

God Listens What Do I Say?



Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, shall guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

- *Philippians 4:6-7, NASB 75*

A. WHAT ARE THE DIFFICULTIES WE ENCOUNTER?

B. GOD SPEAKS TO US FIRST 1. John 15:16

C. GOD LISTENS TO US RESPOND TO HIM

1. 2nd Chronicles 7:13-14
2. We must be in the Bible first, in order to submit to Him and listen to Him speak. Then we can speak to Him. See extract from George Mueller on page 4.

D. OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRAYER TO GOD

1. Exodus 15:1-18 => _____
2. Nehemiah 1:4-11 => _____
3. 2nd Samuel 22 => _____
4. 2nd Chronicles 6:14-42 => _____
 - i. Needs - Matthew 6:11
 - ii. Fear - Genesis 21:16-17
 - iii. Justice - Psalm 139
 - iv. Desires for stuff - Ezra 8:21-23
 - v. Doubt and Unbelief - Mark 9:24

E. PRAYING IN YOUR TIME ALONE WITH GOD - PRACTICUM USING Re-ACTS and Daniel 2:20-23

1. Reflect what God has said back to Him
2. Adoration
3. Confession
4. Thanks-giving
5. Supplication

F. PRAYING THROUGH A PASSAGE - PRACTICUM

1. Select a passage to pray through- today use Psalm 121
2. The first person reads a verse, or several verses to get a complete sentence
3. The first person says a one-sentence paraphrase of the sentence he read, affirming what God has said.
4. The first person then prays a one-sentence prayer of personal concern related to the verse, springing off of what God has said to address a personal concern.
5. The second person then repeats steps 2-4 for the next verse.
6. *Et cetera.*

3. HINDERANCES TO GOD HEARING US

1. Matthew 5:23-24
2. 1st Peter 3:7
3. Psalm 66:18-19

H. MECHANICS - LEFT AS AN EXERCISE FOR THE DILIGENT STUDENT

1. Position: John 11:4, Psalm 88:9, Acts 9:4o
2. Time: Psalm 5:3, Psalm 102:2
3. Place: Jonah 2:1-2, 2nd Chronicles 7:15-16

I. OBSERVATIONS OR QUESTIONS

SOUL NOURISHMENT FIRST

From The Autobiography of George Muller

It has pleased the Lord to teach me a truth, the benefit of which I have not lost for more than fourteen years. The point is this: I saw more clearly than ever that the first great and primary business to which I ought to attend every day was to have my soul happy in the Lord. The first thing to be concerned about was not how much I might serve the Lord, or how I might glorify the Lord, but *how* I might get my soul into a happy state. and how my inner man might be nourished.

I saw that the most important thing I had to do was to give myself to the reading of the Word of God - not prayer, but the Word of God. And here again, not the simple reading of the Word of God so that it only passes through my mind just as water runs through a pipe, but considering what I read, pondering over it, and applying it to my heart. To meditate on it, that thus my heart might be comforted, encouraged, warned, reproved, instructed. And that thus, by means of the Word of God, whilst meditating on it, my heart be brought into experimental communion with the Lord.

I began therefore to meditate on the New Testament from the beginning early in the morning. The first thing I did, after having asked in a few words the Lord's blessing upon His precious Word, was to begin to meditate on the Word of God, searching as it were into every verse to get blessing out of it.

When we pray, we speak to God: Now, prayer, in order to be continued for any length of time in any other than a formal manner, requires, generally speaking, a measure of strength or godly desire, and the season, therefore, when this exercise of the soul can be most effectively performed is after the inner man has been nourished by meditation on the Word of God, where we find our Father speaking, to us, to encourage us, to comfort us, to instruct us, to humble us, to reprove us.

By the blessing of God, I ascribe to this mode the help and strength which I have had from God to pass in peace through deeper trials, in various ways, than I had ever had before.

How different, when the soul is refreshed and made happy early in the morning, from what it is when without spiritual preparation, the service, the trials and the temptations of the day come upon me!

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