

## Romans 10:17 Hearing Scripture

**Because faith is born and matures from hearing the Word of Christ, God gives us grace to listen with attention, humility, discernment, purity and love.**

### 1) Faith is born and matures from hearing the Word of Christ.

- a) Rom. 10:17 "So Faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the Word of Christ."
- b) 2 Tim. 3:15 "the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus"
- c) 1 Pet. 2:2 "Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation."
- d) **Application:**
  - i) Thomas Watson: "... highest importance; ... greatest devotion."
  - ii) David Clarkson: "Hearing ... is an act of eternal consequence. According to our hearing, so shall the state of our souls be to eternity."

### 2) God gives us grace to listen with attention.

- a) Acts 16:14 "One who heard us was Lydia . . . . The Lord opened her heart to pay attention to what was said by Paul."
- b) 1 Thess. 2:13 "And we also thank God constantly for this, that when you received the Word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men but as what it really is, the Word of God, which is at work in you believers."
- c) The gift of attention is complemented by a command:
  - i) Luke 8:8 "He who has ears to hear, let him hear."
  - ii) Rev. 2:7 "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."
- d) **Application:**
  - i) Rest the night before.
  - ii) Rise early and arrive early.
  - iii) Nourish your mind by reading Scripture and edifying literature.
  - iv) Discipline your mind by choosing forms of entertainment wisely. Replace mind-numbing entertainment with thoughtful entertainment that involves and exercises the mind.
  - v) Rejoice that children are worshiping God with the whole church. Train them to listen, not just passively sit.
  - vi) Remember the goodness of the Lord (1 Pet. 2:3 "—if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good."

### 3) God gives us grace to listen with humility.

- a) 1 Tim. 4:11-12 "Command and teach these things. Let no one despise you for your youth . . ."— One way to avoid confrontation with the Word of God is to despise the messenger.
  - i) Acts 4:13, 18 "... they were uneducated, common men . . ."
  - ii) Acts 17:18 "What does this babbling wish to say?"
- b) The gift of humility is complemented by a command:
  - i) 1 Peter 5:5b "Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility towards one another, for 'God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.'"
  - ii) James 1:21b "receive with meekness the implanted Word, which is able to save your souls."
- c) **Application:**
  - i) Remember that God uses the "foolish," low, despised, and weak nothings of the world in order to make known His wisdom and power, so that our faith might not rest in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God (1 Cor. 1:26-2:5).

- ii) Watch out for the self-defense mechanisms of unholy desires (1 Tim. 6:3-5 “puffed up with conceit . . . imagining that godliness is a means of profit”; 2 Tim. 3:2-8)

**4) God gives us grace to listen with discernment.**

- a) Rev. 2:2 “. . . you have tested those who call themselves apostles and are not, and found them to be false.”
- b) The gift of discernment is complemented by a command:
  - i) 1 John 4:1 “Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world.”
  - ii) Matt. 7:15-16a “Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. You will recognize them by their fruits.”
  - iii) To Elders especially: Acts 20:28-30
- c) **Application:**
  - i) Keep your Bible open.
  - ii) Ask questions.
  - iii) Listen for the whole counsel of the Word of God.

**5) God gives us grace to listen with purity of heart.**

- a) Luke 8:15 “As for that in the good soil, they are those who, hearing the Word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bear fruit with patience.”
- b) Matt. 13:10-17 “. . . For this people’s heart has grown dull, and with their ears they can barely hear, and their eyes they have closed, lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears and understand with their heart and turn, and I would heal them. But blessed are your eyes, for they see, and your ears, for they hear. . . .”
- c) The gift of a pure heart is complemented by a command:
  - i) Heb. 3:15 “Today, if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion.”
  - ii) 2 Pet. 3:16b-17 “. . . take care that you are not carried away with the error of lawless people and lose your own stability.”
- d) **Application:**
  - i) Self-examination
  - ii) Confess and repent of all sin.

**6) God gives us grace to listen with love.**

- a) Psalm 119:47-48, 97 “For I find my delight in Your commandments, which I love. I will lift up my hands towards Your commandments, which I love, and I will meditate on Your statutes. . . . Oh how I love Your law! It is my meditation all the day.”
- b) Psalm 119:131 “I open my mouth and pant, because I long for Your commandments.”
- c) The gift of love is complemented by a command:
  - i) Deut. 6:5-6 “You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart.”
  - ii) James 1:22 “But be doers of the Word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.”
- d) **Application:**
  - i) Stir up love for God’s Word by spending time with it.
  - ii) Know that you are addressed by the Lover of your soul: Song of Solomon 2:8 “The voice of my beloved! Behold, he comes, leaping over the mountains, bounding over the hills.”
  - iii) Are you “of” God? John 8:47 “Whoever is of God hears the words of God. The reason why you do not hear them is that you are not of God.”

**Doxology:** Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of His glory with great joy, to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen. Jude 24-25