

Day 14: How to Listen

You have, perhaps, heard it said, “God gave you two ears and one mouth. This is because He wants you to talk less, and listen more.” So, too, there is an oft neglected component to our prayer life called *listening*. This makes sense. Even as children, when we are taught to pray, we are taught how to talk to God, but seldom are we taught how to listen to Him. After all, how can one listen to an all-powerful, all-knowing, ever-present, but INVISIBLE God? According to God’s Word, we *can* hear the voice of God. As a matter of fact Jesus said, “*My sheep listen to my voice; I know them and they follow me.*”(John 10:27, italics mine) Today’s devotional will give you several steps that will serve to help us start hearing the voice of our Father.

Schedule. First, be intentional about scheduling time with God for the purpose of *listening*. We make time for the things that are important to us. Maybe it is before the kids get up, or before you have to go to work, or late at night when everyone is sleeping. Be intentional about scheduling your uninterrupted time with God.

Setting. After you set aside a time, find the right setting. This time is reserved for God, so it should be a place where the distractions of this world are minimized. The enemy loves to distract us, thus try to find a place where the doorbell will not ring, the phone will not go off, and the television is not blaring.

It is always nice to find a place where you will meet with God daily through prayers.

Stillness. Psalm 46:10 tells us, “*Be still, and know that I am God.*” When we resolve ourselves to seasons of stillness, we are acknowledging that God is fully in control, that His way is better than ours, and that He has our attention.

Seeking. Matthew 6:33 instructs us to, “Seek first the Kingdom of God...” If God’s desire to have relationship with us is demonstrated by the sacrifice of His Son, how much will He enjoy revealing Himself to us when we make Him our priority.

Scripture. God’s primary way of speaking to us today is through His Word. This is how He reveals His person, purpose, and His plan to His children. It has been said, “If you want to hear from God, then read your Bible. If you want to hear from Him audibly, then read it out loud.”

Submit. Reading the Scripture is not enough if one has not resolved to obey its precepts, principles, and commands. Thus, if we desire to hear from God, we need to read Scripture with a heart that acknowledges that God’s will is best.

Save. When you go looking for God, be prepared to find Him! Purchase a journal or a notebook where you will record what God reveals to you. Be an attentive student, and use this journal to *save* the wonderful truths that God reveals to you.

Application

1. *Look at your schedule this week. Schedule 10—minute slots daily where you will commit to sitting with God ready to listen.*

Sunday:

Monday:

Tuesday:

Wednesday:

Thursday:

Friday:

Saturday:

2. *Where will you spend this time? _____*
3. *Pray that God will use this time to teach you how to hear His voice.*