

Are you hearing from The Lord God of Heaven's Armies?

What does it take to hear from God?

Opening:

Our lives are the sum-total of our choices.

God gave each of us a will. With this gift of a free will, we can make choices.

Each one of us can choose to get close to God or not to get close to God.

We are free to choose but we are not free to **not** choose

We have control over making our choices but we cannot control the consequences of our choices.

If we just know about God, we become unstable in our walk with God, like Israel

Text: [Jer 33:1-3 KJV] 1 Moreover the word of the LORD came unto Jeremiah the second time, while he was yet shut up in the court of the prison, saying, 2 Thus saith the LORD the maker thereof, the LORD that formed it, to establish it; the LORD [is] his name; 3 Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not.

Overview:

Communion with the Lord is the key to hearing from God

Hearing From God

Why does God only talk to some of us?

How do we get Close to God

What does it take for us to hear from God

Communion with the Lord is the Key

[Jhn 14:26 KJV] 26 But the Comforter, [which is] the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

[Luk 12:11-12 KJV] 11 And when they bring you unto the synagogues, and [unto] magistrates, and powers, take ye no thought how or what thing ye shall answer, or what ye shall say: 12 For the Holy Ghost shall teach you in the same hour what ye ought to say.

[Mat 10:17-20 KJV] 17 But beware of men: for they will deliver you up to the councils, and they will scourge you in their synagogues; 18 And ye shall be brought before governors and kings for my sake, for a testimony against them and the Gentiles. 19 But when they deliver you up, take no thought how or what ye shall speak: for it shall be given you in that same hour what ye shall speak. 20 For it is not ye that speak, but the Spirit of your Father which speaketh in you.

Hearing From God

[Psa 85:2-3, 5-10 KJV] 2 Thou hast forgiven the iniquity of thy people, thou hast covered all their sin. Selah. 3 Thou hast taken away all thy wrath: thou hast turned [thyself] from the fierceness of thine

anger. ... 5 Wilt thou be angry with us for ever? wilt thou draw out thine anger to all generations? 6 Wilt thou not revive us again: that thy people may rejoice in thee? 7 Shew us thy mercy, O LORD, and grant us thy salvation. **8 I will hear what God the LORD will speak: for he will speak peace unto his people, and to his saints: but let them not turn again to folly.** 9 Surely his salvation [is] nigh them that fear him; that glory may dwell in our land. 10 Mercy and truth are met together; righteousness and peace have kissed [each other].

[Psa 119:18 KJV] 18 Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law.

The Scriptures teach us to pray for spiritual enlightenment. "Open my eyes, that I may see wondrous things from Your law" (Psalm 119:18). In the word of God, we are told of the wonderful things that God has for His people. If we prayerfully seek the Lord concerning His insight into these blessings, the Lord will enlighten us. His willingness to respond is evident in His word. "Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know" (Jeremiah 33:3).

Seeking God with Expectations

Elijah sought the Lord to answer his prayer by fire to consume the sacrifice.

Why does God only talk to some of us?

Only some of us want a close relationship with the Lord

I'm saved, blessed by God, on my way to heaven. What else do I need from God? I'm satisfied.

Not everyone in the church is close to God. Some may not believe what the Lord has told you.

Pastor David Cho started with five members and the Church grew to over a million members.

Do you really listen to God? Only some of us listen to God. Satan will try to stop you from listening. (I tried praying and studying my Bible more but then I started having all kinds of problems.)

[Mar 4:24-25 KJV] 24 And he said unto them, Take heed what ye hear: with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you: and unto you that hear shall more be given. 25 For he that hath, to him shall be given: and he that hath not, from him shall be taken even that which he hath.

Slide 14. [Mar 4:24-25 NLT] 24 Then he added, "Pay close attention to what you hear. The closer you listen, the more understanding you will be given--and you will receive even more. 25 To those who listen to my teaching, more understanding will be given. But for those who are not listening, even what little understanding they have will be taken away from them."

Are you one of His Sheep? Only some of us are his sheep. Not all religious people are His sheep.

[Jhn 10:24-27 KJV] 24 Then came the Jews round about him, and said unto him, How long dost thou make us to doubt? If thou be the Christ, tell us plainly. 25 Jesus answered them, I told you, and ye believed not: the works that I do in my Father's name, they bear witness of me. 26 But ye believe not, because ye are not of my sheep, as I said unto you. 27 My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:

How do We Get Close to God?

Are you satisfied?

[Exo 33:1-4, 13 NLT] 1 The LORD said to Moses, "Get going, you and the people you brought up from the land of Egypt. Go up to the land I swore to give to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. I told them, 'I will give this land to your descendants.' 2 And I will send an angel before you to drive out the Canaanites, Amorites, Hittites, Perizzites, Hivites, and Jebusites. 3 Go up to this land that flows with milk and honey. But I will not travel among you, for you are a stubborn and rebellious people. If I did, I would surely destroy you along the way." 4 When the people heard these stern words, they went into mourning and stopped wearing their jewelry and fine clothes. ... **13 If it is true that you look favorably on me, let me know your ways so I may understand you more fully and continue to enjoy your favor. And remember that this nation is your very own people."**

Saint Augustine asked This Question

If God were to come to you and say to you I will give you anything you want. Every pleasure you desire Nothing will be withheld. You will live forever. Every desire of your heart will be met. Nothing will be a sin to you. You can have whatever you want with one exception. You will never see my face.

If you would say no to that, you have the pure love of God.

What does it take to Get Close to God?

Prayer and Fasting (Purpose and Results)

[Mat 17:19-21 KJV] 19 Then came the disciples to Jesus apart, and said, Why could not we cast him out? 20 And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you. 21 Howbeit this kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting.

[Mat 17:20-21 NLT] 20 "You don't have enough faith," Jesus told them. "I tell you the truth, if you had faith even as small as a mustard seed, you could say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it would move. Nothing would be impossible." 21 But this kind of demon won't leave except by prayer and fasting.

Unbelief keeps us at a distance.

If you don't believe you can do it, You won't!

If you don't believe Can will do it for you, He won't!

Quality versus Length of your prayers

The more time you spend in prayer from the heart, the more you learn.

But, It's not how long you pray, where do your prayers come from?

How to Pray

Jesus taught his disciples **how not to pray** and then he taught his disciples how to pray.

[Mat 6:5-15 KJV] 5 And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites [are]: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward.

Get alone with God and Shut the Door

Keep your prayers between you and the Lord.

Matthew 6:6 But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly.

Don't use vain repetitions

Matthew 6:7 But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen [do]: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking. 8 Be not ye therefore like unto them: for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him.

Vain Repetitions - mindless, repetitive phrases or rituals, often used as a way to impress God with length or volume of words, rather than genuine communication.

After this Manner, In this Way. (Guidelines)

Matthew 6:9 After this manner therefore pray ye:

[Mat 6:9 NLT] 9 Pray like this: Our Father in heaven, may your name be kept holy.

Enter into his presence with praise

... Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.

[Psa 100:4-5 KJV] 4 Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, [and] into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, [and] bless his name. 5 For the LORD [is] good; his mercy [is] everlasting; and his truth [endureth] to all generations.

God has a Free Will and he has given me a free will too

Focus your heart on asking for God's will to be done in you.

Matthew 6:10 Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as [it is] in heaven.

[Mat 6:10 NLT] 10 May your Kingdom come soon. May your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.

Only ask for your daily needs

Matthew 6:11 Give us this day our daily bread.

You need the bread of life each day

Pray for Mercy

Matthew 6:12 And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

Pray for Protection from Satan and his crew

Matthew 6:13 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil:

End your prayers with giving praise and glory to God

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

Slides 27 & 28: Outer Court, Inner Court, Holy Place, Holy of Holies.

The Importance of Prayer and some Key Points to Consider.

Enter into the Lord's presence with praise and thanksgiving.

Text: [Psa 100:1-5 NLT] 1 A psalm of thanksgiving. Shout with joy to the LORD, all the earth! 2 Worship the LORD with gladness. Come before him, singing with joy. 3 Acknowledge that the LORD is God! He made us, and we are his. We are his people, the sheep of his pasture. 4 Enter his gates with thanksgiving; go into his courts with praise. Give thanks to him and praise his name. 5 For the LORD is good. His unfailing love continues forever, and his faithfulness continues to each generation.

Overview

Let the Holy Spirit Teach you in your relationship

Why we Pray

Examples of What it Takes to Hear from the Lord

Let the Holy Spirit Teach you in your relationship

Come to the foot of the Cross and praise the Lord for his sacrifice. Confess any sin you have committed.

Search your heart and check your relationship with God. Have you broken any of his commandments since your last prayer?

In the Holy Place, don't forget this. The Holy Spirit lives at your address. Don't avoid him or treat him as an object. He is a person. Chat with him.

Being Close to God has benefits

[Mat 10:17-20 KJV] 17 But beware of men: for they will deliver you up to the councils, and they will scourge you in their synagogues; 18 And ye shall be brought before governors and kings for my sake, for a testimony against them and the Gentiles. 19 But when they deliver you up, take no thought how or what ye shall speak: for it shall be given you in that same hour what ye shall speak. 20 For it is not ye that speak, but the Spirit of your Father which speaketh in you.

Be prepared to give a defense with the right attitude.

[1Pe 3:15 KJV] 15 But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and [be] ready always to [give] an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:

In Making Disciples

You will need to know how to answer questions. Let the Holy Spirit help.

Read the Logos and depend on the Rhema.

Why we Pray

We need to talk with the creator of the Universe and we need to hear from the creator of the Universe. We don't need an appointment.

Prayer as a vital way to communicate with God, seek His guidance and strength, and cultivate a deeper relationship with Him, emphasizing its importance for both personal and spiritual growth.

Seeking the Lord

[Psa 10:4 KJV] 4 The wicked, through the pride of his countenance, will not seek [after God]: God [is] not in all his thoughts.

[Psa 105:4 KJV] 4 Seek the LORD, and his strength: seek his face evermore.

[Psa 119:2 KJV] 2 Blessed [are] they that keep his testimonies, [and that] seek him with the whole heart.

[Pro 28:5 KJV] 5 Evil men understand not judgment: but they that seek the LORD understand all [things].

Examples of What does it take for us to hear from God

Examine Elijah, Manoah and his wife Hazelelponi, Gideon

A sacrifice is needed.

There must be a clear path between us and God

Elijah offered a sacrifice, prayed for God to answer and God answered

Elijah's Relationship to God.

[1Ki 17:2, 5, 8 NLT] 2 Then the LORD said to Elijah, ... 5 So Elijah did as the LORD told him and camped beside Kerith Brook, east of the Jordan. ... 8 Then the LORD said to Elijah,

[1Ki 18:32-34, 36-38 KJV] 32 And with the stones he built an altar in the name of the LORD: and he made a trench about the altar, as great as would contain two measures of seed. 33 And he put the wood in order, and cut the bullock in pieces, and laid [him] on the wood, and said, Fill four barrels with water, and pour [it] on the burnt sacrifice, and on the wood. 34 And he said, Do [it] the second time. And they did [it] the second time. And he said, Do [it] the third time. And they did [it] the third time. ... 36 And it came to pass at [the time of] the offering of the [evening] sacrifice, that Elijah the prophet came near, and said, LORD God of Abraham, Isaac, and of Israel, let it be known this day that thou [art] God in Israel, and [that] I [am] thy servant, and [that] I have done all these things at thy word. 37 Hear me, O LORD, hear me, that this people may know that thou [art] the LORD God, and [that] thou hast turned their heart back again. 38 Then the fire of the LORD fell, and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood, and the stones, and the dust, and licked up the water that [was] in the trench.

Manoah and his Wife hear from God

They gave a sacrifice

Gideon Hears from God but couldn't believe what he was told.

He only knew about God

Samuel heard from God but did not know his voice.