

# LOVING THROUGH LISTENING

*God accomplishes incredible things through people who are able to respectfully and lovingly listen. He offers His quiet, gentle direction to those who wait peacefully upon Him, and He guides us to minister to one another through patiently listening to and sharing of one another's burdens.*

## ***Listening and waiting upon God for direction...***

If you will humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, in his good time he will lift you up. Let him have all your worries and cares, for he is always thinking about you and watching everything that concerns you.

*1 Peter 5:6-7 TLB*

Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything; tell God your needs, and don't forget to thank him for his answer. If you do this, you will experience God's peace, which is far more wonderful than the human mind can understand. His peace will keep your thoughts and your hearts quiet and at rest as you trust in Christ Jesus. *Phil 4:6-7 TLB*

For the eyes of the Lord are intently watching all who live good lives, and he gives attention when they cry to him. But the Lord has made up his mind to wipe out even the memory of evil men from the earth. Yes, the Lord hears the good man when he calls to him for help and saves him out of all his troubles. The Lord is close to those whose hearts are breaking; he rescues those who are humbly sorry for their sins.

*Psalms 34.15-18 TBL*

In everything you do, put God first, and he will direct you and crown your efforts with success. *Proverbs 3:5-6 TLB*

## ***When we listen attentively we extend ourselves to others in the love of Jesus Christ...***

Now you can have real love for everyone because your souls have been cleansed from selfishness and hatred when you trusted Christ to save you;

so see to it that you really do love each other warmly, with all your hearts. For you have a new life. It was not passed on to you from your parents, for the life they gave you will fade away. This new one will last forever, for it comes from Christ, God's ever-living Message to men. *1 Peter 1:22-23 TLB*

Don't just pretend that you love others: really love them. Hate what is wrong. Stand on the side of the good. Love each other with brotherly affection and take delight in honoring each other. *Romans 12:9-10 TLB*

Don't be selfish; don't live to make a good impression on others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourself. Don't just think about your own affairs, but be interested in others, too, and in what they are doing. *Philippians 2:3-4 TLB*

***When we listen respectfully we become instruments of God through which He offers encouragement and hope...***

What a wonderful God we have--he is the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the source of every mercy, and the one who so wonderfully comforts and strengthens us in our hardships and trials. And why does he do this? So that when others are troubled, needing our sympathy and encouragement, we can pass on to them this same help and comfort God has given us. *2 Corinthians 1:3-4 TLB*

Now we can look forward to the salvation God has promised us. There is no longer any room for doubt, and we can tell others that salvation is ours, for there is no question that he will do what he says. In response to all he has done for us, let us outdo each other in being helpful and kind to each other and in doing good. Let us not neglect our church meetings, as some people do, but encourage and warn each other, especially now that the day of his coming back again is drawing near. *Hebrews 10:23-25 TLB*

Now glory be to God, who by his mighty power at work within us is able to do far more than we would ever dare to ask or even dream of--infinitely beyond our highest prayers, desires, thoughts, or hopes. *Ephesians 3:20 TLB*

Why then be downcast? Why be discouraged and sad? Hope in God! I shall yet praise him again. Yes, I shall again praise him for his help. *Psalms 42:5 TLB*