

## JUST LISTEN!

Writer Charles Swindoll once found himself with too many commitments in too few days. He got nervous and tense about it.

“I was snapping at my wife and our children, choking down my food at mealtimes, and feeling irritated at those unexpected interruptions through the day,” he recalled in his book *Stress Fractures*. “Before long, things around our home started reflecting the pattern of my hurry-up style. It was becoming unbearable.”

“I distinctly remember after supper one evening, the words of our younger daughter, Colleen. She wanted to tell me something important that had happened to her at school that day. She began hurriedly, ‘Daddy, I wanna tell you somethin’, and I’ll tell you really fast.’”

“Suddenly realizing her frustration, I answered, ‘Honey, you can tell me – and you don’t have to tell me really fast. Say it slowly.’”

“I’ll never forget her answer: ‘Then listen slowly.’”

In the hustle and bustle of life, have you been listening to your loved ones? And, even more importantly...

### **Have you been listening... to God?**

God has a message for you and for me in His Word, the Bible! It is a message of His great love for us and how He has demonstrated that love: “*For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life*” (John 3.16). We are lost in our sins, but the good news is that God sent His Son to die on the cross for our sins (1 Peter 2.24).

The “good news of great joy” is that all who will believe in Him (John 8.32) turn from their sins in repentance (Acts 17.30), confess His name before men (Rom. 10.10), and be baptized in the name of Jesus are forgiven of their past sins (Acts 2.38). Then, as one continues to “*listen*” and “*live*” according to His Word as revealed in the Scriptures, the blood of Jesus will continue to cleanse that one from sin (1 John 1.7).

Listen slowly... “*Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock*” (Matt. 7.24-25).

Listen slowly... and obey Him!

[–Adapted, Dick Sargent; **BTW**]