

Hearing The Voice Of God

Let's review how Christ Jesus wants to teach us to pray:

FIRST – We begin by **PRAISING** God.

SECOND – We must ask God to **PARDON** our self and sins through our confession of who He is and who I am. (Isaiah 6:1-9)

THIRD – We must **PETITION** God to convict and grow us in our commitment to be like Him.

FOURTH – We must develop our Intercessory Prayer Ministry as we **PLEAD** for others.

This brings us to the last step:

FIFTH – We are to **PONDER** on the Word of God.

Psalms 119:15, *I will meditate on Your precepts, and contemplate on Your ways.*

1 Timothy 4:15, *Meditate on these things; give yourself entirely to them, that your progress may be evident to all.*

Psalms 1:2, *Instead, his delight is in the LORD's instructions; and he will meditate on it day and night.*

Meditation is a form of prayer because it is communication with God through prayerful listening.

In meditation, it consists of a time of reflecting on God and listening through His Word and the impressions the Holy Spirit is speaking to your heart.

Remember, when the disciples asked Christ Jesus to teach them to pray, He began by stating that prayer is a relationship between our Heavenly Father and us. It is not some taught process to be followed.

True and genuine relationship requires both talking to God and listening to God.

Meditation is the time when we specifically listen for God to speak to our heart.

So, for us to hear from God, there are some guidelines that must be considered and followed.

FIRST – **PAUSE** and **PRAY**.

Before you begin to read the Word of God, pause and ask God to use His Holy Spirit to open the treasures hidden beneath the Words of the Text or passage.

Pray that the all-knowing God who knows everything about us, will use our daily time in His Word and in His presence to speak to you.

As you approach the Word of God remember it is just that – The Word Of God!

It is not a history book or a collection of doctrinal teachings.

The Word of God is His personal thoughts to you for each day.

As you read, reread these verses; stop and ask God what He is saying to you.

NOTE – I have always said that prayer and reading the Word of God are two sides of the same coin.

You can't have one without the other.

You cannot do one without doing the other.

We have a name for this – it is called **REFLECTIVE READING** of the Word of God and it will have a dynamic impact on your daily life.

God will personally speak to your heart.

SECOND – Take the time to **WRITE DOWN** the key ideas, thoughts, and Scriptures you will be meditating on throughout the day.

A Journal or a notebook is vital for recalling God's words to you.

In your journal, you write your prayer back to God.

When you write something down, you are much more likely to take His thoughts more seriously.

Writing down your thoughts will lead you to take God's Word, His thoughts – and clarify them as you dictate His words to your heart.

Sadly, many approach reading the Word of God and a few minutes of prayer like some chore to get done so they can move on to something *more important*.

THIRD – The Key step here is to fill your **LIFE** with the Word of God.

Each day you should *top off your tank* with the Word of God.

The more we submit ourselves to be exposed to the Word of God, the greater our transformation will be.

John 15:7, *If you remain in Me and My Words remain in you, ask whatever you want and it will be done for you.*

Romans 12:2, *Do not be conformed to this age, but be TRANSFORMED by the renewing of your mind, so that you may discern what is the good, pleasing, and perfect will of God.*

This is the transformation that only the Word of God can lead you through.

The more we are exposed to the Word of God, the clearer His Word and His voice will be to our ears.

We have great access today on hearing from God through His Word.

- 1) My Bible App on my cell phone
Do you know how far it is between Dallas and Waco?
The Book of Matthew and Mark
- 2) Listening to messages as you travel on insights from the Word of God.
- 3) Using audio books as you travel.
- 4) Listening to music that is primarily made up of songs with Scripture lyrics.
- 5) Participate in Scripture memorization
Put Scripture on your mirror or your screen saver on the computer.

The more we read, know, hear the Word of God – the easier it will be to hear the Voice of God.

As you fill your life with the Word of God, you will soon see a difference in your prayer life.

The more you are in His Word, listening to His voice as you meditate day and night – the closer you will walk with Christ Jesus daily.

FOURTH The key to **UNLOCKING** our hearts to God is to be sensitive to God's special impressions.

The reason we read the Word of God and meditate on God's voice is so it will make an impact on how we live our life.

James 1:22, *But be doers of the Word and not just hearers, deceiving yourself.*

Prayer and meditation will intermingle and urge a prompting for some action.

God will gently place a burden on you to intercede for someone or some situation.

Example – Have you ever been going along, and a name just pops up from nowhere? This is the work of the Holy Spirit saying this person needs your prayers at that moment.

Romans 8:26-27, *In the same way the Holy Spirit of God helps us in our weakness, because we do not know what to pray for as we should, but the Holy Spirit Himself intercedes for us with unspoken groanings. (27) And He who searches the hearts knows the mind of the Holy Spirit, because He intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.*

As a prayer warrior we must remember God is in control. We must let Him be our guide during our prayer time.

We need to pause and pray and we need to be sensitive to God's prompting.

We must always approach the reading of the Word of God and praying according the will of God with great expectation.

We must expect God to hear our prayers and we must expect to hear God's voice.

Meditation is a two-way avenue for a prayer warrior.

TALKING AND LISTENING