



This Week's Inspiration

July 13, 2011

The Important Skill of Listening”

As Christians, too often we fall into the Christian myth that quality Christian character is different than quality non-Christian character. This myth leads us to expect that God will miraculously do for us something that, in fact, God expects us to do and then promises to bless us. A prime example of this is listening.

Effective listening produces a developed quality of soul. This concept exposes the major distinction between hearing and listening. Hearing happens physically – sounds create airwaves that bang into our eardrums. Listening requires a different level of self-commitment. I like Madelyn Burley-Allen’s definition of listening: “Listening is[a] taking in information from speakers, other people or ourselves, while remaining nonjudgmental and empathetic; [b] acknowledging the talker in a way that invites the communication to continue; and [c] providing limited, but encouraging, input to the talkers response, carrying the persons idea one step forward.” This definition contains so much information I find that we need to think through it.

This Sunday I will begin a sermon series on listening entitled, “Are You Listening?” I believe we will all profit by exploring what the Bible teaches us regarding the important skill of listening. I encourage you to attend diligently and to invite family and friends who might also benefit.

Effective listening is a quality that makes us God-like. God is an effective listener as the psalmist noted:

“This poor man cried and the Lord heard him and saved him out of all his troubles.”

Psalm 34:6 ESV

God Bless You,
Doc

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Weekly Inspiration

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