

## **“Are You A Good Listener?”**

### **Psalm 116:1-9**

Preached by Dr. Robert F. Browning, Pastor

Smoke Rise Baptist Church

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I like people who listen. It is not that I dislike people who talk, but I am drawn to those with good listening skills.

It is easy to tell when someone is not listening, isn't it? Ever been in a crowd talking to someone while he or she is scanning the room? How do you feel when someone breaks out in a big yawn while you are talking? How many times has someone interrupted you in the middle of your sentence with a question that has nothing to do with what you were discussing? In all likelihood, all have us have been on both sides of this equation. We've been good and poor listeners.

Those who have good listening skills are special. They make good friends, probably the best. Think about it. Who are your closest friends? I'd be willing to say they are good listeners.

I believe this was why the Psalmist was so close to God. At least that's what he said in Psalm 116:1, ***“I love God because He hears.”*** His God was his friend because He was such a good listener. Makes sense.

Psalm 116:1 carries a powerful message. It says a lot to me that I want to share with you today.

**To begin, the Psalmist loved God because God listened when others did not.** Maybe the people around him were too busy or distracted. Perhaps they were unaware of his need to talk or were inaccessible. Just the opposite was true of God. As a matter of fact, the Psalmist had an image of God bending down like an adult would to hear a child. That's a tender image. That's why God is a good listener.

**The Psalmist loved God because God listened to what others would not.** Others might have considered his words silly, ridiculous, mundane or too sensitive for their ears, but not God. No topic was too ordinary or extraordinary for God. He could voice his fears, anxieties, worries, desires, heartbreak, confusion or sins and God would listen. He could even say the same things over and over and God would still listen. If it was important to him it was important to God. No wonder the Psalmist loved God. That's a true friend.

**He loved God because God listened to him, a simple and weak man.** The Psalmist described himself in 116:6 as a “simplehearted” man. This term referred to a person who was easily persuaded and led astray, especially to do wrong. In spite of this, God still loved him and listened to him. That overwhelmed but reassured him at the same time.

It reassures me, too. How grateful I am that God loves and listens to the prayers of common folk and sinful people. Sure, God listens to the brightest and the best, but we are not always at our best.

**Finally, he loved God because God did more than listen, as important as that was. God's compassion moved Him to action.** He responded to the Psalmist's needs and delivered him from sorrow, fear and death. He replaced his restless spirit with a calm one. Now, that's an even better friend.

This is the kind of God I need. I imagine you do, too. I have Him in my heart and so can you. Tell Him how much you need Him. Open up and share your fears and anxieties. Even confess your sins. I assure you He will listen and respond.