

“Son” Flowers... A Devotional by the members of New Hope Church in Cooper, TX

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Scripture Verse Reference: 2 Timothy 4:3-4 ***“For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.”*** (NKJV)

The Cure for Itching Ears

For those of us who depend on hearing aids, you can relate to the problem of “itching ears.” I don’t know if it’s the rubber, latex, or plastic but it seems whatever portion of our hearing aid rests within our ear canal—eventually all of us suffer from *itchy ear*.

My audiologist sold me a product years ago that solves the issue for me. The other day, I opened the vanity drawer in my bathroom and it struck me. I’m not sure if marketing folks for this product were attempting wordplay on a biblical principle or not, but when I glanced at the label, I erupted in laughter and told God, “Yessir, I’ll write this devotional.”



As I thought about the label, the Holy Spirit revealed two things to me. First, “itching ears” are caused by some irritation. We look to soothe that irritation. In our spiritual lives, the *irritation* may well be the Holy Spirit acting in our lives. Often times our thoughts and words deceive us and we grieve the Holy Spirit. One of the jobs of “The Counselor” is to move in our lives and speak truth to us. To get our attention sometimes, He irritates our souls.

To get our attention sometimes, He irritates our souls. “Itching ears” in our spiritual lives cause us to seek out a soothing balm to remove that irritation. More often than not, this is false teaching, false doctrine, or just full-on apostasy meant to make us feel better about ourselves, but in reality misleads us.

The apostle Paul encouraged Timothy—over the church in Ephesus—to avoid this when he encouraged the young pastor to ***“Preach the Word! ...”*** (2 Timothy 4:2). This guidance is not only for teachers and church leaders but also for each one of us. To ensure we are not deceived by our “itching ears”, we must validate what we hear against God’s Word. We must also guard what we say so that we do not mislead ourselves or others.

There is no interpretation for God’s Word except that which comes via the Holy Spirit acting in our lives (1 Corinthians 2:14-16). This is why the prayerful study of our Bible is so important. We must remain grounded in God’s Word and we must ask the Holy Spirit’s help to fully understand God’s instructions for His children.