

HEARING PROTECTION

Whenever I mow lawn or use noisy equipment or tools, I make sure to wear ear protection. I have heard of some churches that have ear plugs available as one enters their services because the music is extremely loud. When I went to Kenya to teach and evangelize, during some of the services I had to sit up front near the only instrument used.....a very loud drum. I would discreetly place a finger in my ear to muffle the sound somewhat. The music in heaven is described as loud, but it will not be ear piercing as one may experience here on earth. **Protecting our physical ears is important but to protect our spiritual hearing is even more vital.**

George Mueller became a great inspiration to me when I began to read about his life of faith and devotion to the Word of God and prayer. During his life he read the Bible 200 times. He would often walk and pray as he meditated on the Word of God. I adopted that habit of praying as I walked in the fields on our dairy farm. When I moved to England, I lived in West London and was blessed to live just a few minutes walk from one of the largest open spaces in the congested city. Osterly Park was a 140 acre country farm estate created in the 1700's but later became part of the National Trust. It was a special place for me to walk, enjoy the scenery and also to meditate and pray the Word of God. At other times I would stay in my bedroom and pray.

One particular morning I was in my room walking around as I began to pray through Psalm 101. Suddenly I stopped as these words caught my attention.

I will walk in my house with blameless heart,

God had got my attention with those words about walking in my house....which I was doing. However, the following phrases were what God wanted me to take heed to.

I will set before my eyes no vile thing. The deeds of faithless men I hate;
They will not cling to me. Men of perverse heart shall be far from me;
I will have nothing to do with evil. Whoever slanders his neighbor in secret, him I will **put to silence**; whoever has haughty eyes and a proud heart, him I will not endure.

My eyes will be **on the faithful** in the land, that they may dwell with me;
He whose walk is blameless will minister to me.

No one who practices deceit will dwell in my house; no one who speaks falsely will stand in my presence.

Every morning I will **put to silence** all the wicked in the land;
I will cut off every evildoer from the city of the Lord. - Psalm 101:3-8 NIV

God showed me the importance of guarding my ears, eyes and even what enters my house. This was a necessity when I traveled the bus in London. Invariably, somebody would be reading the Daily Sun Newspaper and every issue had a topless woman featured on page three. I had to be alert to glance away when somebody in the seats ahead of me was reading the paper.

God illuminated my conscience through the following illustration. Lets say that some guests come into my house and all seems fine for a bit, but then they begin to curse and use vulgar language, but I say nothing. Then the couple begin to take off some of their clothes and begin to engage in sexual activity. This goes on for nearly an hour but I just sit there and let it happen. You would think that this never happened to me or you, or has it? What about the movies or TV programs we have watched.

Movies and TV programs have been in our houses that enacted such scenes and yet we did nothing. Many decades ago the movies and TV shows did not need ratings on them as they were all quite modest and clean in their content. Over the years our society has become more decadent and coarse. Cable news network talking heads often get into shouting matches instead of reasoned dialogues. Lies and half truths are daily promulgated on the news shows of all political stripes and persuasions. I prefer to get my news succinctly from Internet sites that are not controlled by the elitists and globalists but that have a Biblical world view or at least some semblance of independent unbiased journalistic truth.

We need to stay on God's frequency and listen to the Word of God and also be aware of the great things that are going on in his kingdom around the world.

Recently there were reports of two famous people that committed suicide. They were listening to Satan's frequency and lies of despair and hopelessness. Also, it is always sad to hear of another teen who takes their own life due to being shamed or exposed in some way through social media sites. It reminds us of the importance of having a circle of friends around us with whom we can open our hearts up with and are willing to listen to us and uplift us. Most important of all.....
God is with us and we need to rely on that. Jesus spoke of this to his disciples.

..... you will be scattered each to his own home. You will leave me all alone. **Yet I am not alone**, for my Father is with me.

- John 16:32

Several years ago I took note of God's first words to Adam and Eve after their fall. I call it history's first counseling session and a model we can use when others need counsel. Let's go back to the garden of Eden and see how God did it.

The First Counseling Session / Genesis 3

(Two keys to good counseling are to ask the right questions and then listen)

1. **Where are you?** God asked this of Adam and then listened. The purpose is to find out what their situation is and how they feel about it. (God knew but wanted to get Adam to speak.) A good counselor lets the person talk which gives time for them to bring certain things into the light.
2. **Who told you?** One can trace the source of many problems based on who the person is listening to. Eve listened to the serpent. Adam listened to his wife. The fall of mankind began when the first couple stopped listening to God, and instead fell for the seductive words of Satan.

We face the same scenario each day of our lives. Who are we listening to? Psalm 101 reminds us that we must **protect our ears from listening to things that are discouraging, degrading, deceitful and dirty.**

We should listen instead to those things that are **truthful, encouraging and life giving.**

I was 28 years old before I heard a message about the Battle for the Mind. It was at a several day Jesus festival in Mercer, Pa., where 40,000 of us gathered on a farm field. Larry Tomczak gave a stirring teaching in three sessions on the topic: The Battle for the Mind. Oh how I wish that I had heard that message at least 10 years before that. I would likely have avoided several months of depression at college, unhealthy friendships, poor decisions and wasted opportunities during that foundational time of my adult life. My thinking has been transformed by the practice of Psalm 1.

But his **delight** is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he **meditates** day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its **fruit** in season.

God is a redeemer and restorer, I can testify to that and so can you.....for you are eating some of that fruit. **jesusreigns.net**

