

How frustrated do you get when you are talking and the person you are talking to, is not listening? We may be tempted to say something ridiculous to see if they are even coherent in the one-way conversation. We may be thinking to ourselves, I always listen to you. But, do we?

Don't get me wrong, at times nothing can be more frustrating than finding out you have been talking to yourself. Nothing irks me more than realizing the person you thought you were talking to was just scrolling on their phone. How hard is it to *just listen*?

We are not as good at communication as we think. We tend to have hidden agendas when it comes to communication. When we ask someone how they are doing, is it because we care? Is it because we think it is the "polite" thing to do when you have important news you want to share? Sometimes, we ask questions out of habit and do not even listen to their response. Why is it so hard to *just listen*?

It's not just failing to listen to others. We also forget to listen to God. God speaks to us through His Word but we don't always listen to Him.

Remember this, my dear brothers: Let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to become angry. James 1:19

When we go through difficult times our sinful nature wants to blame God rather than listen to what he has to say.

I can promise you there is comfort for any situation in scripture. We just need to listen. Listen to the love: **"For God so loved the world that he sent His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life."** John 3:16 Listen to the comfort: **"And surely I am with you always to the end of the age"** Matthew 28:20 Listen to the encouragement: **"Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the Lord your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you."**

On top of all the love and encouragement found in scripture, we also know that God listens to us. **"Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you."** 1 Peter 5:7 God wants us to go to Him with all of our doubts and fears and with our joys and hardships. We know from scripture, that He hears our prayers and listens to us.

In the same way, God listens to us, may we show His love and compassion by listening to others. Listen to their doubts and fears. Listen to their joys and hardships. Listen to their struggles. May we always emulate the same love Christ showed us and *just listen*.

Lord, no matter what happens in our lives you always listen. Help us to always be slow to answer and quick to listen not just to you but to those in our lives who need it. Help us to emulate the love that Christ has shown us and continues to show us. Please help us in this endeavor. Amen.