



Church of Christ

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204 Dix Road Jefferson City, MO 65109

Heart to Heart...

Many times people are really good at talking and not so good at listening. It's so easy to speak, yet listening can be difficult. Jesus told His disciples, **“So take care how you listen; for whoever has, to him more shall be given; and whoever does not have, even what he thinks he has shall be taken away from him.”** (Luke 8:18) Listening carefully to the right things and taking them in will lead you into more spiritual insight from the Lord. To listen to the wrong things, or with a mind set to want to speak without listening will cause you to lose what you do have. There are a lot things that can happen to one spiritually just by our attitude and desire to listen or not. There are spiritual things happening within us when we listen to wrong things.

After Jesus was transfigured on the mountain with Peter, James and John present, God spoke to these apostles from a cloud with these words, **“This is My Son, My Chosen One; listen to Him!”** (Luke 9:35) Listen to Jesus! Listening to Jesus carefully will keep our souls from being snared and our flesh from reacting in difficult situations. Sometimes we listen to gossip or slander against others. Those types of things will take you down spiritually! You pay attention to that kind of evil, and you will begin to lose the spiritual battle. Listening to the wrong things affects your spiritual well being!

When the telegraph was the fastest method of long distance communication, a young man applied for a job as a Morse Code operator. Upon entering the office, it was a large room filled with other people sitting at desks, talking, and the clatter of the telegraph in the background. He was astounded by all the noise. He read the sign on the receptionist desk instructing job applicants to fill out a form and wait until they were summoned to enter a private office. As the young man sat down to fill out his application, he noticed others there waiting for an interview, having conversations. After a few minutes, the young man stood up, crossed the room to the door of the inner office, walking right in. The other applicants looked up wondering what was going on. They hadn't heard any summons or names called. They assumed the young man took things upon himself to enter the office. Within a few minutes, however, the employer walked out with the young man and spoke to the other applicants, *“Thank you for coming in, but the job has just been filled.”* The applicants began to grumble and one spoke up, *“I don't understand. He just came in and walked into your office, and we never got to speak with you. It's not fair!”* The employer spoke, *“For the last several minutes while you've been sitting here, talking with each other, caught up in your own world, the telegraph has been ticking out the following message in Morse Code: ‘If you understand this message, then come right in! The job is yours.’”*

How much do we miss from the Lord because we are listening to the wrong things or not taking to heart what is said? James was right! **“But everyone must be quick to hear, slow to speak and slow to anger.”** (Jam. 1:19) Think about it!!!

Brent