



The Forgotten Art of Listening

August 8, 2021

Some things change with time, and that's [OK](#)

Some things change with time, and that's [SAD](#)

Some things change with time, and God wants his people to [reclaim them](#)

- Listening
- Forgiveness
- Acceptance
- Contentment
- Hard work
- Fellowship
- Heart for the Lost

Consider the biblical picture of a bad listener—the proverbial fool

Proverbs 18:2

A fool takes no pleasure in understanding, but only in expressing his opinion.

Luke 11:28

"Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and obey it."

Proverbs 18:13

If one gives an answer before he hears, it is his folly and shame.

Proverbs 29:20

Do you see a man who is hasty in his words? There is more hope for a fool than for him.

Reclaiming God's good gift

Psalm 46:10

"Be still and know that I am God."

Luke 11:28

"Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and obey it."

Romans 10:17

"Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word about Christ."

Ecclesiastes 5:1

"Guard your steps when you go to the house of God. Go near to listen rather than to offer the sacrifice of fools, who do not know what they do wrong."

"When we enter God's presence we should have the attitude of being open and ready to listen to God, not to dictate to him what he ought to do." LASB

James 1:19

"My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry."

"Just as love to God begins with listening to his Word, so the beginning of love for the brethren is learning to listen to them."

"He who can no longer listen to his brother will soon no longer be listening to God either; he will be doing nothing but prattle in the presence of God too. This is the beginning of the death of the spiritual life. . . . Anyone who thinks that his time is too valuable to spend keeping quiet will eventually have no time for God and his brother, but only for himself and for his own follies. " - Bonhoeffer

Good listeners:

- Are present
- Pay attention in obvious ways: eye contact, body language
- Put distractions away
- Offer empathy
- Ask timely questions to clarify or seek more info on the topic
- Listen for meaning
- Periodically summarize
- Avoid judgments
- Pay attention to body language
- Can hear mild criticism and stay focused
- Can disagree
- Seek time, space and silence to hear from God in prayer.
- The Bible is called God's Word. You can read it and "hear" from God. Consider that another form of listening.

Pray the following prayer with me:

Lord Jesus, I want to help the people in my life come to know You. I recognize that I can only help others come to know You through my own relationship with You.

Jesus, I invite you anew: come into my life. Grant me the grace of friendship and intimacy with You. Give me courage to surrender myself to You, especially those parts of my heart that don't yet belong to You.

Show me, Jesus, the people in my life that You want me to befriend and build relationship with.

Teach me, Jesus, how to be good at relationship: how to love, how to listen, and how to humbly share my faith.

We use listening to each other to help us discover how our relationship can create a picture of the love of Jesus