



"You've Got The Time" Faith Comes By Hearing



Beginning on Sunday April 3 we are encouraging readers of Daily Encouragement Net to participate in a Bible reading/listening program that will take us through the entire New Testament in forty days.

The program is sponsored by "Faith Comes By Hearing" a ministry that provides audio Bibles to people all over the world. www.faithcomesbyhearing.com

During this time it will be amazing to see what the Lord is doing through His Word all over the world and to be a part of it as we read the New Testament together!

Background: Years ago I heard about this ministry while I pastored in upstate PA and New England. I recall being intrigued by the remote "Proclaimer" Bible listening device which could be powered by a hand crank where power is not available. Now it also uses solar power to reach the most inaccessible remote tribal area with a verbal reading of the Bible in the native language of the people. The entire Bible was available on cassette tape, which compared to a single mp3 (for the New Testament) was very hard way to navigate through. Brooksyne found a listening mp3 for a dollar at the local Mount Joy Thrift Store last fall and listened through the New Testament earlier this year. We contacted the ministry that provided it and learned of an exciting ministry and spiritual growth opportunity for our readers.

Versions are available in the KJV and the English Standard Version. These are dramatized readings with various voices and background music and contextual audio which really helps one stay focused on the reading at hand. We will share a reading from Romans 10 as part of our public Scripture reading and in fact may use reading throughout the forty day period as a means of reinforcing the plan.

The ESV Bible® (English Standard Version)® is an "essentially literal" translation of the Bible in contemporary English. The ESV Bible emphasizes "word-for-word" accuracy, literary excellence, and depth of meaning. The ESV is ideally suited for personal reading, for public worship, for in-depth study, and for Scripture memorization. The ESV Bible is available in print editions at local Christian bookstores or online, and it is free to read online anytime, everywhere in the world! The ESV Bible was created by a team of more than 100 leading evangelical scholars and pastors. Since its publication in 2001, the ESV has gained wide acceptance and is used and trusted by church leaders, numerous denominations, and millions of individuals around the world. Stephen J. Nichols, a professor at Lancaster Bible College comments, "Elegant in every way, the ESV is certain to take its place as one of the finest translations in the grand tradition of the English Bible. Scholars will appreciate the care and nuance of the translation, pastors will appreciate the cadence and rhythm of the text, and all who read it will appreciate the craftsmanship of this richly textured version. It has become my version of choice." For more info about the ESV see here: <http://www.esv.org/esv/introduction/>

Any who may see this works well for you and are interested in the Old Testament too, the complete Bible recording on MP3 is \$29. However this can also be downloaded freely at www.bible.is

Cost: The "Faith Comes By Hearing" ministry provided the mp3 New Testament disks at no cost to our church. They do request that we consider an offering for their translation work. For over 35 years, Faith Comes By Hearing has provided the pure Word of God in audio to people in their heart language. Join in this ministry by helping us record and distribute 2,000 languages by 2016. Faith Comes By Hearing provides Audio New Testaments for new listening groups around the world.

Many of us use the web and some use advanced features on "smart phones" and other apps. www.bible.is has these resources as well as the entire Bible online ready to read and listen to.

Finally, this will be a special season for families to come together in the Word. Many are using the DVD system or computer in the family room to hear the scriptures as a family which can be a powerful way to bring everyone closer together. But this Bible reading program is for all ages and will be beneficial whether done individually, as a family, even perhaps in a small group. It will be incorporated in our church services as well as I will preach from a portion we read/listened to together the previous week. This 40 day period can lead us in deepening our understanding of the Word and also foster some wonderful discussions that bring God's point of view to the forefront! Wouldn't that be great?

Practical points:

I had debated whether to encourage a 60 day plan (20 minutes per day) or a 40 day plan (30 minutes per day). Initially I posted in the bulletin as a sixty day plan and for those who may prefer this a reading guide is available based on 60 days. However most of the resource materials are based on the 40 day plan so I decided to go with that. Brooksyne put this in perspective when she reminded me that we often easily watch ½ hour (or more) of TV. Surely for a 40 day period we can read/listen through the New Testament!

- Some may want to break the reading up to several times a day. 3 reading times at 10 minutes each or 2 reading times at 15 minutes each. The mp3 format makes this very easy to do.
- Some may be able to use them on a commute or during a break at work or if you are really hip while exercising! We plan to use it on our walk on the trail across from our home.
- If you get behind in the reading schedule that can be a real challenge! If you do fall behind consider catching up by having several reading times rather than one long one.
- The listening feature is interesting but some may want to merely read the New Testament through using the plan. Other will want to listen and read along, which is what Brooksyne did.



We have an opportunity to assist with the production work for a specific people group in Colombia, South America who speak Eduria-Barasana. The production costs for the entire New Testament is \$25,596.

Well that may seem insurmountable especially for a church our size but let's break that down:

* There are 27 books from Matthew to Revelation breaking the cost down to \$948 per book,

* Or with 260 chapters in the New Testament this breaks down to \$98.45 per chapter.

But for those who may want a real handy breakdown that demonstrates how manageable helping get the Scriptures to this people group is consider this:

* There are 7,958 verses in the New Testament so that would be \$3.22 per verse! I don't suppose there are any of us who would not be able to help with a verse!

Another means that some may find appealing in helping this ministry is to provide the funds for a single preloaded "Proclaimer" audio listening device for \$157.00 which can reach an entire village and the entire New Testament can be played through 1000 times on the rechargeable battery!

If you would like to support "Faith Come By Hearing" see this [page](#) for giving options.

Thank you and blessings as you read and listen to God's Word!

Stephen & Brooksyne Weber

[Daily Encouragement Net](#)