



Principles of Listening To God

By: Karen Martell

God Wants to Speak to You

It is God's will that every sincere and true believer will hear the voice of the Holy Spirit. *"But the councilor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything said to you"* (John 14:26).

"The Biblical Purpose of Prayer is to Know God Himself."

Oswald Chambers

God wants to have a two way relational conversation with you.

"Be still and know that I am God" (Psalm 46:10).

"If you love Me, you'll obey Me" (John 14:23).

*"He shall call on me and I will answer him:
I will be with Him in trouble;
I will deliver him and honor him"* (Psalm 91:15).

*"My sheep listen to my voice, I know them and they follow me...
....they know My voice"* (John 10:4-29)

"I am able to do nothing from Myself (independently, of my own accord ----but only as I am taught by God and as I get His orders.) Even as I hear, I judge (I decide as I am bidden to decide. As the voice comes to Me, so I give a decision), and My judgement is right (just, righteous) because I do not seek or consult My own will. (I have no desire to do what is pleasing to myself, my own aim, my own purpose) but only the will and pleasure of the Father who sent Me" (John 5:30, Amplified Bible).

Ask God to give you ears to hear what He wants to say.

Believe God want you to hear what He says.

Know what He says in His Word.

Expect Him to speak to you.

Wait patiently for His answers.

"Blessed (happy, fortunate, to be envied) is the man who listens to me, watching daily at my gates, waiting at the posts of doors. For whoever finds me (wisdom) finds life and draws forth and obtains favor from the Lord. But he who misses me or sins against me wrongs and injures himself; all who hate me love and court death" (Proverbs 8:34-36, Amplified Bible).

More Prayer Coordinator Resources are available at:

www.ministerialassociation.org/prayer

Principles for Listening to God

1. Wait. Be Still. Sit in His Presence. Praise His Name.

“Be still and know that I am God” (Psalm 46:10).

“In all who are under the training of God is to be revealed a life that is not in harmony with the world, its customs, or its practices; and everyone needs to have a personal experience in obtaining a knowledge of the will of God. We must individually hear Him speaking to the heart. When every other voice is hushed, and in quietness we wait before Him, the silence of the soul makes more distinct the voice of God. He bids us, “Be still and know that I am God” (Desire of Ages, p. 362).

2. Be ready to listen. Put God’s Word in your heart.

*“If you remain in me and my words remain in you,
ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you.
This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit” (John 15:5).*

“The Bible is God’s voice speaking to us, just as surely as though we could hear it with our ears” (Testimonies, vol. 6, p. 393).

“So with all the promises of God’s Word. In them He is speaking to us individually, speaking as directly as if we could listen to His voice” (Ministry of Healing, p. 122).

“Never attempt to search the Scriptures unless you are ready to listen to the Word of God as though His voice were speaking directly to you from the living Oracles” (EGW Comments, S.D.A. Bible Commentary, Vol. 7, p. 919).

“He who has ears (to hear), let him be listening and let him consider and perceive and comprehend by hearing” (Matthew 13:9–16, Amplified Bible).

We must listen: “Christ is ever sending messages to those who listen for His voice.” (The Ministry of Healing, p. 509).

3. Be willing to be obedient and allow God to change you.

“Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what nature desires, but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires” (Romans 8:5).

“Nothing will give such clear views of self as secret prayerplain, simple duties that must not be neglected will open before you” (Testimonies. vol. 5, p. 163).

“There is no help for man, woman, or child who will not hear and obey the voice of duty, for the voice of duty is the voice of God” (Testimonies to Ministers, p. 402)

More Prayer Coordinator Resources are available at:
www.ministerialassociation.org/prayer

“If you will turn (repent) and give heed to my reproof, behold I (Wisdom) will pour out my spirit upon you, I will make my words known to you. Because I have called you, and you have refused (to answer), I have stretched out my hand and no man has heeded it. You treated as nothing my council and would accept none of my reproof.....When your panic comes, as a storm and desolation...when distress and anguish come upon you They will they call upon me(Wisdom) but I will not answer; they will seek me early and diligently but they will not find me” (Proverbs 1: 24-28, Amplified Bible).

4. Watch for God’s activity in your life.

Learn to recognize God’s workings in your life. Look for ways that He might be teaching/leading you. Be willing to join Him in those areas. Remember how He has led you in the past. Be sensitive to the activity of God around you. Be sensitive to the activity of God’s Holy Spirit.

“Another way in which God’s voice is heard is through the appeals of the Holy Spirit” (God speaks through persistent promptings) (Testimonies, vol. 5, p. 512).

“The enemy never can take out of the hand of Christ the one who is simply trusting in His promises. If the soul is trusting and working obediently, the mind is susceptible to divine impressions, and the light of God shines in, enlightening the understanding. What privilege we have in Christ Jesus!” (Bible Commentary, vol. 7, p. 959).

“God wants to use you to attract others to Him with the glorious riches of this revealed mystery” (Colossians 1:27, CW)

5. Above all, God wants you to have a love relationship with Him. Love Him because He first loved you. That makes hearing Him easy.

Hearing God’s voice is His gift to you and me. He has given us ears to hear and eyes to see. He wants us to respond to Him by listening. It is His will that we hear clearly without confusion or fear. He wants to fill every aspect of our lives and direct all our decisions. He has promised to show us “great and wonderful things that we do not know.

*“He longs to have you reach after Him by faith. **He longs to have you expect great things from Him.** He longs to give you understanding in temporal as well as in spiritual matters” (Christ’s Object Lessons, p 146).*

Promises to Claim

“Be careful therefore how you listen. For to him who has (spiritual knowledge) will more be given; and from him who does not have (spiritual knowledge), even what he thinks and guesses and supposes that he has will be taken away” (Luke 8:18, Amplified Bible).

“For I (Myself) will give you a mouth and such utterance and wisdom that all of your foes combined will be unable to stand against or refute” (Luke 21:15, Amplified Bible).

“All that the Father has is mine....I tell you the truth, my Father will give you anything you ask for in my name. Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, so that your joy will be the fullest possible joy” (John 16:15, 32-24, Amplified Bible).

Reflection

“Lean on, trust in, and be confident in the Lord with all your heart and mind and do not rely on your own insight or understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will direct and make straight and plain your paths” (Proverbs 3:5-6, Amplified Bible).

God wants to speak to you everyday. He is interested in the smallest detail.
What do you want to hear from God about?

1. **Reflect on how it makes you feel to know that God wants to carry on a two-way relational conversation with you.** Share those feelings with Him.
2. **Is there a reason you feel** that you cannot lean on, trust in or be confident...that the Lord will speak to you? _____
3. **Is there a principle of listening that you have not applied?** Confess this to God. Listen. _____

Are You Facing a Difficulty in Your Life?

1. **Are you obedient to God’s instructions in your life?** Is there an area that you are not in complete obedience? What is keeping you from completely surrendering in that area? Pray for strength to make the changes in your life that will bring you into complete obedience.
2. **Think of a time you feel that God has spoken to you now or in the past.** What did He say? How did He say it? Are you allowing Him to answer in His time, and His way? Ask yourself, “Am I attempting to make it come to pass myself?” (My way, my will.) (Pray about this.)

3. **Ask yourself if you are willing to trust God to do what is right for your need/desire.** If you are not willing/able to trust, ask why and pray that God will help you trust.
4. **Ask God to grant you a Scripture/word from Him** through the promptings of His Spirit that will speak to you regarding your concerns. Write it down.
5. **Ask God to direct you to a Bible story** that will help you hear Him speak to you.
6. **Write a letter to God** regarding your concerns and ask Him the questions that you need to have answered. When you finish, let God write a letter back to you. As the Holy Spirit speaks to you write as fast as you can. Ask God to help you hear Him.

Do you want to draw closer to God? BE STILL!

1. **Ask God (Father, Son, or Holy Spirit) to reveal something about Himself** to you that will help you love Him more and draw you closer to Him.
2. **Find names of God that will describe** His character, His abilities, His power relative to your circumstance or your “storm.” Praise Him through His names.
3. **Claim His promises in Scripture and appropriate them** to your circumstances. Ask God to give you one to claim if one does not come to mind.
4. **Ask Him to give you ears to hear.** Thank Him for the gift of “ears to hear” (Proverbs 20:12).
5. **Find a scripture in God’s Word and focus on it.** Psalms is a good place to start. What is in your circumstances that helps you identify with the verse? Ask God to speak to you through His Word. Ask Him to grant you a Scripture/word from Him through the promptings of His Spirit that will speak to you regarding your concerns. Ask God to direct you to a Bible story that will help you hear Him speak to you.

Write down what He says to you: