

Messenger Of Truth

"Holding forth the word of life" (Phil. 2:16).

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Listening

"Listen or your tongue will keep you deaf." – Native American Proverb

"When it comes to the similarities between listening and hearing, the only one is you use your ears for both. After that, they're very different." – Melissa Shaw, Network World

"Most of the successful people I've known are the ones who do more listening than talking." – Bernard M. Baruch

"One of the most sincere forms of respect is actually listening to what another has to say." – Bryant McGill

While we know that it is hard to listen while we persist in talking, one wonders if we really know the difference between hearing and listening? It is conceivable for a person to hear the audible tones of another and not comprehend a single word that has been said. This often happens when we day dream or are focused on something else.

To truly listen means that we have to make a strong and concentrated effort to focus on every word. What benefit is a sermon to us if we aren't trying to listen to what the preacher has to say?

Many a preacher has had someone meet him at the door and shake his hand and tell him it was a good sermon, when in reality they have no idea what the sermon was about. They may have nodded off or have been distracted by whispering, or passing notes, or playing with children, etc. The Gospel is only of benefit to those who will listen to it!

"So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God" (Rom. 10:17). Certainly the implication is more than just the reception of the audible tones. To produce faith, one must listen to the message that is preached. And that message has to be specific in nature; that is, it must be in accordance with the will of God. Paul wrote, "But I make known to you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man. For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through the revelation of Jesus Christ" (Gal. 1:11-12).

Worship is an area where brethren need to strive to focus. It is important to listen to the words that we sing, the prayer that is said, the thoughts and scriptures that pertain to the Lord's Supper, and the contribution we make, as well as the message that is preached. How can worship be of benefit if we don't pay attention?

Remember that listening takes some real effort on your part. Are you up to the task?