

Isa 50:4-5 He awakens Me morning by morning, He awakens My ear To hear...

Teachability: a willingness to listen, learn and adjust. Synonyms: humility, correctability. Antonyms: stubborn, unteachable. (OK, I made up the word and the definition. But stay with me on this oneō please ☺)

Teachable people are really good listeners. They are humble enough to know they need to listen, learn and change. They are willing to listen and learn from all kinds of people. They are genuinely interested in others and as a result, teachable people have a bigger positive impact and influence on others than self-assured, unteachable people. Think about the importance of being an *active, engaged listener* in the following settingsō

Evangelism: a good listener is able to enter into another person's life and experience and connect with them. Because they listen actively and well, they are able to fulfill Col 4:6, 1 Pet 3:15, and Prov 25:11. Relationships are built and strengthened by good listeners!

Marriage: if we would commit ourselves to active, intentional listening, most of our conflicts would be solved much more quickly and easily than they are. Love and respect are both demonstrated most clearly by our willingness to listen well and adjust the way we live. Marriage requires change. Change requires being teachable. Eph 5:33

Parenting: if parents are teachable, their children usually reflect the same attitude. If parents listen well, they will prevent needless offense and exasperating their kids. Eph 6:4

Teamwork: teams that function well, listen well. A willingness to really listen to our teammates will not only demonstrate mutual respect but will open the flood gates of creativity resident in the members of the team. People usually speak if they feel respected. A lack of patient listening will shut down the potential of a winning team. 1 Pet 3:8

Counseling: our prescriptions would be far more accurate if we listened more fully and carefully to the symptoms and settings of those we are seeking to help. Unhurried, active listening on the counselor's part often enables people to solve their own problems as situations are clarified in the process. Prov 18:13

Spiritual growth: everything about spiritual growth is tied up with a willingness to listen carefully, learn and adjust. Consider the following: Deut 6:4-5, 1 Pet 1:23 - 2:2; James 1:19-27; Romans 10:17; John 10:27-28; Luke 8:18

Leadership: Good leaders listen good.+ Ok, I know that's bad grammar. But you'd remember it! Really good leaders are characterized by a desire to listen and learn. Good leaders know they can be better leaders and they'd become better leaders by listening to their followers as well as to other leaders around them. Teachable leaders succeed.

Cultural adaptation: perhaps the best advice I ever received about moving into new cultural settings was this: Go as a learner, ask a lot of questions, and listen really well.+I've discovered that if I am genuinely interested in learning, most people are more than willing to talk. Lack of listening indicates a lack of love, respect and interest.

Warning: active listeners often hear things they don't want to hear about themselves. The normal reaction to negative information about ourselves is defensiveness. This is evidence of a stubborn streak that would rather argue than adjust. We can learn even from unjust and unfair criticism. *I've never gotten into trouble when listening.* But speakingō oh yesō I've often caused trouble when I stopped listening and started speaking. James 1:19

Self Check Questions:

1. Would most people call you a really good listener?
2. Who have you not listened to recently that you should spend more listening time with?
3. What are some good questions you could ask that would give you the opportunity to practice active listening?
4. What are three questions do you wish someone would ask you? Why? (Why not ask someone else?)

For Further Study: find all the ears to hear+passages in the Word. (At least 16)

Lord, You listen to everything! Help me learn to be a better listener. I commit myself to listening more actively to You, as well as to others. Make me be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger.+Give me ears to hear+and a heart to change. Amen+

Remember, you are very special to us and we pray for you continually. Living with leaving in view.... Jn 9:4
Ron & Val

Seeing The Invisible, embracing The Unapproachable, declaring The Unexplainable, changed by The Immutable, running after The Irresistible with inexhaustible joy in our inexpressible sorrows, spending our time on eternity, owning nothing yet possessing everything that matters and lasts. We are Pilgrims in Paradox. Welcome to THE JOURNEY.