



DAY 12



WILLING TO LISTEN

**He who gives an answer before he hears,
it is folly and shame to him.**

Proverbs 18:13

She was sitting in my office, a new patient with complaint of stomach pain. Apparently, I was the third doctor she had seen for this issue as the other doctors before me could not give her an answer. She felt miserable and was in pain all of the time, known by many as a “difficult patient”. My first inclination was to think, “what could be the source of the pain that others have missed?” Did she have an ulcer? A cancer? A hernia? A review of her previous testing was all normal. As she expressed frustration regarding a lack of a diagnosis, I considered ordering another x-ray. But then I remembered looking at her chart and saw that she had 4 young children, all under the age of 10. I asked about how she was coping as a mother. Her countenance completely changed and she opened up about the triumph and challenges of motherhood. We ultimately found that her pain was stress related. Rather than a pill or another expensive test, I gave her my listening ear. Just knowing that someone was willing to listen to her made her feel that she was normal and that someone cared.



In reading this passage, it makes me wonder: how much do I truly listen? In God's amazing design of our bodies, he gave us two ears and one mouth; perhaps with good reason.

Do I really listen to my family and friends before I talk over them?

Do I think before I speak and consider the impact of my words on others?

Do I listen to the consistent, nurturing, and instructional voice of the Holy Spirit in my life?

What about you?

How would you answer these questions?

Dear Lord,

Thank You for Your amazing word that is simple but awesome, wise yet concrete, universal yet personal. You are the perfect listener. Continue to teach us how to listen, to understand how our words and actions affect others, and to know the proper time to act. Show us how to hear and respond to Your voice in our lives. In Christ Jesus we pray, amen.

– HOPE HUBBARD –

