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Listening

Is there any symbolism in the fact that we have two ears and only one mouth? Is it possible that God created us to listen twice as much as we talk? If so, most of us have a problem because we talk twice as much as we listen. Consequently, to be in God's will, we have to increase our listening four-fold.

Why don't we listen? The answer is *noise* that echoes from the *hurry* inside our souls (mind, will, and emotions). Typically, our minds race to the future, afraid of what it might hold; our wills reside in the present, frustrated by unmet expectations; while our emotions are stuck in past hurts. The result is that we become deaf to the world around us, including God, because we cannot listen in a hurry.

Prayer is the key that unlocks the hurried soul's door to peace (Phil. 4:6-7). In essence, prayer is listening to God. His *presence* empowers us to fully live in the *present* to listen to others. This includes our customers, our vendors, our employees, our friends, and our families.

Listening is the DSL into another person's soul. Language is symbolic because words are descriptors of a person's thoughts, feelings, and choices. With the average male speaking 12,500 words each day and the typical female flowing at 25,000 words from sunrise to sunset, why is it that women tend to be better listeners than men? It's because women listen to the thoughts, choices, and emotions behind the words. In essence, they listen to the soul. Consequently, effective listening is much more complex than merely hearing spoken words.



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James, the half brother of Jesus, said that everyone should be quick to listen and slow to speak (Jas. 1:19). God intended us to be listeners so that we would love others.

But, we need to know how to listen.

Blessings,

Mitch Kruse