

**INTRODUCTION**

A. God will communicate with us:

- John 10:27
- Revelation 22:7
- Proverbs 3:5 and 6
- James 1:5

B. We must listen to him. Listening to God is the most important aspect of prayer.

**MAJOR POINTS**

**Point 1:** The Bible is the primary instrument through which God communicates to his people. (Joshua 1:8; Psalm 37:31; Psalm 119:105 and 130; 2 Timothy 3:16 and 17)

\*\*\* Our response to God's Word must be simple obedience. (James 1:22)

**Point 2:** A pure heart increases our sensitivity to the voice of God. (Jeremiah 29:13)

A pure heart is one that is single in its intent to please God.

The opposite of a pure heart is "double-mindedness." (James 1:5-8)

**Point 3:** God can speak to us directly. (Exodus 3:4; Acts 9:3-4; 1 Kings 19:11-12; John 16:13)

God will find creative ways to speak to us. When he does, it will usually be in a still small voice or a persisting thought, but it will always retain his authority.

**Point 4:** God can speak to us in other ways:

- Wise counsel (Proverbs 11:14)
- Peace (Philippians 4:6-9)
- God's character. Does revelation line up with God's character?
- Prophecies, dreams, visions and spiritual gifts (Acts 2:17; 1 Corinthians 12:4-11)

**Point 5:** Increasing our sensitivity to God

## A. Repentance (dealing with sin issues)

- Pride (Jeremiah 13:15; James 4:1-10)
- Unbelief (Matthew 13:53-58; Matthew 17:14-20)
- Unforgiveness (Mark 11:20-26)
- Sexual Immorality (1 Corinthians 6:18-20)
- Broken Relationships (1 Peter 3:7)

## B. Meditation

1. Reading, repeating, and memorizing God's Word
2. Reflecting on God's character and actions
3. Rehearsing God's commands and responding to them in obedience
4. Meditation is thinking deeply on the Bible, coming into agreement with it, embracing the truth of it, and communing with God about it during prayer.

## C. Prayer (Mark 1:35)

## D. Solitude (Mark 1:35; Luke 5:16)

Solitude is the state or quality of being alone or remote from others. It is being isolated from noise and other distractions.

## E. Expectation (Related to Faith; see Hebrews 11:1, 6)

## F. Journaling

**Point 6:** How can we tell whether it's God, Satan, or ourselves?

1. God will never violate the Bible.
2. God is a gentleman.
3. A true Word from God affirms God's nature and character.
4. A true Word from God lovingly draws us out of sinfulness.
5. A true Word from God affirms our worth as children of God.
6. A true Word from God inspires to see the best in others.
7. We will recognize God's voice by the results it produces.
  - a. Galatians 5:22-23
  - b. It will bring encouragement.
  - c. It will bring peace.
  - d. It will bring thoughts of compassion toward others.
  - e. It will bring loving correction.
  - f. It will bring hope.
  - g. It will create and sustain faith.
  - h. It will glorify Jesus Christ.