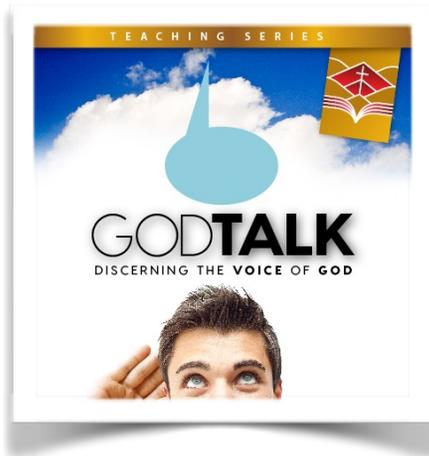


Using a prayerful relationship

to hear the voice of God

God talks to people in our world today through a variety of means: through the Bible and Godly counsel, through circumstances, and even at times through the supernatural. However, listening to God in prayer is the most common way God speaks into the specific, day-to-day decisions of our lives.

To effectively hear God, we need to have a prayerful relationship with Him, which starts with us putting our faith and trust in Christ (1 Corinthians 2:11), so that the Holy Spirit can come and take up residence in our lives to ensure we clearly hear the “whispers” of God’s voice (Matthew 10:27).



What are the reasons we can't always hear God talking to us?

1. **Unresolved sin in our lives** that we need to confess and repent of (*Psalm 66:16-20; Isaiah 1:15, 59:1-2; Jeremiah 11:11; Matthew 5:8*);
2. **Broken or unresolved relationships** that we need to first go and seek to resolve (*Matthew 5:23-24, 6:14-15; Romans 12:18; 1 Peter 3:7*);
3. **An absence of faith & trust in God**, which is more than just a struggle to have enough faith in a situation but is rather a refusal to trust God in the ways He is asking of us (*Proverbs 3:5-6; Hebrews 11:6; James 1:6*);
4. **Living so distracted by the noise & busyness of the world around us** that we miss what God wants to say (*Isaiah 41:10; Jeremiah 29:11-14; Psalm 37:7*).

What can I do to truly hear what God wants to talk to me about?

Whether it is answers I need, or something that I don't even realize God wants to share, how can I put myself in a place where my prayer time with God is not a one-way conversation *at* God, but rather a prayerful relationship *with* God?

1. **WITHDRAW.** Get away. (*Mark 6:31; Psalm 23:2-3; Luke 5:16, 6:11*)
 - Get away from the noise, from the distractions that you think you can block out but can't without being intentional. (If Jesus had to do it in order to listen to God, how much more do you and I need to do so?)
2. **WORSHIP.** Express to God your love, respect & awe. (*Psalm 16:7, Hebrews 12:28-29, Revelation 4:11*)
 - Express to God that your relationship with Him and just being in His presence is more important than any wisdom He might give you — that your *relationship* is what is most important.
3. **WAIT.** Relax your thoughts & emotions. (*Habakkuk 2:1; Psalm 37:7, 139:23; Isaiah 41:10*)
 - Check your heart to make sure there is nothing God is trying to show you that is blocking your ability to fully hear Him.
 - Read & meditate on a part of the Bible to help you hear what God might want to say.
 - Remind yourself that hearing from God, as Proverbs 2:4 says, is like looking for buried treasure. Be OK that God may not speak clearly to you in the first few minutes you are with Him.
4. **WRITE.** Don't miss out or forget what you came to hear! (*Habakkuk 2:2-3*)
 - Jot down or type out what you want to *say* to God, & what you think you are *hearing* from God.
 - If you are unsure that what you have is from God, take it to someone you trust who has no other agenda other than to listen to God with you and offer you Godly counsel.