

A black and white photograph showing a close-up of a person's ear. A hand is gently touching the ear, with fingers spread. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting the textures of the skin and hair. The background is dark. The text "Learning by Listening" is overlaid in the center in a white, sans-serif font.

Learning by Listening

A black and white photograph of a hand cupping an ear, symbolizing listening. The hand is positioned behind the ear, with the fingers spread, and the ear is the central focus. The background is dark, making the hand and ear stand out.

Learning by Listening

- Rom. 10:17 - “So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”
- Gal. 3:2, 5 - “This only I want to learn from you: Did you receive the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?... Therefore, He who supplies the Spirit to you and works miracles among you, does He do it by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?”

A black and white photograph of a person's hand cupping their ear, symbolizing listening. The hand is positioned behind the ear, with fingers spread, and the ear is clearly visible. The background is dark, making the hand and ear stand out.

Learning by Listening

- However, listening requires a great deal of moral effort.
 - We are tempted to trust ourselves and what we know rather than others and what they try to teach us.
 - We often prefer to express ourselves rather than listen to others.
 - We believe in our own righteousness and dismiss words that require us to look at our true moral condition.

A black and white photograph of a hand cupping an ear, symbolizing listening. The hand is positioned behind the ear, with the fingers gently touching the ear's rim. The background is dark, making the hand and ear stand out.

Learning by Listening

- Listening, therefore, is an act of faith.
 - James 1:19-21 - “So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath; 20 for the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God. 21 Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.”

How To Become A Faithful Listener

A black and white photograph of a hand cupping an ear, symbolizing listening. The hand is positioned behind the ear, with the fingers gently touching the ear's rim. The background is dark, making the hand and ear stand out.

- Be patient.
 - Luke 8:18 - “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.”

How To Become A Faithful Listener

- Psalm 81:8-14 - “Hear, O My people, and I will admonish you! O Israel, if you will listen to Me! 9 There shall be no foreign god among you; Nor shall you worship any foreign god. 10 I am the LORD your God, Who brought you out of the land of Egypt; Open your mouth wide, and I will fill it. 11 But My people would not heed My voice, And Israel would have none of Me. 12 So I gave them over to their own stubborn heart, To walk in their own counsels. 13 Oh, that My people would listen to Me, That Israel would walk in My ways! 14 I would soon subdue their enemies, And turn My hand against their adversaries.”

How To Become A Faithful Listener



- Love the speaker.
 - “Just as love of God begins with listening to his Word, so the beginning of love for the brethren is learning to listen to them.” (*Bonhoeffer*)
 - Phil. 2:2-5 - “Fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. 3 Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. 4 Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others. 5 Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus,”
 - 1Cor. 13:4 - “Love suffers long and is kind...”

How To Become A Faithful Listener

A black and white photograph of a hand cupping an ear, symbolizing listening. The hand is positioned behind the ear, with the fingers spread, and the palm facing the ear. The background is dark, making the hand and ear stand out.

- Ask good questions.
 - Prov. 18:2, 13 - “A fool has no delight in understanding, But in expressing his own heart...
13 He who answers a matter before he hears it, It is folly and shame to him.”
 - Prov. 20:5 - “Counsel in the heart of man is like deep water, But a man of understanding will draw it out.”

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How To Become A Faithful Listener

- Serve the speaker.
 - “Good listening often defuses the emotions that are a part of the problem being discussed. Sometimes releasing these emotions is all that is needed to solve the problem. The speaker may neither want nor expect us to say anything in response.” (*Dunn, Echos*)
 - “Often a person can be helped merely by having someone who will listen to him seriously. At times what our neighbor needs most is for someone else to know.” (*Bonhoeffer*)

How To Become A Faithful Listener

- Mark 4:24 - “Then He said to them, ;Take heed what you hear. With the same measure you use, it will be measured to you; and to you who hear, more will be given.;”
- Deut. 32:1-2 - “Give ear, O heavens, and I will speak; And hear, O earth, the words of my mouth. 2 Let my teaching drop as the rain, My speech distill as the dew, As raindrops on the tender herb, And as showers on the grass.”

How To Become A Faithful Listener

A black and white photograph of a hand cupping an ear, symbolizing listening. The hand is positioned behind the ear, with fingers slightly curled, and the palm facing the ear. The background is dark and textured, possibly fabric or a wall.

- Respond well.
 - Prov. 2:1-5 - “My son, if you receive my words,
And treasure my commands within you, 2 So that
you incline your ear to wisdom, And apply your
heart to understanding; 3 Yes, if you cry out for
discernment, And lift up your voice for
understanding, 4 If you seek her as silver, And
search for her as for hidden treasures; 5 Then you
will understand the fear of the LORD, And find the
knowledge of God.”

How To Become A Faithful Listener

- Eph. 4:29 - “Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers.”
- Isa. 50:4-5 - “The Lord GOD has given Me The tongue of the learned, That I should know how to speak A word in season to him who is weary. He awakens Me morning by morning, He awakens My ear To hear as the learned. 5 The Lord GOD has opened My ear; And I was not rebellious, Nor did I turn away.”

How To Become A Faithful Listener

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- Reflect your relationship with God.
 - Isa. 55:2-3 - “Why do you spend money for what is not bread, And your wages for what does not satisfy? Listen carefully to Me, and eat what is good, And let your soul delight itself in abundance. 3 Incline your ear, and come to Me. Hear, and your soul shall live; And I will make an everlasting covenant with you.”

How To Become A Faithful Listener



- Heb. 2:1 - “Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away.”
- Prov. 8:32-34 - “Now therefore, listen to me, my children, For blessed are those who keep my ways. 33 Hear instruction and be wise, And do not disdain it. 34 Blessed is the man who listens to me, Watching daily at my gates, Waiting at the posts of my doors.”

How To Faithfully Listen To A Sermon

- A good sermon requires good listeners.
- A good sermon at Thessalonica.
 - Acts 17:2-5 - “Then Paul, as his custom was, went in to them, and for three Sabbaths reasoned with them from the Scriptures, 3 explaining and demonstrating that the Christ had to suffer and rise again from the dead, and saying, This Jesus whom I preach to you is the Christ. 4 And some of them were persuaded; and a great multitude of the devout Greeks, and not a few of the leading women, joined Paul and Silas. 5 But the Jews who were not persuaded, becoming envious, took some of the evil men from the marketplace, and gathering a mob, set all the city in an uproar and attacked the house of Jason, and sought to bring them out to the people.”

How To Faithfully Listen To A Sermon

- The same sermon at Berea.
 - Acts 17:10-12 - “Then the brethren immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea. When they arrived, they went into the synagogue of the Jews. 11 These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so. 12 Therefore many of them believed, and also not a few of the Greeks, prominent women as well as men.”
- The only difference was in the character of the hearers.

How To Faithfully Listen To A Sermon

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- Hearers must listen for the scripture in the speaker's words to come to a common understanding of truth, not to find differences for disagreement.
 - Poor listeners hear with an ear to argue rather than to grow.
 - Tragic listeners hear only what they already know and agree with.
 - Good listeners listen and look in the scriptures.
 - A good listener can grow even when he listens to a bad sermon.

How To Faithfully Listen To A Sermon



- Listen to grow.
 - 1Thes. 2:13 - “For 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.”
 - Mal. 2:7 - “For the lips of a priest should keep knowledge, And people should seek the law from his mouth; For he is the messenger of the LORD of hosts.”



How To Faithfully Listen To A Sermon

- 2Cor. 5:18-20 - “Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, 19 that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation. 20 Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God.”



Learning by Listening

- “We have two ears and only one tongue in order that we may hear more and speak less.” (*Diogenes Laërtius*)
- “Spend your leisure time in cultivating an ear attentive to discourse, for in this way you will find that you learn with ease what others have found out with difficulty.” (*Isocrates*)
- “It takes two to speak the truth: one to speak and another to hear.” (*Henry David Thoreau*)
- We cannot be saved without first being good listeners.
 - Rom. 10:17 - “So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”