

# How To Listen To God

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A Ministry Resource of PMC Ministries

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*“God speaks to all of us. Are you listening?”*

Often when fellowshiping with others our conversation centers around God. The talks are savored, much like excited little children as we talk about things of God - such as His endless power and magnificent beauty.

On many occasions I have shared with others how God speaks to me. The reaction I receive most often is the same - it's as if I am telling a child a bedtime story; they become relaxed, at peace, dreaming and gazing about what I have said and wanting to hear more. And, unfortunately, the statement that I traditionally hear in response is, "God never talks to me".

God talks to all of us. Many of us just do not reserve the time, have the need, or desire to listen. God is at the other end of the line patiently waiting for you.

Why does one say that God does not talk to them? Perhaps their lives are like a radio station tuned in on a very stormy night. There is a lot of interference, static and poor reception. One finally gets frustrated and turns it off or tunes out. They get so caught up in the business of the day, trying to catch and keep up with everyone else, chasing the latest trend or fad, "Hurry up!" Got to go here, got to go there, and just have to do this!

We all have earthly things that need to be tended to whether at home, with children, business and work, but if we cannot find time for our Creator - the One who should come first above everything else, we need to stand back and re-evaluate just where we are heading.

Even many who pray regularly will tell you it is hard at times to concentrate on prayer with so much going on in one's life. You may find times where your mind wanders or drifts away. When this happens just get back of the right road to where your attention should be.

I will always remember a billboard that was in the town where I lived. It read, "The best things in life aren't things." True! You can take it to the bank, but you cannot take it with you. "*Things*" will never bring complete happiness in one's life. God gives us nice things to enjoy as long as their value is in the right order and place our lives. Our faith and focus should always be on God. He is to be at the center of our lives.

Listening is an art. How often do we hear or say, "You're not listening!" or "He never listens to me. I might as well put my hand up and talk to it!"

Learn to tune other things out so you can really listen and absorb. Put yourself in the place of the one talking and how it feels if you are sharing something very important and you sense that the one receiving is not really receiving or caring whether or not he/she does! How can we approach God, the Being that created us, half-heartedly or lukewarm? How would your reaction be to this if you were experiencing this? It is like going to a restaurant and the waitress comes out with a plate but.....there is no food! Give God a chance in your life and you will be amazed. Talk to Him ... and then be still and listen.

Know that the way God speaks to us is as unique as we each are and our relationship is with Him. Some may experience God speaking to them just as if a neighbor was talking to you over the backyard fence. Others have "thoughts" and sometimes God speaks to you through other people or it may be a combination of these.....again, we must "listen". And if you are not sure just question God....."God is this what you said" or "Is this what you want me to do?"

*"My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me."*

**(John 10:27)**

I would not trade one instant of my time being with God daily. Please friends, understand that this will most likely not happen overnight. I believe that God tests your sincerity. He will always do things in ways you never thought possible or even

thought of but He will come and when you call upon Him, He will answer.....just listen.

*“Call to Me and I will answer you, and will tell you great things  
and hidden things that you have not known.”*

**(Jeremiah 33:3)**

Listen....He will come and He will speak. Fall passionately in love with Him ....the results are eternal!

**Prayer:**

Lord, help us to lean in and listen, to avoid distractions, and to truly master the art of listening. We need you in every aspect of our lives. Please forgive us, Father, when we do not respond to the Holy Spirit's nudging to seek your face and to spend time with you. Thank you for always being available, waiting and wanting - *yearning* for time together. Help me to make time with you a priority in my life too. I ask this in the name of Jesus. Amen!

**Weekly Encouragement:**

Need a fresh start? Want help? We suggest you schedule time on your calendar (just as you would schedule a dentist appointment, or a dinner party, or even time to mow the lawn) to specifically set aside time to connect with God. Did you know that eventually you will find yourself speaking, listening, and hearing Him even when you are sitting in a dentist chair or mowing the lawn? It will become a daily part of your routine, a beneficial and rewarding habit. One you will discover you can't fully live without out.