

kinds of individuals, saying, "O foolish people, . . . who have ears and hear not This people has a defiant and rebellious heart" (Jeremiah 5:21,23).

Instead of closing your ears to God, read the Bible and pray to Him regularly. Take time to think about God and His many blessings. That's how to stay tuned in! —Dave Egner

Thinking It Over

How good is your relationship with the Lord?

Are you listening to Him?

Are there sins you need to confess?

What can you do to draw closer to Him?

God speaks to those who take time to listen.



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Central Mountains Baptist Church

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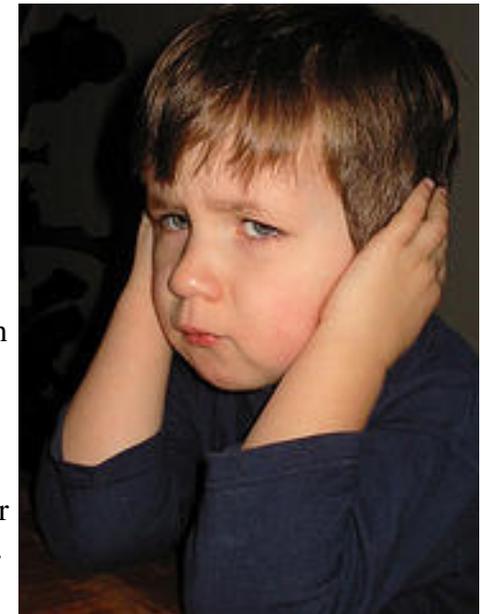
Tuned In

Hear this now, O foolish people, . . . who have ears and hear not. — Jeremiah 5:21

One of my sons was a master at tuning out what he didn't want to hear. In church, his mind was a million miles away. He could tell you the number of panels in the ceiling and how many seats were in the choir loft. Many times I heard my wife say to him in the midst of a scolding, "Are you listening to me?"

We too are often guilty of tuning out what we don't want to hear, even messages from God. In his book *Christian Reflections*, C. S. Lewis says that a person who is determined to ignore God's voice will follow this advice: "Avoid silence, avoid solitude, avoid any train of thought that leads off the beaten track. Concentrate on money, sex, status, health, and (above all) your own grievances. Keep the radio on. Live in a crowd."

When we do something wrong, that's one time when we especially need to listen to God's voice. But often, in our stubbornness, we make sure we don't. The prophet Jeremiah spoke to those





Discipleship Series Being Wise

(Colossians 2:3) "... are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge."

If we follow closely Jesus teaching on wisdom, we will see that there are four steps:

1. Choose to _____ to God, Luke 8:4-18

(Matthew 7:24-27) ""Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: {25} "and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock. {26} "But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: {27} "and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall.""



Wise= hears + does

(Mark 4:20) ""But these are the ones sown on good ground, those who hear the word, **accept** it, and bear fruit: some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some a hundred.""

(Proverbs 9:10) ""The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, ..."

◆ **(Proverbs 1:22)** ""How long, you simple ones, will you love simplicity? .."

(Proverbs 1:24) "Because I have called and you refused, I have stretched out my hand and no one regarded,"

(Proverbs 1:26) "I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your terror comes,"

(Proverbs 1:28-29) ""Then they will call on me, but I will not answer; They will seek me diligently, but they will not find me. {29} Because they hated knowledge And did not choose the fear of the LORD,"

(Proverbs 1:33) "But whoever listens to me will dwell safely, And will be secure, without fear of evil.""

(Proverbs 2:10-12) "When wisdom enters your heart, And knowledge is pleasant to your soul, {11} Discretion will preserve you; Understanding will keep you, {12} To deliver you from the way of evil, ..."

(Proverbs 3:13-18) "Happy is the man who finds wisdom, And the man who gains understanding; {14} For her proceeds are better than the profits of silver, And her gain than fine gold. {15} She is more precious than rubies, And all the things you may desire cannot compare with her. {16} Length of days is in her right hand, In her left hand riches and honor. {17} Her ways are ways of pleasantness, And all her paths are peace. {18} She is a tree of life to those who take hold of her, And happy are all who retain her."



2. Choose to _____ like God,

(Joshua 1:8) ""This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success."

(Psalms 1:2) "But his delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night."

(Psalms 63:6) "When I remember You on my bed, I meditate on You in the night watches."

(Psalms 77:12) "I will also meditate on all Your work, And talk of Your deeds."

(Proverbs 2:2) "So that you incline your ear to wisdom, And apply your heart to understanding;"

(Proverbs 3:3) "Let not mercy and truth forsake you; Bind them around your neck, Write them on the tablet of your heart,"

(James 1:21-22)

- ◆ "Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness,
- ◆ and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls.
- ◆ {22} But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves." [KJV]

