



Learning to Discern...in our Listening

Acts 17:2-4, 11

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Three Mental Processes in a Good Listener's Mind:

1. Evaluate (Acts 17:2-3)
 - **Reasons** – “reasoning”
 - **Argument** – “opening”
 - **Evidence** – “alleging”
 - **Holy Spirit** – “and some believed” (1 Cor. 2:14)
2. Summarize – Periodically review what has been said.
3. **Decide** – What do you need to remember, learn, change or obey?

Five Suggestions for Active Listening:

1. Good listeners find an area of **interest** in the speech. It has been said that there is no such thing as an uninteresting subject, there are only uninterested people.
2. Good listeners judge the content and not the **delivery**. We need to find out what the speaker knows, and we need to ask the question, “Does this man know some things that I need to know?” Give every speaker your conscious attention.

3. Good listeners are **flexible**. You must learn to be efficient and have more than one system in taking notes. Use a journal. You're not smart enough to remember everything you know.
4. Good listeners **exercise** their minds with thought speed. A good listener uses his thought speed to his advantage. He constantly applies his spare thinking time to what is being said.
5. Good listeners keep their minds **open**. Often when a speaker invades one of our deaf spots, we simply turn him off. A good listener tries to identify and to rationalize the words or phrases which upset him emotionally.

(Material taken from Dr. Hugh Clark, Bob Jones University)