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Daily Devotional - Tuesday, December 11, 2018 - How to Listen to God's Words

DECEMBER 11TH 2018 BY DEE LOFLIN

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Nehemiah 8:1-9

In our culture, Bibles are so plentiful that we often take them for granted. This was not the case in Ezra's day. After being exiled from Israel for many years, the Jews had finally returned to their land, and today's passage describes their reaction to hearing the Scriptures. We may have easy access to Bibles today, but we'd do well to learn to approach God's Word in the same manner as these Israelites did.

With eager attentiveness. The people listened attentively as Ezra read Scripture "from daybreak till noon" (Neh. 8:3 NIV). How eager are you each day to open God's Word and devote time to reading and study?

With reverence and worship. When Ezra opened the scroll, all the people stood up in reverence and then bowed down to worship the Lord (Neh. 8:5-6). Scripture reveals who God is and increases our awe of Him and respect for His Word.

With understanding. There were people who helped others understand what they heard, similar to the way pastors and teachers do today (Neh. 8:7-8). Do you skim over passages you don't understand, or do you rely on the many sound teaching resources available?

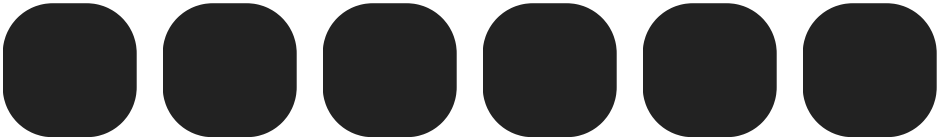
With repentance. After hearing God’s Law, they were convicted of sin and repented with mourning and weeping (Neh. 8:9). God’s Word is sanctifying, revealing sin and guiding us into righteousness.

It’s easy to take for granted what is commonly available, but we should never lose sight of the most valuable possession God has given us—His inspired, inerrant Word.

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