

Ezra 10:4 New King James Version (NKJV)

⁴Arise, for *this* matter is your *responsibility*. [literally: upon you] We also are with you. ^(A)Be of good courage, and do *it*."

Ezra 10:4 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

⁴Arise! For *this* matter is ^[a]your responsibility, but we will be with you; ^(A)be courageous and act."

Ezra 10:4 Holman Christian Standard Bible (HCSB)

⁴Get up, for this matter is your responsibility, ^(A)and we support you. Be strong and take action!" ^(B)

Ezra 10:4 New International Version (NIV)

⁴Rise up; this matter is in your hands. We will support you, so take courage and do it."

[1] Rise Up!

Raise up the Lord's Banner! [Love]

Song of Solomon 2:4 NASB

"He has brought **me** to **his** banquet hall, And **his banner over me is love.**

[2] It is our responsibility

God gives us choice

We are responsible for seeking Him and honoring Him

He gave us the law, but then He fulfilled the law. As we seek Him, as we have relationship with Him, as we let Him transform our minds, We enact the lives of the law.

Similar Sentiment in First Chronicles:

1 Chronicles 22:13 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

¹³ ^(A)Then you will prosper, if you are careful to observe the statutes and the ordinances which the LORD commanded Moses concerning Israel. ^(B)Be strong and courageous, do not fear nor be dismayed.

1 Chronicles 28:7 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

⁷I will establish his kingdom forever ^(A)if he resolutely performs My commandments and My ordinances, as ^[a]is done now.'

[3] Be courageous.

Joshua!

Joshua 1:6-9 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

⁶ ^(A)Be strong and courageous, for you shall give this people possession of the land which I swore to their fathers to give them. ⁷ Only be strong and very courageous; ^[a]^(B)be careful to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, so that you may ^[b]have success wherever you go. ⁸ ^(C)This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may ^[c]be careful to do according to all that is written in it; ^(D)for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will ^[d]have success. ⁹ Have I not commanded you? ^(E)Be strong and courageous! ^(F)Do not tremble or be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.”

[2] Not given a spirit of fear. Be at PEACE.

2 Timothy 1:7 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

⁷ For God has not given us a ^(A)spirit of ^[a]timidity, but of power and love and ^[b]discipline.

Footnotes:

- a. 2 Timothy 1:7 Or *cowardice*
- b. 2 Timothy 1:7 Or *sound judgment*

John 14:27 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

²⁷ ^(A)Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. ^(B)Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful.

Romans 8:15 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

¹⁵ For you ^(A)have not received a spirit of slavery ^[a]leading to fear again, but you ^(B)have received ^[b]a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, ^(C)“Abba! Father!”

Footnotes:

- a. Romans 8:15 Lit for *fear again*
- b. Romans 8:15 Or *the Spirit*

Philippians 4:7 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

⁷And ^(A)the peace of God, which surpasses all ^(B)comprehension, will ^(C)guard your hearts and your ^(D)minds in ^(E)Christ Jesus.

John 16:33 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

³³These things I have spoken to you, so that ^(A)in Me you may have peace. ^(B)In the world you have tribulation, but ^(C)take courage; ^(D)I have overcome the world."

[4] Just do it.

Hearing means to obey and act in accordance with what you hear.

<http://www.egrc.net/articles/Rock/HebrewWords/shema.html>

שְׁמַע

Shema - Hear and Obey

by Lois Tverberg

"Then (Moses) took the book of the covenant and read it in the hearing of the people; and they said, "All that the LORD has spoken we will do, and we will be obedient (*shema*)!" Exodus 24:7

The word that means "hear or listen," *shema* (pronounced "shmah") is an excellent example of the difference between Hebrew, which stresses physical action and Greek and Western culture that stresses mental activity.



Listening, in our culture, is a mental activity, and hearing just means that our ears pick up sounds. But in Hebrew, the word *shema* describes hearing and also its effects - taking heed, being obedient, doing what is asked. Any parent who yells at their children, "Were you listening?" when they ignore a command to pick up their rooms understands that listening should result in action. In fact, almost every place we see the word "obey" in the Bible, it is translated from the word "shema."

The word "*Shema*" is also the name of the "pledge of allegiance" that Jesus and other observant Jews up until this day have said every morning and evening. It is the first word of the first line, "Hear (*Shema*), O Israel! The LORD is our God, the LORD alone. You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might..." (Deut. 6:4-5) By saying this, a Jew would remind himself of his commitment to love God, to dedicate himself to following God and doing his will. Some Jews teach their children the Shema as soon as they learn to talk! It is the central affirmation for a Jewish person of his or her commitment to the Lord. The word "shema" here again means, "take heed!" or "listen and obey!"

This gives us a clue of why Jesus says, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear!" He is calling us to put his words into action, not just listen. He wants us to be doers of the word, and not hearers only. (James 1:22) We as Westerners put all our stress on what is in our minds, and tend to consider

action as "dead works." But Hebrews understood that we have not truly put what we have heard into our hearts until it transforms our lives as well.

Shema, listen and obey.

<https://youtu.be/6KQLOuIKaRA>

[1] Act!

[2] God is with us.

[3] Take Courage.

[4] Do it!