



GOD WANTS TO SPEAK TO US

How does God speak to us?

1. Through His Word
2. Through Nature
3. Through People
4. Through 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."

LISTENING TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

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..."

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

GUIDED BY THE PROMPTINGS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

"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

"Go back and knock again!"

GUIDED BY THE PROMPTINGS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

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

GUIDED BY THE PROMPTINGS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Catherine Marshall's friend – "Get off this plane!"

"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

We need to be careful that we don't listen to just any spirit.

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."

A NOTE OF CAUTION

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..."

A NOTE OF CAUTION

Tests:

1. Is this leading consistent with God's Word?
2. Is this leading consistent with God's commandments?
3. Is this leading prompting me to serve self or others?

A NOTE OF CAUTION

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

HOW DO WE LISTEN TO GOD IN PRAYER?

"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

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

HOW DO WE LISTEN TO GOD IN PRAYER?

"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." Testimonies, vol. 5, 163

HOW DO WE LISTEN TO GOD IN PRAYER?

- Invite God to speak. Wait quietly. Listen.
- Ask questions. "What's the next step?" "Is there anything you want to tell me today?"
- Sometimes God won't say anything. That's okay.
- Important decisions to make? Ask God.

HOW DO WE LISTEN TO GOD IN PRAYER?

- "Call them NOW!"
- "Why don't you ask Me for a car?"
- Conviction of sin
- Reach out to a neighbour
- Encouragement and affirmation
- Scripture

MY INVITATION...

If you aren't already doing this, I invite you to be intentional about listening to God in prayer. Don't rush away when you finish your prayer. Give God the opportunity to speak to you. Invite Him, "Speak, Lord. Your servant is listening."

Will you do this?

When will you start?