

The Lowedown

An update on the life and ministry of Dave & Jennifer Lowe



A few weeks ago, I left the house for my daily run. I had my phone to track my route and also provide the tunes to keep me moving during the 6 mile trek.

As I was nearing the end of my run, I noticed I was not getting any sound out of my left earbud.

I tried pushing the earpiece harder into my ear, but that didn't work. I wondered if maybe the earphone jack was not in all the way. No, that wasn't the problem.

I jiggled the wire, thinking maybe there was a short. That didn't work either. I started thinking maybe these earbuds had reached the end of their lifespan and I was bummed at the thought of having to buy new ones. I've been told I'm cheap that way!

When I finally got home and inside, I thought I'd try one more

thing. Perhaps it was a software issue. I figured a reboot of my phone would solve it if that was the issue. But that didn't work either.

I had one more idea to determine if it was a problem with my phone or the earbuds. I decided to plug the earbuds

into my computer and listen to some music. If the earbuds still only gave sound out of only one ear, then I would know it's the earbuds and not the phone.

However, as I was getting ready to plug the earbuds into my computer, I looked more closely at the earpiece that wasn't producing sound and I quickly realized the issue. There, in the small opening where the sound was supposed to come out, was a small glob of ear wax that was fully covering the opening.

Yes, I know it's kind of gross, but we all produce the stuff, and to be honest, I really can't tell you the purpose. I just know that when I removed the small piece plugging the hole, I was suddenly able to hear perfectly again out of both earbuds.

I had a problem hearing and all of my initial thoughts were that it was a problem with something else - my phone, the earbuds, the jack, the wire, etc. The reality is that I was having issues hearing clearly because of me - something I produced and wasn't even aware of.

I think there's a spiritual illustration here. Often I'm wanting to hear from the Lord and He's not responding, at least not the way I

want. I wonder why He's not answering my prayers or responding clearly to my requests.

Sometimes, the reason I'm not hearing from God is because of me. Sometimes the Lord **IS** wanting to speak to me but my attitude, or my heart blocks my spirit from hearing the Lord.

I've found that there are often several reasons why I'm not hearing from the Lord.

One reason I sometimes don't hear from God is because of unconfessed sin in my heart. Psalm 66:18 says *"If I had not confessed the sin in my heart, my Lord would not have listened."*

Sometimes, I'm not even fully aware of my own sin, such as unresolved conflict or anger. This is why it's so important to invite the Lord to examine our hearts and reveal to us any areas in our lives and hearts that may be keeping us from experiencing His presence (See Psalm 139:23, 24).

A second reason I may not be hearing from the Lord is distractions. Sometimes Jen will be telling me something important but my focus is on something else, like my computer screen or the TV. I find that when I'm not fully engaged in what she's saying I often have to ask her to repeat what she's just said.

I often do the same thing with the Lord. I read my Bible but my mind is thinking about something else. I'm spending time in prayer but distracted by notifications that are popping up on my phone.

I cannot always expect to hear directly from the Lord when I want. But as a follower of Christ, I can make sure that the airways are clear and that there are no impediments that would keep me from hearing His voice when He does speak to me.

What keeps you from hearing clearly from the Lord? What have you found to be helpful in keeping you focused and tuned in to hearing the Lord's voice?

We appreciate your continued prayers for us as we continue to wait on the Lord during this challenging season!

Faulty Earbuds?



The opening on these earbuds is small. It doesn't take much to clog the opening, making it harder for sound to come through.

Photo by Dave Lowe



A primary way the Lord speaks to us is through His Word. Yet, it's easy to get distracted by other things.

Photo by [Nick Bondarev](#) from [Pexels](#)

*Love,
Dave & Jen*