

Pearls of Wisdom

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Pearls of Wisdom

James 1:19-20

¹⁹ *This* you know, my beloved brethren. But **everyone** must be **quick to hear**, **slow to speak** *and* **slow to anger**;

²⁰ for the anger of man does not achieve the righteousness of God.

Pearls of Wisdom

- A. Swift to Hear
- B. Slow to Speak
- C. Slow to Anger

Pearls of Wisdom

A. Swift to Hear

1. People are called upon to listen attentively to God's word, to his Son and also to words of wisdom.
2. Christians must not only listen to God's word but also put it into practice.
3. Those who refuse to listen to God's word or to correction are condemned.

I. The importance of listening

1. To God's word and his spokesmen

Psalm 81:8

8 “Hear, O My people, and I will admonish you; O Israel, if you would listen to Me!

Acts 2:14

14 But Peter, taking his stand with the eleven, raised his voice and declared to them: “Men of Judea and all you who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you and give heed to my words.

Acts 13:16

16 Paul stood up, and motioning with his hand said, “Men of Israel, and you who fear God, listen:

I. The importance of listening

2. To Jesus Christ

Matthew 17:5

5 While he was still speaking, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and behold, a voice out of the cloud said, “This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well-pleased; listen to Him!”

John 10:27

27 “My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me;

I. The importance of listening

3. To words of wisdom

Proverbs 19:20

20 Listen to counsel and accept discipline, That you may be wise the rest of your days.

James 2:5

5 Listen, my beloved brethren: did not God choose the poor of this world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom which He promised to those who love Him?

I. The importance of listening

4. Believers should not listen to false prophets or ungodly suggestions

Jeremiah 27:9

9 “But as for you, do not listen to your prophets, your diviners, your dreamers, your soothsayers or your sorcerers who speak to you, saying, ‘You will not serve the king of Babylon.’”

1 John 4:1

1 Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world.

I. The importance of listening

5. The wicked refuse to listen to God

Jeremiah 7:13

¹³ "And now, because you have done all these things," declares the LORD, "and I spoke to you, rising up early and speaking, but you did not hear, and I called you but you did not answer,

Jeremiah 17:23

²³ "Yet they did not listen or incline their ears, but stiffened their necks in order not to listen or take correction.

I. The importance of listening

6. Those who refuse to listen to correction are condemned

Matthew 18:15–17

15 “If your brother sins, go and show him his fault in private; if he listens to you, you have won your brother.
16 “But if he does not listen to you, take one or two more with you, so that **BY THE MOUTH OF TWO OR THREE WITNESSES EVERY FACT MAY BE CONFIRMED.** **17** “If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector.

I. The importance of listening

7. God's people must not only listen to God's word but also put it into practice

James 1:22–24

22 But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves. **23** For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks at his natural face in a mirror; **24** for once he has looked at himself and gone away, he has immediately forgotten what kind of person he was.

I. The importance of listening

8. Examples of Listening

a. Sarah was listening at the tent Door.

Genesis 18:7-10

⁷ Abraham also ran to the herd, and took a tender and choice calf and gave *it* to the servant, and he hurried to prepare it.

⁸ He took curds and milk and the calf which he had prepared, and placed *it* before them; and he was standing by them under the tree as they ate.

⁹ Then they said to him, "Where is Sarah your wife?" And he said, "There, in the tent."

¹⁰ He said, "I will surely return to you at this time next year; and behold, Sarah your wife will have a son." And **Sarah was listening at the tent door**, which was behind him.

I. The importance of listening

b. Samuel listened to God

1 Samuel 3:7-10

⁷ Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, nor had the word of the LORD yet been revealed to him.

⁸ So the LORD called Samuel again for the third time. And he arose and went to Eli and said, "Here I am, for you called me." Then Eli discerned that the LORD was calling the boy.

⁹ And Eli said to Samuel, "Go lie down, and it shall be if He calls you, that you shall say, 'Speak, LORD, for Your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

¹⁰ Then the LORD came and stood and called as at other times, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel said, "Speak, for Your servant is listening."

I. The importance of listening

c. The crowds listening to Jesus Christ

Luke 20:41-47

⁴¹ Then He said to them, "How *is it that* they say the Christ is David's son?"

⁴² "For David himself says in the book of Psalms, 'THE LORD SAID TO MY LORD, "SIT AT MY RIGHT HAND,

⁴³ UNTIL I MAKE YOUR ENEMIES A FOOTSTOOL FOR YOUR FEET.'"

⁴⁴ "Therefore David calls Him 'Lord,' and how is He his son?"

⁴⁵ And while all the people were listening, He said to the disciples,

⁴⁶ "Beware of the scribes, who like to walk around in long robes, and love respectful greetings in the market places, and chief seats in the synagogues and places of honor at banquets,

⁴⁷ who devour widows' houses, and for appearance's sake offer long prayers. These will receive greater condemnation."

I. The importance of listening

d. People listened to the Apostles

Acts 16:14

¹⁴ A woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple fabrics, a worshiper of God, was listening; and the Lord opened her heart to respond to the things spoken by Paul.

I. The importance of listening

A. Swift to Hear

- 1. To God's word and his spokesmen**
- 2. To Jesus Christ**
- 3. To words of wisdom**
- 4. Believers should not listen to false prophets or ungodly suggestions**
- 5. The wicked refuse to listen to God**

I. The importance of listening

A. Swift to Hear

6. Those who refuse to listen to correction are condemned

7. God's people must not only listen to God's word but also put it into practice

8. Examples of Listening