

HOW TO: Listen to Teaching

We can be taught by experience and by what others speak or write. When it comes to the latter two, we can receive with both our mind and our spirit.

Although we are to be a spiritual people, our mind is a useful tool provided it is made subject to our spirit. In this situation, our mind can be taught what needs to be known of spiritual matters.

Paul didn't send letters to the early church groups with just one sentence in the body of text saying, "The Holy Spirit will teach you anything you want to know". No. He taught at length in his epistles and he also told Titus to teach sound doctrine¹. Sound doctrine is simply wholesome teaching that aligns with the Kingdom.

Jesus spoke in parables to the masses and taught his disciples – each for a different purpose. Teaching the mind has value.

Sound doctrine is essential for us as it contains the lifestyle we are to live for our King.

In the Kingdom, we must also feed our spirit on spiritual food. This is not religious or theological in nature, but rather, rhema which comes from the Spirit of God.

When listening to teaching we must hear with both our mind and our spirit. These two must be actively operating so we can receive what is essential for us to know at any one time.

To hear sound doctrine we must hear with our mind in active listening and discernment mode. Critical or negative attitudes will shut down this type of hearing. So will focussing on one point in the teaching for the entire session, especially if it's perceived to be error.

Listening with your spirit is an attitude of waiting for the Spirit to drop something said or written into our spirit. This is our spiritual food, our essential 'bread of life'.

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1 – Titus 1:9; 2:1