

Improving our Listening

By

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Call your attention to:

- Luke 8:18 (NKJV)
 - Therefore **take heed how you hear**. For whoever has, to him more will be given; and whoever does not have, even what he seems to have will be taken from him."
- James 1:19-20 (NKJV)
 - So then, my beloved brethren, **let every man be swift to hear**, slow to speak, slow to wrath; for the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God.

Three Basic Listening Modes

- **Competitive or Combative Listening**

- This is when:
 - We are more interested in promoting our own point of view than in understanding or exploring someone else's view.
 - We either listen for openings to take the floor, or for flaws or weak points we can attack.
 - We pretend to pay attention but are impatiently waiting for an opening, or internally formulating our rebuttal and planning our devastating comeback that will destroy their argument and make us the victor.
- **Example: Pharisees (Mt. 21:23-27)**

Three Basic Listening Modes

- **Passive or Attentive Listening**

- This is when:

- We are genuinely interested in hearing and understanding the other person's point of view.
- We are attentive and passively listen.
- We assume that we heard and understand correctly. but stay passive and do not verify it.

- **Example: Apostles concerning Jesus' suffering & death**

Three Basic Listening Modes

- **Active or Reflective Listening**

- This is when:

- We are genuinely interested in understanding what the other person is thinking, feeling, wanting or what the message means
- We are active in checking out our understanding before we respond with our own new message.
- We restate or paraphrase our understanding of their message and reflect it back to the sender for verification. This verification or feedback process is what distinguishes active listening and makes it effective.

- **Example: Apostles (Matthew 13:10)**

- ¹⁰And the disciples came and said to Him, “Why do You speak to them in parables?”

Why is listening so important?

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- **It is essential in determining truth**

- Acts 17:19-20 (NKJV)

- And they took him and brought him to the Areopagus, saying, "May we know what this new doctrine is of which you speak?"
- For you are bringing some strange things to our ears. Therefore we want to know what these things mean."

Why is listening so important?

- **It is an act of worship**

- Acts 20:7 (NKJV)

- ⁷Now on the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul, ready to depart the next day, spoke to them and continued his message until midnight.

- 1 Thessalonians 2:13 (NKJV)

- ¹³For this reason we also thank God without ceasing, because when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you welcomed it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which also effectively works in you who believe.

Why is listening so important?

- **It brings great blessings**

- 1 Peter 1:10–12 (NKJV)

- ¹⁰Of this salvation the prophets have inquired and searched carefully, who prophesied of the grace that would come to you,
- ¹¹searching what, or what manner of time, the Spirit of Christ who was in them was indicating when He testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow.
- ¹²To them it was revealed that, not to themselves, but to us they were ministering the things which now have been reported to you through those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven—things which angels desire to look into.

Why is listening so important?

- **It is essential to bearing fruit**

- Colossians 1:6 (NKJV)

- ⁶which has come to you, as it has also in all the world, and is bringing forth fruit, as it is also among you since the day you heard and knew the grace of God in truth

Why is listening so important?

- **It is essential in preventing apostasy**
 - Hebrews 2:1 (NKJV)
 - ¹Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away.

How can we improve our listening?

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- **Seek to understand**

- Proverbs 18:2 (NKJV)

- ²A fool has no delight in understanding, But in expressing his own heart.

- **Quarrels are produced over something that we misunderstood**

- 2 Timothy 2:23 (NKJV)

- ²³But avoid foolish and ignorant disputes, knowing that they generate strife.

How can we improve our listening?

- **Think before we answer**

- Proverbs 18:13 (NKJV)

- ¹³He who answers a matter before he hears it, It is folly and shame to him.

- James 1:19–20 (NKJV)

- ¹⁹So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath;

- ²⁰for the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God.

How can we improve our listening?

- **Ask if you don't understand**
 - Remember the apostles in Mt. 13

Conclusion

- Listening is an art! We would do well to develop it!