

# Keys to Listening Prayer

Pastor Jon Donohue



Seeking the voice of God in our lives is a critical means of living the life Christ has called us to. While the Lord speaks to us primarily through His Word, the Bible, there are many other ways He speaks to us as well: circumstances, His Spirit speaking directly into our mind or heart, an audible voice, dreams, visions, a timely conversation, a sermon, a prophetic word, etc. How can we hear and discern God's voice for us? Here are some keys to listening prayer:

- Quiet your spirit, and proactively ask Jesus to take your cares and distractions so you may focus. Hand each one to Him as they come to mind.
- Confess and repent of any and all sin you know of, claiming your forgiveness through Christ. Utilize the "Key Steps of Repentance" guide available on the website.
- Sit quietly and listen with the heart of Samuel in 1 Samuel 3:9, "Speak Lord, your servant is listening."
- Be patient, as good relationships are not rushed, and the Lord's timing is not always our timing.
- Meditatively reading through the Word is a great way to hear His voice, allowing Holy Spirit to highlight any words, phrases, or passages that He wants you to hold onto and apply.
- Receive and write down anything you sense Holy Spirit is speaking to you.
- Prayerfully follow His leading.
- Be discerning. Make sure that what you received aligns with Scripture and the character of God. Ask questions like, "Does this align with Scripture?" "Is this true of the character of God?" "Does this ring true to my spirit?" "Even if it's challenging, does it bring God's peace to my heart?" If unsure whether or not what you're hearing is from the Lord, seek the counsel of a trusted pastor, elder, or other mature Christian friend for their insight.

## Verses to help us seek His voice in our lives:

- John 10:27
- 1 Chronicles 16:11
- Isaiah 16:11
- Isaiah 30:21
- Jeremiah 29:13
- Psalm 34:10
- Proverbs 8:17
- John 16:13-15
- Romans 10:17
- Hebrews 11:6