

## **Eloquent Listening**

### **Acts 18:24-28**

#### **Apollos described as eloquent man, mighty in the Scriptures**

Must have been an earnest, eloquent listener - When way of Lord explained more accurately concerning baptism, it is evident that he listened, learned, and corrected his mistaken position  
Eloquence does not come easy - Demosthenes, renowned ancient Greek orator, demonstrates this  
Many difficulties, weak lungs, unpleasant voice, ungainly manner, made special effort to strengthen voice, give clearness to his speech Practiced with pebbles in mouth, shouted against roar of waves His efforts helped to make him one of the greatest orators of all time  
Characteristics of eloquent listener like eloquent speaker, As much art in listening as speaking

#### **Attentive Listening**

Inattentive, aimless listening wastes time and breeds boredom - **Luke 8:18**  
Leaves little learned and may have paid only enough attention to confuse and distort the message  
Listen carefully, for even with the best of attention one may not be able to remember all that is said

#### **Retentive Listening**

Retentive listening requires effort repetition of thought, run references - **Psalms 119:11**  
Always have Bible at every service, take notes for later reference  
After service talk about Scriptures used in message; discuss them in the home with the family.

#### **Judicial Listening**

Jesus also taught, "Take heed what you hear." - **Mark 4:24**  
We may have confidence in speaker, yet must search the Scriptures - **Acts 17:11**  
We must not accept his word solely on basis of admiration for him  
Well-known preacher, fascinated with false doctrine, left Scriptures One who had known him, and was great admirer, said, "He is such a good man. I cannot believe that he would teach error"  
An important test of goodness is soundness in the Scriptures  
One greatly admired does greater harm if he departs from Word of God - **1John 4:1**

#### **Willing Listening**

Cornelius is an example of a willing listener - Gathered relatives and close friends - **Acts 10:33**  
The obedient were first willing listeners - Cornelius, Ethiopian, Philippian jailer - **Acts 8:31; Acts 16:30**

#### **Courageous Listening**

Some have not listened to Lord with enough courage to do as He said  
Saul told to destroy Amelekites & possessions, yet saved king & finest flocks, herds - **1Samuel 15:24**  
Saul paid dear price for lacking courage to do as God commanded  
Also there have been those who listened with great interest & courage  
Ethiopian, had courage to obey at first opportunity to learn gospel - Could rationalize whether queen would be displeased Could think of himself as in too high a position to condescend to lowly requirements of Christianity Listened to Philip the evangelist & courageously obeyed  
Some in our time, not as courageous, failed to obey out of fear of displeasing relatives or friends

#### **Personal Listening**

Apply the message to self, not necessarily to someone else - What must I DO? - **Acts 16:30**  
If one has to labor tirelessly to be effective speaker, reasonable that successful listening takes diligent effort.