

4 Steps to Effective Listening

(Luke 8:18)

When it comes to preaching, God holds both the preacher and the audience accountable. The preacher must preach in a clear, organized and concise way. The audience must listen carefully.

In fact, it is interesting how throughout the Bible a strong emphasis is placed on the importance of good listening (Romans 10:17; Matthew 17:5; James 1:19; Matthew 11:15; Matthew 13:9; Luke 8:18; Luke 14:35).

What specific steps can disciples take to listen effectively to God's word when assembled for worship?

I. _____ about it during the week.

- A. Pray for the _____ (Ephesians 6:18-19). Ask God to help him as he studies, plans and writes the lessons during the week.
- B. Pray for the _____ (Psalm 119:18). Pray that the sermons are Bible based, challenging, and designed to make us more like Jesus.

II. Set high _____.

- A. Expectations shape everything before engaging in something.
- B. What do you expect when you come here?
 1. Do you expect to hear from God? Do you expect to hear revelation from God?
 2. You should! See Hebrews 4:12; 1 Thessalonians 2:13; 1 Peter 1:23-25.
- C. The fact that we are present today to hear from God should motivate us to sit up, open our ears and listen carefully whenever it is proclaimed.

III. _____ yourself.

- A. The problem of Christians falling asleep in church goes back 2,000 years (Acts 20:7-9).
- B. How can solve this problem?
 1. Go to bed at a _____
 2. Set a _____ the night before.
 3. Prepare your _____ the night before.
 4. Bring the necessary _____.

IV. Make _____.

- A. God doesn't want us to merely hear His word. He also wants us to apply what we hear (James 1:21-25).
- B. A preacher must always answer the "so what?" question.
 1. He has to not only give people knowledge, but tell them what to do with it. Peter did this in his lesson Pentecost (Acts 2:36-38).
 2. When the sermons are not applied, the problem is not with the preacher. The problem is with the listeners.
 3. If you are lacking in your service to God, will you make the proper application of His word (Matthew 13:9; Acts 2:38; Mark 16:16; 1 John 1:9)?