

# THE BEREANS

ACTS 17:11

**James 1:19**

**Lesson #66**

**Listening to God**

**03/26/2017**

**God gives us mouths that  
close and ears that don't.**  
**What does that tell us?**

*James 1:19*

"But everyone must be **quick to hear**,  
slow to speak and slow to anger;"

"The first duty of love is to listen."

Paul Tillich

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## Three arenas of listening

*Colossians 3*

"<sup>15</sup> Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful. <sup>16</sup> Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God."

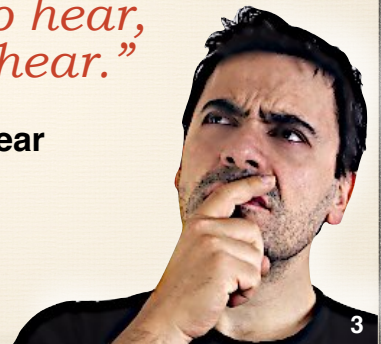
- **Self-talk** - How do we listen to God's Spirit?
- **Scripture** - How do we listen to God's Word?
- **Socialization** - How do we listen to one another?

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We are repeatedly encouraged  
in the Gospels to listen to God.

*"He who has  
an ear to hear,  
let him hear."*

If we have ears to hear  
we will listen  
to God's Spirit  
to God's Word  
to each other.



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## A. Listen to God's Spirit in our heart.

*John 10:4*

"When he puts forth all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because **they know his voice.**"

*Colossians 3:2*

"Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth."

*Romans 8:14*

"For all who are **being led by the Spirit** of God, these are sons of God."

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**Prayer is talking to God.**  
**Meditation is listening to God.**

**Conscience,  
Subconscious,  
Impressions  
Visions**

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## A. Listen to God's Spirit in our heart.

### Our self-talk is vital to our life-walk.

- The greatest lies are the ones we tell to ourselves about ourselves and others.

Spiritual warfare is about what we listen to and how we choose to receive it.



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## A. Listen to God's Spirit in our heart.

### Our self-talk is vital to our life-walk.

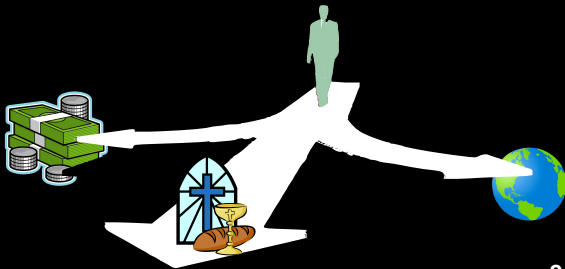
- The greatest lies are the ones we tell to ourselves about ourselves and others.
- A renewed mind (facing in the right direction) enables us to hear the voice of God and see the right path.

*Romans 12:2*

"And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is,"

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It's much easier to hear God if you are facing and walking in His direction.



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*James 4:3*

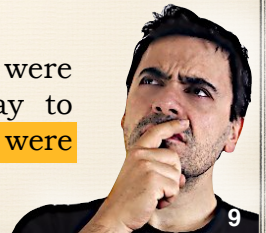
"You ask and do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend it on your pleasures."

*Jeremiah 17:9*

"The heart is more deceitful than all else and is desperately sick. who can understand it?"

*1 Corinthians 12:2*

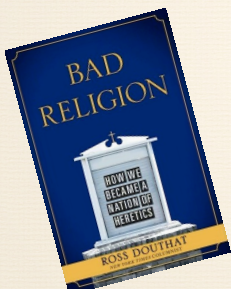
"You know that when you were pagans, you were led astray to the mute idols, however you were led."



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## An unrenewed heart should not be trusted.

Popular culture is rewriting the rules of engagement with God. We are to believe that the spiritual energy in all people is leading us from within to fulfillment as we listen to and follow our heart.



**Because our heart can be deceptive it needs a guide.**



Ross Douthat 10

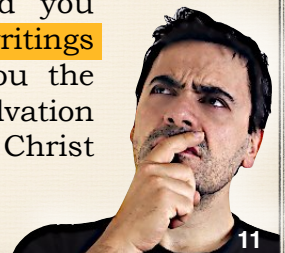
## B. Listen to God's Word.

*Psalms 119:105*

"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."

*1 Timothy 3:15*

"and that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus."



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## B. Listen to God's Word.

- **Exposure** - Be a Berean, read the Bible carefully and prayerfully.

*Acts 17:11*

"Now these were more noble-minded than those in Thessalonica, for they received the word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see whether these things were so."

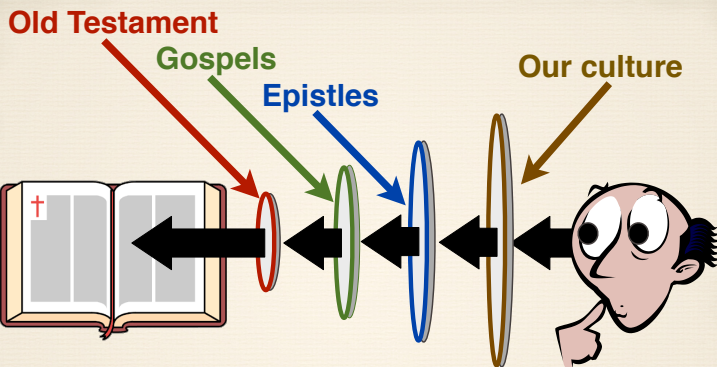
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## B. Listen to God's Word.

- **Exposure** - Be a Berean, read the Bible carefully and prayerfully.
- **Emphasis** - Look for principles and themes for guidance. Read the Bible through the eyes of the Epistles.



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We interpret the Scriptures through lenses.

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## B. Listen to God's Word.

- **Exposure** - Be a Berean, read the Bible carefully and prayerfully.
- **Emphasis** - Look for principles and themes for guidance. Read the Bible through the eyes of the Epistles.
- **Engagement** - Don't be a passive listener. Put what you hear into action TODAY.

*Colossians 3:16*

"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom;"

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## Guidelines for hearing God

- **Test the spirits** - Be skeptical of ALL "subjective" impressions.
- **Apostolic teaching** - N.T. Epistles are examples of how to understand all that has come before.
- **Renew the mind** - face in the right direction, pursue Godliness, learn from experience.
- **Expectations** - Faith, hope, love, peace, grace, forgiveness, holiness, suffering, etc.

"It's a rare person who wants to hear what he doesn't want to hear."

Dick Cavett

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## My personal commitment.

### Everyday I try to:

- **Learn** something new.
- **Encourage** someone.
- **Thank** God for something.

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