

3. PICKING UP LISTENING SKILLS

How do you rate yourself as a listener?

1. I feel listening is a waste of time when I want to teach someone. ()
2. I tend to be slow to listen and quick to speak. ()
3. My mind often wanders when others are speaking. ()
4. I tend to interrupt others when they are still speaking to save time. ()
5. When I disagree with someone I tend close up my mind. ()
6. I change subjects without first responding to what the other person has said. ()
7. I don't bother about people's facial expressions, gestures, body language, etc ()
8. I do most of the talking in conversations. ()
9. I find it hard to maintain eye contact when listening to others. ()
10. Developing listening skills is not my priority. ()

There is a difference between and listening.

Hearing is the that take place inside your ear.

Listening is with your what you have heard.

Listening is a that can be developed.

A. THE THREE KEY HINDRANCES TO LISTENING

1. blocks listening

Proverbs 19:11

11 A man's **wisdom** gives him patience; it is to his glory to overlook an offense.

How do I know I am **impatient** and **dumb**?

Impatience (being dumb) causes you to

Proverbs 29:20

20 Do you see a man who speaks in haste? There is more hope for a fool than for him.

Impatience (being dumb) causes you to jump to

Proverbs 18:13

He who answers before listening – that is his folly and his shame.

What a shame-yes, how stupid!-to decide before knowing the facts! TLB

What a shame, what folly, to give advice before listening to the facts! NLT

He who answers a matter before he hears the facts--it is folly and shame to him. AMP

2. blocks listening

Some common **wrong** assumptions:

Assumption 1: There is only **way to see things.**

Assumption 2: I can **people's motives**

Matt 7:1 "Do not judge, or you too will be judged.

Fact: We often see what we want to see.

Assumption 3: Being prejudiced by the **from others**

Assumption 4: Being prejudiced by **impressions**

John 7:24

Stop judging by mere appearances and you will make a right judgment. JY

1 Samuel 16:7

7 But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The LORD does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart."

Assumption 5: Being prejudiced by our own **and our wants**

3. blocks listening

15 A fool thinks he needs no advice, but a wise man listens to others. TLB

How to distinguish good criticism from bad criticism?

B. THE LISTENING EAR KEEPS US FROM

Proverbs 15:31

If you profit from constructive criticism, you will be at home among the wise. But to reject criticism is to **harm** yourself and your own best interests. TLB

1 Kings 12:8

8 But he ignored the advice of the older men and went instead to the young men who had grown up with him and who were now his advisers. TEV

C. THE LISTENING EAR MAKES ONE AND

Proverbs 17:28

28 Even a fool is thought to be wise if he keeps silent, and discerning if he holds his tongue.

15 A fool thinks he needs no advice, but a **wise** man **listens** to others. TLB

D. THE LISTENING EAR HAS POWER. HOW?

1. Healing occurs because people feel

Big people monopolize the listening. Small people monopolize the talking. *David Schwart, in the Magic of Thinking Big*

2. Healing occurs because people feel

A friend is somebody who will listen to you when nobody else will listen.

3. Healing occurs because people feel we for their needs

People don't care how much you know until they know how much you care. *Rick Warren*

4. Healing occurs because listening builds

You can make more friends in two weeks by becoming a good listener than you can in two years trying to get other people interested in you. *Dale Carnegie*

People develop in you when you listen. You become a person of in his life.

Listening builds

A man is already half in love with a woman who will listen to him. *Rick Warren*

5. Healing occurs because it helps you your emotion

James 1:19

19 My dear brothers, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry.

E. KEYS TO IMPROVE YOUR LISTENING

1. Attentive with your

Mark 10:21

21 Jesus looked at him and loved him. "One thing you lack," he said. "Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me."

When someone is distressed, he may be **illogical**. The feelings may be **wrong** but the emotion **real**. The first thing is to **look** and listen, **not** thinking of offering any **advice**.

Allow them to share and **wait** for another to **deal** with it.

2. Drawing more with your

We tend feel bored and wonder into another galaxy. Instead of busily thinking of what to **say** next, strain your ears for more understanding by asking the right

Prov 20:5

The purpose of a man's heart are deep waters but a man of understanding draws them out.

Though good advice lies deep within a counselor's heart, the wise man will **draw** it out. TLB

Ask clarifying questions.

Who? What? When? How?

Not the question: Why?

Why is often a seems controlling.

3. Rephrase with your

Before you give the answer, you pick up the **feeling** of the person and restate back what you heard in your own words.

It is different from mechanical **parroting**. It is repeat in your **own** words what the other person is saying and feeling.

Use phrases like:

I see that you **feel** ...

I get that you are **saying** ...

4. Discerning with your

John 4:16-19

A man is already half in love with a woman who will listen to him. *Rick Warren*

5. Intentionally listen with your

6. listening to God enables us to be great listeners

Matthew 17:5

5 While he was still speaking, a bright cloud enveloped them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!"

Luke 8:18

18 Therefore consider carefully how you listen. Whoever has will be given more; whoever does not have, even what he thinks he has will be taken from him."

Hebrews 3:7-8

7 So, as the Holy Spirit says: "Today, if you hear his voice, 8 do not harden your hearts as you did in the rebellion, during the time of testing in the desert.