

Listening to God in Prayer

Pastor Jeff Potts | Prayer Conference, Pinehouse Drive Church, May 14, 2016

God Wants to Speak to Us

1 Samuel 3:8-10 (NIV) "A third time the Lord called, 'Samuel!' And Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, 'Here I am; you called me.' Then Eli realized that the Lord was calling the boy. So Eli told Samuel, 'Go and lie down, and if he calls you, say, "Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place. The Lord came and stood there, calling as at the other times, 'Samuel! Samuel!' Then Samuel said, 'Speak, for your servant is listening.'"

John 10:27 (NLT) "My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me."

"Prayer and faith will do what no power on earth can accomplish... We must have the continual light that comes from God. Christ is ever sending messages to those who listen for His voice." Our Father Cares, 41

"Prayer is the opening of the heart to God as to a friend." Steps to Christ, 93

How does God speak to us? 1. His Word. 2. Nature. 3. People. 4. The Holy Spirit

Listening to the Holy Spirit

John 14:16-18 (NKJV) "And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever— the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you."

Galatians 5:16 (NLT) "So I say, let the Holy Spirit guide your lives."

Galatians 5:25 (NLT) "Since we are living by the Spirit, let us follow the Spirit's leading in every part of our lives."

Guided by the Promptings of the Holy Spirit

John 16:13 (NLT) "When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth..."

Psalms 32:8 (NLT) "The LORD says, 'I will guide you along the best pathway for your life.'"

"The workers in our restaurants should live in such close connection with God that they will recognize the promptings of His Spirit to talk personally about spiritual things to such and such a one who comes to the restaurant." Counsels on Health, 482

Isaiah 30:21 (NIV) "Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying, 'This is the way; walk in it.'"

"As we cherish and obey the promptings of the Spirit, our hearts are enlarged to receive more and more of His power, and to do more and better work." Christ's Object Lessons, 353

"Whenever we are impressed to say or do something to help a fellow being, we should be ready to respond at once to the promptings of the Holy Spirit. We can be ready to do this only when we are living in close relation with God." In Heavenly Places, 322

A Note of Caution

1 Timothy 4:1 (NLT) "Now the Holy Spirit tells us clearly that in the last times some will turn away from the true faith; they will follow deceptive spirits and teachings that come from demons."

2 Corinthians 11:14 (NLT) "Even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light."

Ephesians 6:11-12 (NLT) "Put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil. For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits..."

1 John 4:1 (NIV) "Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God..."

Tests: Is this leading consistent with God's Word? God's commandments? Serve others?

Acts 20:22-23 (NIV) "And now, compelled by the Spirit, I am going to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there. I only know that in every city the Holy Spirit warns me that prison and hardships are facing me."

How do we listen to God in prayer?

Mark 1:35 (NLT) "Before daybreak the next morning, Jesus got up and went out to an isolated place to pray."

"Christ in His life on earth made no plans for Himself. He accepted God's plans for Him, and day by day the Father unfolded His plans. So should we depend upon God, that our lives may be the simple outworking of His will. As we commit our ways to Him, He will direct our steps." Prayer, 226

"There is constant need of private communion with God... we should get away from the sounds of earthly toil and human voices, and in retired places listen to the voice of Jesus." Our High Calling, 117

Psalms 46:10 (NLT) "Be still, and know that I am God!"

"The Lord works in no haphazard way. Seek Him most earnestly in prayer. He will impress the mind." Selected Messages, book 2, 326

"The Lord speaks; enter into your closet, and in silence commune with your own heart; listen to the voice of truth and conscience. Nothing will give such clear views of self as secret prayer." 5T 163