

# ***LISTEN***

**Definition:** Hearing and understanding what someone is saying.

**Synonyms:** Hear, Heed, Receive

Since my email is sent on Tuesday this devotional begins on Tuesday and ends Monday.

## ***DAY 1 – Tuesday***

*“My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to **listen**, slow to speak and slow to become angry” (James 1:19 NIV)*

When you are with a group of people how much do you talk and **listen**? It is a tough balance sometimes. Mainly because we have so much to add to the conversation and we don't want people to miss our profound thoughts.

**Listening** is much more than waiting for someone to finish what they are saying. You don't just pick up the words, but the meaning and emotion behind them. You must be fully engaged to really **listen**.

James is a book full of wisdom particularly when it comes to relationships and living out our faith. Here he tells us that **listening** to others is important and in the same sentence cautions us about anger. Why does he tie **listening** and anger together? I think it is because conflict often arises due to people being misunderstood – not being heard

## **THOUGHT FOR THE DAY**

**A GOOD LISTENER CAN RESOLVE CONFLICT BEFORE IT STARTS.**



## **DAY 2 - Wednesday**

*“A fool is quick-tempered, but the wise **listen** to others (Proverbs 12:15 NLT).  
Fools have no interest in understanding; they only want to air their own opinions”  
(Proverbs 18:2).*

Here the Bible tells us we are fools when we talk more than we **listen**. When we talk a lot our tongue can get us into trouble. We share too much, a confidential conversation slips out, or we accidentally hurt a person’s feelings because we don’t know their particular circumstances.

But when we **listen** we learn. When we hear the other side our opinion might be altered. The “too much information” folly is less likely to happen, and we come away knowing and understanding others better when we **listen**.

When someone sees that you are a person that **listens**, they are more likely to **listen** to you when you speak. When someone rambles on I tend to tune them out, but when a quiet person speaks, it is most likely because they feel they have something important or valuable to offer. It gets my attention.

### **THOUGHT FOR THE DAY**

**LEARNING AND LISTENING GO HAND IN HAND.**



### DAY 3 - Thursday

*“Don’t be selfish; don’t try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves” (Philippians 2:3).*

Have you ever been in a group where one person dominates the conversation with her greatness? One success after another, name dropping, possessions, are all on the agenda. She wants you hear about every single accomplishment, real or perceived.

This verse tells us we should not try to impress others, but instead think of others. Part of thinking of others is **listening** to what they have to say. We understand them better, which allows us to offer assistance when there is a need or encouragement when there is a problem.

When a person continually talks about herself it not only diminishes her likeability, but her credibility too.

#### THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

**LISTENING IS AN ATTRIBUTE OF A HUMBLE PERSON.**



“What? All I said was I’m proud of my humility.”

**DAY 4 – Friday**

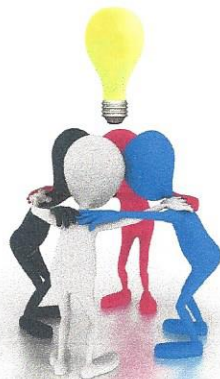
*“Don’t look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others too”  
(Philippians 2:4).*

One of the best ways to take an interest in others is to **listen** to them. Learning about them allows a person to feel included and worthy. When a person feels heard, she also feels understood. This leads to genuine friendship.

You may be surprised what you learn when you take an interest in others. Not just about the person, but about the world and your faith. **Listening** to someone else’s perspective, pursuits, or activities might enrich your life, enhance your spiritual growth, or give you a great idea. Don’t devalue what others have to offer.

**THOUGHT FOR THE DAY**

**LISTEN INTENTLY, YOU MAY BE SURPRISED WHAT YOU HEAR!**



***DAYS 5 & 6 - WEEKEND REFLECTIONS (Saturday and Sunday)***

Did you ever think of **listening** as an act of love?

*“Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no records of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres” (1 Corinthians 13:4-7).*

Don't these verses describe a good **listener**?

A good **listener** does not boast, and is not self-seeking (Philippians 2:3)

A good **listener** does not anger easily (James 1:19).

A good **listener** is wise and loves understanding or truth. (Proverbs 12:15 and 18:2)

A good **listener** takes an interest and cares for others or perseveres even when taking an interest is difficult.



***Day 7 – Monday***

Take this day to focus on your Sunday sermon, spending additional time in prayer to prepare for your week. Tomorrow print off the next “word of the week” devotional.