy 2:3*) We simply cannot acquiesce. We can’t ignore the symptoms and hope they’ll magically resolve themselves or vanish into thin air. Pray for God to give you wisdom and guidance in this area. Please don’t allow the enemy to have free rein in your Media Ministry. Resist that rascal! The faith of your congregation hangs in the balance.

Lord, our members need their faith developed and not disrupted. We need a move of God.

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