



The Prayer Practice

3. Listening to God

- 1.If God is omniscient, why does He want us to pray?**
- 2. Do you think it's possible to hear God's voice in prayer?**

According to Dallas Willard, God wants us to pray because it is:

1. **Relational:** prayer draws us close as children to our Father (Matt. 6:6).
2. **Formational:** prayer transforms our desires & gives us peace (Phil. 4:6–7).
3. **Participatory:** prayer lets us share in God's Kingdom work (Matt. 6:9–10; James 5:16–18).
4. **Fruitful:** prayer flows out of abiding in Christ, shaping us to will and to act with Him (John 15:7).

How does God speak to us today?

Which of these are biblically sound?

HEARING GOD'S VOICE

01 — Jesus

02 — Scripture

03 — Circumstances

04 — Desire

05 — The Prophetic

06 — Listening prayer



In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son

- Hebrews 1:1-2a

My sheep listen to my voice; I know them,
and they follow me.

- John 10:27

Are there any other potential issues with this list?

HEARING GOD'S VOICE

01 — Jesus

02 — Scripture

03 — Circumstances



04 — Desire

05 — The Prophetic

06 — Listening prayer

Is there anything missing from the list?

HEARING GOD'S VOICE

01 — Jesus

02 — Scripture

03 — Circumstances

04 — Desire

05 — The Prophetic

06 — Listening prayer

07 — The Holy Spirit



How do we listen to God today?

Listening to God:



1. Not About “Hearing Voices”
2. A Conversational Relationship
3. The Shape of This Conversation
4. Matters for Spiritual Growth

“Generally it is much more important to cultivate the quiet, inward space of a constant listening than to always be approaching God for specific direction.”

Dallas Willard

“Spiritual people are not those who engage in certain practices, but those who draw their life from a conversational relationship with God.”

Dallas Willard

Pray continually

- 1 Thessalonians 5:17

1. God initiates through **His Word, Spirit, circumstances**, and **people**.

2. We respond with **prayer, obedience***, and **trust**.

***Shema** - Hear, Listen & Obey

“The true mark of maturity isn’t just Bible knowledge or discipline-keeping, but being the kind of person who naturally hears and responds to God’s voice in everyday life.”

Dallas Willard

For Willard, listening to God isn't about mystical experiences — it's about cultivating the kind of relationship where talking and listening to God becomes as natural as breathing.

Suggestions:

1. Leave time at end of prayer to be silent and listen
2. During prayer, pause and listen
3. Learn listening for God's voice through Immanuel Journaling
4. Practice conversational prayer with God throughout the day
5. Create space in your day for silence, to intentionally listen for the Holy Spirit

Lord, please guide me in cultivating a more
attentive listening obedience to You and Your Spirit,
throughout my day.