

Bermudian Church of the Brethren

WEDNESDAY's WORD – a midweek thought from Pastor Larry M. Dentler
to share a word of inspiration ... encouragement ... challenge ... a smile ... in the middle of your week
August 14 in the year of our Lord 2019 - #800

Are You Listening?

Our Bermudian Church Family just came off of an amazing Vacation Bible School! The place was packed. Our staff was excellent! The Presence of the Lord was powerful! Lives were changed! And many hungry souls and bellies were fed!

Yeah, it's that last one! The amount of food served for VBS meals each evening before the start of the evening activities (*We've found this to be a real ministry to young families where both parents work. It makes our VBS even more accessible to them.*) as well as tasty snacks each night, and a closing ice cream social ... adds up to a lot of food! And since our numbers exceeded our expectations ... God is good! ... We ran out of some things. Director Sue Mayle shared one evening at the closing that we could use some help with some donated food items.

My son John went up to speak to Sue. John inherited his mother's generous heart. He loves to give. *"What do you need Sue? What can I pick up for you?"* Sue thanked John, and looked at her list and gave John the assignment to bring *"iced animal crackers."*

The next night after a full, busy day at work, John dutifully dropped off his things in The Gathering Place kitchen. He delivered several bags of ice and a large container of chocolate animal crackers.

Wait? What?

Everyone had a good laugh at John's expense. As they say, *"Close but no cigar!"* His wife Erica rolled her eyes knowingly ... John's is very good at lots of things, but maybe ... just maybe ... listening isn't one of them?

How good are you at listening? Our Lord speaks to we who are His children. He speaks loud and clear. The Apostle Paul reminds us that the words of Scripture are "θεσπνευστος" (theopneustos) = **"God breathed."** (2 Timothy 3:16). When we have our Bible open before us the pages are still warm with God's breath! Are you listening? The teachings, guidance, direction of Scripture are not suggestions, not ancient myths, not dusty old literature! Rather, Hebrews 4:12 reminds us that, **"The Word of God is living and active...."** Are you listening?

There are so many distractions for each of us. But so often we yearn to hear from God. *"What shall I do?" "What shall I believe?" "What is the real truth on this issue?"* Open the Bible ... God is speaking ... speaking with clarity ... speaking with love ... are you listening? And if you approach the Scriptures during Sunday morning worship, at your Bible study group, in your daily devotions, with any other attitude than this, then perhaps it is time for a refocusing. A correction. Understand exactly what the Bible is. And approach it with joy, with anticipation, with trust. God is speaking. God is speaking to us. God is speaking to you. Are you listening!

"Open my eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of your law." Psalm 119:18 ESV

“... all my words that I shall speak to you receive in your heart, and hear with your ears.” Ezekiel 3:10 ESV

“Whoever is of God hears the words of God.” John 8:47 ESV

“Whoever gives thought to the Word will discover good, and blessed is he who trusts in the Lord.” Proverbs 16:20 ESV

“Speak, for your servant is listening.” 1 Samuel 3:10 NIV

Listening! Pastor Larry <><