

listening prayer

prayerfully responding to the voice of God

By Brett D. Heintzman

Associate Director of the National Prayer Ministry, FMCUSA



five sessions to deepen your experience of prayer



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session two:

praying in agreement with God's purposes

Where there is no prophetic vision the people cast off restraint.
Proverbs 29:18a ESV

When it comes to ministry, we often start with what we think.

When this is our starting point, we plan our course, then we pray "God bless our efforts."

But perhaps there's a different way. What if start by asking God what He thinks? Then we would pray, "God, what efforts do You want to bless?" This is the heart of listening for specific instructions in prayer. When we ask this question, our verbal prayers take on a theme and tone of humble submission.

How do we come before God to listen? Here's some examples:

- *Lord God, we are coming to you with minds that are clean slates and with empty hands.*
- *We are waiting on Your wisdom, God, and declare that ours is limited while Yours is without limit.*
- *We desire Jesus, to know what is in Your mind for us. How do You desire for us to serve You and Your Kingdom?*
- *We posture ourselves in surrender, Lord God. We want to serve You... where You want us to serve, how You want us to serve, whom You want us to serve, and when You want us to serve. We are ready to obey.*
- *Please God, remove from us those things that would stand in our way of being obedient. We want the heart and spirit of Caleb, not the fearful spies. We want to enter Your place(s) of promise and fruitfulness.*
- *We seek an outpouring of discernment and wisdom. Our heart's desire is to wait, listen, discern and know clearly what You want for us.*
- *We are open to change, Lord. Help us to get out of any and every rut, tradition, personal preference and/or ineffective thing we do.*
- *Holy Spirit, give us dreams and visions from You, introduce us to people we need to know, open up the storehouse of words of knowledge and wisdom, all pointing to Your heart and desires. Break our hearts for people that need You.*

Getting to the "God has said" place

Capturing and Discerning what is heard in Listening Prayer

How do we "capture" what our people are seeing and hearing in listening prayer?

1. **Journaling.** Encourage people to write down a record of what they hear the Holy Spirit saying in times of prayer. Carry journals into prayer meetings, take them along with you during prayer walks, keep them with you to record what God is saying.

2. **Recording.** It is good to record audio of times in listening prayer, so you can go back to them.
3. **Elevate Conversation.** Have regular conversations with the people on your prayer team(s) specifically to ask if they have heard anything.
4. **Patterns.** Often there are repeated themes in what God is saying.
5. **Components of a greater story.** This occurs as individual thoughts come together like pieces of a puzzle.
6. **Revelation.** God gives “a-ha” moments along the way that reveal His ways, thoughts, desires, etc.
7. **Timing.** When do we act? God will help us.

At some point in the process, you should be able to articulate, **GOD HAS SAID:**

Feed it, explore it, talk about it, pray about it, move in step with it

At this point, our praying is informed by what we have heard and seen from the Lord.

- *God, we know what you want to bless. You have said _____ and we agree with You.*
- *God, we know we need to be equipped to meet this calling. Please bring us every resource we need and help us to engage faithfully and grow in fruitfulness.*
- *Jesus, we trust You for “daily bread” provision as we seek to fulfill Your desires.*
- *Jesus, we know that You will give us more information, additional layers of understanding, and revelation as we need it along the way. We trust You!*
- *Keep our feet from running ahead of You, Jesus and keep our hearts from holding us back. Lead us not into temptation to abandon the task or divert from what You have said.*

The Path of Exploration

Discernment ... Decisions ... Destination

Discernment

The process by which we synthesize all that God has revealed through speaking, visions, dreams and words. Discernment has finished its initial work when we, through a witness of the Spirit can say, "God has said..."

Decisions

The agreement of the community to obey God through active participation in His plan. Through unity in the Spirit, we move together based on what God has said. Our decisions are rooted in our devotion to Christ.

Destinations

The ongoing "arriving" of walking out our calling through continued listening, discernment and obedience. In the Lord, destinations are never points of "arriving," but rather points along the greater journey.

Where there is no prophetic vision the people cast off restraint(.)

Proverbs 29:18a ESV

"Prophecy gives us an outcome, which means that from prophecy spoken to prophecy fulfilled, everything between those two places is now designed to train us to become the person God saw when He spoke over us. The process to fulfillment is our training and proving ground where we cultivate the identity and develop the faith, focus and favor required to move in the Spirit at that level."

-Graham Cooke