

Study Guide

Message: The Benefits of Listening to God

Messenger: Pastor Keith

Date: August 17, 2025

Scripture: Proverbs 4.20-22



Introduction: At the core, our gatherings are not just about attendance or information-it's about:

- Meeting with God – Scriptures and Spirit
- Growing in Christ – listening, revealing, and obeying
- Exhorting followers – provoking love and good works

One of the most vital aspects of the Christian gathering is *attentively* listening to the Scriptures and being led by the Holy Spirit to discern and receive what is being spoken. In our study, we will cover the benefits of listening and how to hear.

Hinderances to listening:

1. Distracted mind: physically present, mentally 'gone'.
2. Hardened heart: your heart is 'shut to God's voice'.
3. Unprepared soul: unprepared heart
4. Consumer mentality: you coming to get 'fed'.
5. Hidden sin or shame: you feel 'unworthy'.

Question: Which one of these hinderances to listening do you struggle with the most, and why?

The Benefits of Listening: Proverbs 4.20-22:

1. Listening requires _____ focus - v20. My son, *give attention* to my words; *Incline your ear* to my sayings.

What does it look like: Listening to God isn't passive, it demands our attention. We must choose to tune in, quiet distractions, and lean into what He is saying.

Question: Do you make space in your daily devotion to truly listen to God's Word – or do you rush through it?

2. Listening requires you to _____ what you hear - v21. Do not let them depart from your eyes; Keep them *in the midst of your heart*;

What does it look like: True listening means more than hearing; it means holding onto His words, reflecting on them deeply, allowing them to shape our inner lives.

Question: How deeply do you let God's Word shape your thoughts, desires and actions?

3. Listening _____ life and healing - v22. For they are *life* to those who *find them*, And *health* to all their flesh. (NKJV)

What does it look like: When we truly listen to God, His words bring spiritual vitality and even emotional and physical renewal. His truth restores us from the inside out.

Question: Do you believe that God's Word has the power to bring life to your circumstances or conditions?

Practical Application: How you Hear:

1. Hear God's _____ – Scriptures reveal God's nature and heart.

What does it look like: John 3.16. 'God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. (NKJV)

- Heart with endless love
- Heart that gives sacrificially
- Heart that desires life, not death

Question: 'What does this Scripture tell me about God's nature?'

2. Hear God's _____ to you – Scriptures speak personally to us.

What does it look like: Jeremiah 1.5. 'Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born, I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations.' (ESV)

- God knew you before you existed – 'Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you...'
- God set you apart with purpose – 'before you were born, I consecrated you...'
- God has a calling just for you – 'I appointed you a prophet to the nations.'

Question: 'Do I know what God has in mind for me?'

3. Hear God's call to _____ – Scriptures transform us.

What does it look like: James 1.22. But *be doers* of the word, and *not hearers only*, deceiving yourselves. (NKJV)

- Hearing takes action – 'be *doers* of the word...'
- Hearing alone is *not enough* – 'and not *hearers only*'
- Hearing and not acting leads to *deception* – 'deceiving yourselves'

Question: Where in life are you hearing God's Word, but not yet living it out?