

# Are You Listening

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- We listen to obtain information.
- We listen to understand.
- We listen for enjoyment.
- We listen to learn.

## Why is important to become a better listener.

James 1:19 (NLT)

*My dear brothers and sisters, be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to get angry.*

Hebrews 2:1 (NASB)

*For this reason we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it.*

Luke 6:47-49 (NASB)

*"Everyone who comes to Me, and hears My words, and acts upon them, I will show you whom he is like: [48] he is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid a foundation upon the rock; and when a flood rose, the torrent burst against that house and could not shake it, because it had been well built. [49] "But the one who has heard, and has not acted accordingly, is like a man who built a house upon the ground without any foundation; and the torrent burst against it and immediately it collapsed, and the ruin of that house was great."*

Deut. 5:1 (NLT)

*Moses called all the people of Israel together and said, "Listen carefully to all the laws and regulations I am giving you today. Learn them and be sure to obey them!"*

## Why We Have Difficulty Listening

- Being preoccupied.
- Being so interested in what you have to say.
- Making judgments about the speaker or the message.
- Not asking for clarification when you know that you do not understand.

## The Three Basic Listening Modes

1. **Competitive** or **Combative Listening** happens when we are more interested in promoting our own point of view than in understanding or exploring someone else's view. We either listen for openings to take the floor, or for flaws or weak points we can attack. As we pretend to pay attention we are impatiently waiting for an opening, or internally formulating our rebuttal and planning our devastating comeback that will destroy their argument and make us the victor.
2. **Passive** or **Attentive Listening** we are genuinely interested in hearing and understanding the other person's point of view. We are attentive and passively listen. We assume that we heard and understand correctly. But stay passive and do not verify it.

3. **Active** or **Reflective Listening** is the single most useful and important listening skill. In active listening we are also genuinely interested in understanding what the other person is thinking, feeling, wanting or what the message means, and we are active in checking out our understanding before we respond with our own new message. We restate or paraphrase our understanding of their message and reflect it back to the sender for verification. This verification or feedback process is what distinguishes active listening and makes it effective.

**Listen to what God is saying to you and obey!**