

LISTEN

When we listen and hear the voice of the Father, we are equipped with his counsel and plan for our lives. I want to create a picture for you of the importance of listening to the Lord. It's not enough just to have His Word in our hearts. After we accomplish that goal, it's time to listen for direction. "Speak to me Lord" should be our hearts cry.

Receptive hearts and listening ears are the key ingredients to revelation and vision for your everyday life. If we truly want to persevere and LAST, we must develop our ability to listen.

I ask that you take this time to name some things in your life that distract or hinder you from truly hearing and listening to God everyday.

"Let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us,"
Hebrews 12:1 NIV

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Give all your worries and cares to God, for he cares about you. 1 Peter 5:7

Commit to the LORD whatever you do, and your plans will succeed. Proverbs 16:3

We have made a list of things that distract us. Your list may contain things like busy schedules, marital problems, raising children, stress at work, family strife, too much responsibility, sickness, financial lack, etc.

Whatever your list contains, Hebrews 12:1 has given instruction on what to do with it ... Throw it off! You may ask, what does that mean? It means to give it to God. It means to trust him with your life as he directs your paths. Sometimes, we are so hesitant to give over control to God. This is a sign that we need to trust Him more. He has our very best interest at heart!

**True listening ears are ears of Faith! Ears of Faith hear everything through a filter that says NOTHING is too difficult for God!
(Faith comes by hearing ... Romans 10:17)**

Many years ago, at a ladies meeting held at my home, God showed me a scripture in the book of Job. At first I was hesitant to go where God was leading me because I thought, Lord I'm trying to encourage these women ... not depress them! Instead, I LISTENED to God and followed His leading. The end result was a question found in Job 15:12 that changed my life. In this scripture, Eliphaz is attacking Job, yet it was a question he asked in verse 12 that intrigued me. You know, sometimes it's good to check ourselves. There is nothing wrong with examining our hearts and seeing if our accusers have a valid point. A teachable heart is a must!

Job 15:12 "What has taken away your reason? What has weakened your vision," NLT

My paraphrase of this scripture is “What has violently captured your ability to think clearly on God’s Truth? What has impaired your ability to see what God has for you?”

From morning till night the cares of this world will compete for our attention and desperately try to be the dominate voice in our lives. But we are in control of who wins. We decide whose report we will believe. I want to do a little exercise with you. Below you will be able to enter your daily tasks and what thoughts capture your attention while going through your day. Be honest with yourself, as you complete this list, and trust that God will help you.

Daily Tasks & Thoughts

Now, we can all ask ourselves, what captured my attention? Did God’s Word pop up when circumstances would arise? Did I have a joyful heart and trust in God to handle my affairs as I listened to His thoughts and plans ... Or did I entertain the voice of the enemy?

It is our great privilege to hear God’s voice and His instruction. When we let Him speak, He brings life to the Word hidden in our hearts.

He draws the nutrients out of what we have consumed and it brings health and revelation to us.

An Old Cherokee told his grandson ...

“My son, there is a battle between two wolves inside us all.

One is **EVIL** ... *It is anger, jealousy, greed, resentment, inferiority, lies and ego.*

The other is **GOOD** ... *It is joy, peace, love, hope humility, kindness and truth.”*

The boy thought about it and asked, “Grandfather, Which one wins?”

The old man quietly replied: “The one you feed”

What you are listening to needs to line up with the type of life you want, the Master you choose to serve, and the direction you want to take.

There is a concept called **ATTENTION ECONOMICS**. Basically, it is the thought that your attention is the most valuable resource. When we choose to invest attention with the negative voice of the enemy we will only see a negative return. The good news is, we can invest our attention in the life giving voice of the father and our return will always be Life Abundant ... John 10:10. Listening to the Lord is a sound investment. Feed on the Word and meditate on his voice!

Philippians 4:8 NIV ... Complete the scripture

Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is _____, whatever is _____, whatever is _____, whatever is _____, whatever is _____—if anything is _____ or _____—think about such things.

