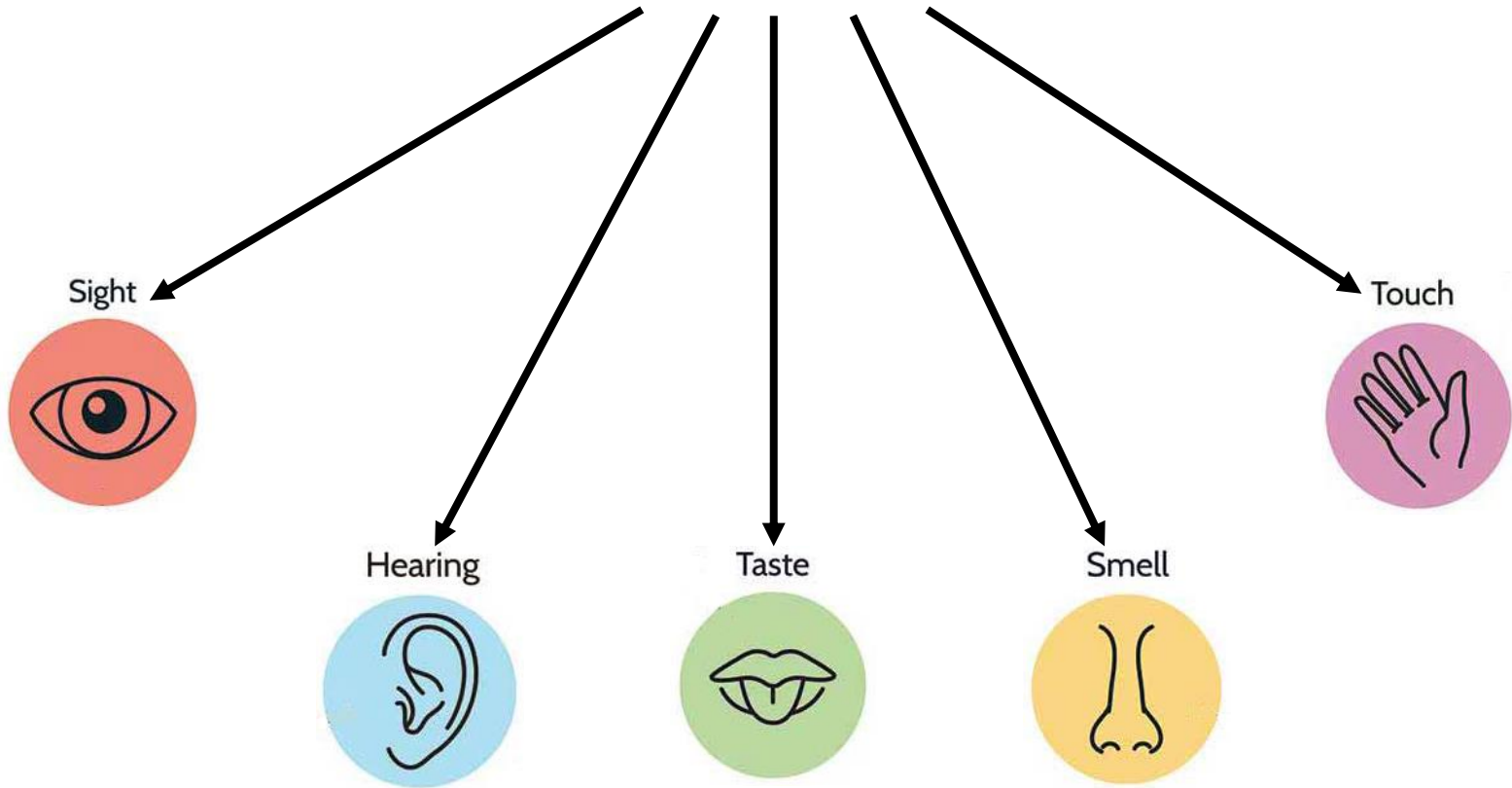


# 5 Senses



# Hearing vs. Listening

Hearing and listening are two related words that are sometimes used interchangeably but hold different meanings.

The Lord speaks out to Samuel  
In 1 Samuel 3:4-10

## 1 Samuel 3:3-5

The lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was sleeping in the Tabernacle near the Ark of God. 4 Suddenly the Lord called out, "Samuel!" "Yes?" Samuel replied. "What is it?" 5 He got up and ran to Eli. "Here I am. Did you call me?" "I didn't call you," Eli replied. "Go back to bed." So he did.

## 1 Samuel 3:6-7

Then the Lord called out again, "Samuel!" Again Samuel got up and went to Eli. "Here I am. Did you call me?" "I didn't call you, my son," Eli said. "Go back to bed." 7 Samuel did not yet know the Lord because he had never had a message from the Lord before.

1 Samuel 3:8-9

8 So the Lord called a third time, and once more Samuel got up and went to Eli. "Here I am. Did you call me?"

Then Eli realized it was the Lord who was calling the boy. 9 So he said to Samuel, "Go and lie down again, and if someone calls again, say, 'Speak, Lord, your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went back to bed.

1 Samuel 3:10

And the Lord came and called as before, "Samuel! Samuel!"

And Samuel replied, "Speak, your servant is listening."

Eli was Samuel's spiritual leader, a pastor in the church of their time. Eli was familiar with the voice of God and helped Samuel to realize that it was God who was speaking to him. Samuel heard the voice of God, but he was not **listening** the first three times God called his name



Hearing is simply the act of perceiving sound by the ear. If you are not hearing-impaired, hearing simply happens.

Listening, however, is something you consciously choose to do.

Listening requires concentration so that your brain processes meaning from words and sentences. Listening leads to learning.

Listening is a choice that requires action, hearing is more of a passive behavior.

I don't want to admit it but I am a bad listener. Sometimes, I just don't listen. Ask my wife. She'll tell you. In my defense, I would like to make the point that I do listen—to sports, to the game announcers, I just, sometimes, don't listen to her.

Whenever I realize, she's been talking to me for the past few minutes and I haven't heard a word she's said, I will mumble an indirect, "OK honey."

Being a smart wife she is, she will ask what did I say. Most of the time, I fail miserably, which brings the unavoidable question from her, “How can you listen to me and not hear a word I’m saying?”

That's a good question. How can someone listen but never hear a word that was said? That got me thinking about the church when I preach are the people listening to me.

Because most people has already heard the gospel.

My task as a preacher is not necessarily to share the gospel (because they've already heard it), but to apply familiar stories in new ways to their changing life circumstances.

The assumption is that our church people know the gospel but sometimes lack the ability in applying its truth to their lives.

Now I'm wondering if you are not listening to the sermon and just mumbling back a religious "Amen" to appease me.



The phrase...

“Yes, you hear me. But are you listening?”

Webster defines hearing as:

The process, function, or power of perceiving sound; specifically: the special sense by which noises and tones are received as incentives.

The scientific process of hearing sound involves many parts of the ear working together to convert sound waves into information that the brain understands and interprets as sounds.”

If we consider the number of sermons, we have heard this past year, how many of them did we actually listen to?

Jesus throughout his ministry was recorded multiple time saying, “He that hath an ear let him hear.”

The word hear in the Greek is akouo.

It is a primary verb which means:

To attend to, consider what is or has been said.

To understand, perceive the sense of what is said.

So, the phrase “He that hath an ear let him hear” really means “to Listen.”

Which is telling us:

To hear something with thoughtful attention

Give consideration

Listen to a plea

To be alert to catch an expected sound

God wants us to Listen.

Romans 6:16

Don't you realize that you become the slave of whatever you choose to obey? You can be a slave to sin, which leads to death, or you can choose to obey God, which leads to righteous living.

The act of listening is Obedience

Deuteronomy 28:1-2

"If you fully obey the Lord your God and carefully keep all his commands that I am giving you today, the Lord your God will set you high above all the nations of the world. 2 You will experience all these blessings if you obey the Lord your God:

Luke 6:46-47

"So why do you keep calling me 'Lord, Lord!' when you don't do what I say?

47 I will show you what it's like when someone comes to me, listens to my teaching, and then follows it.

Luke 6:48

It is like a person building a house who digs deep and lays the foundation on solid rock. When the floodwaters rise and break against the house, it stands firm because it is well built.



Luke 6:49

But anyone who hears and doesn't obey is like a person who builds a house without a foundation. When the floods sweep down against that house, it will collapse into a heap of ruins."

Three Questions to ask yourself:

Do you think that there is a difference between hearing and listening?

Do you think listening is directly connected to obedience?

How does hearing God and not listening to God hurt us in our Christian walk?

Good listening requires patience.

James 1:19

So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath.

Good listening is an act of love.

Philippians 2:3-4

3 Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. 4 Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.

Good listening ask observant questions.

Proverbs 18:1

Fools have no interest in understanding; they only want to air their own opinions.

Good listening prepares us to speak well.

Proverbs 18:10

Casting lots can end arguments;  
it settles disputes between powerful  
opponents.

Good listening reflects our relationship with God.

He who can no longer listen to his brother will soon be no longer listening to God either.

**BUT**

Anyone who thinks that his time is valuable to spend keeping quiet will eventually have no time for God and his brother, but only for himself and for his own follies.



## James 1:19-21

Understand this, my dear brothers and sisters: You must all be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to get angry.

20 Human anger does not produce the righteousness God desires. 21 So get rid of all the filth and evil in your lives, and humbly accept the word God has planted in your hearts, for it has the power to save your souls.

## James 1:22-24

22 But don't just listen to God's word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves. 23 For if you listen to the word and don't obey, it is like glancing at your face in a mirror. 24 You see yourself, walk away, and forget what you look like.

## James 1:25-26

25 But if you look carefully into the perfect law that sets you free, and if you do what it says and don't forget what you heard, then God will bless you for doing it. 26 If you claim to be religious but don't control your tongue, you are fooling yourself, and your religion is worthless.

James 1:27

Pure and genuine religion in the sight of God the Father means caring for orphans and widows in their distress and refusing to let the world corrupt you.

Although we hear God with our ears; but I strongly believe that the only way to truly listen to God is from our hearts.