

## *Listen to the Lord*

On May 17th, Pastor Matt shared with us the words God had given him for the sermon "Working in Me". He shared "God is in control, God is moving, and God is speaking!" He challenged us to: "Ask God to speak to our hearts, to speak into our souls and to who we are! To ask God what is it You are trying to do in me? To look for the heart of God in this moment - that God wants to speak to you! To allow God to speak to your soul. Take time to hear the voice of God!"

Then Pastor Eli shared May 24th, as we honored our 2020 Graduates, "God has subtracted a lot of things in our lives to add His presence back." These words plus those from Pastor Matt quickened my heart! As we seek the Lord, are we really giving Him our ear as we should? Are we taking the time to listen to Him?

If you have not already, please pray about accepting Pastor Matt's challenge TODAY! Before we totally gear back up to our busy schedules, let's take the time needed and give it to the Lord. Let's listen to the Lord's heart for us! Let us determine that old habits will not sneak back into our lives. No more "laundry list" given to Him and then bidding Him farewell as we run off to start our day. Stop, wait, ask Him and listen to His response. He speaks to us in so many ways: in His still small voice, through His Word, through friends and mentors, in the sermons on Sunday, in radio and TV programs, as we read, in dreams and even from a Bumper Sticker. Ask God to make you sensitive to what He says to you and you will be totally surprised just how real God is in your life and in the lives of your family!

[May we ponder these things as we meditate on this song: "Speak, Lord, I'm listening" by John B. Miller.](#)

[Here is a practical guide to "Learn how to Recognize God's Voice" by Rick Warren](#)

Lord, because You heard my voice and pleas for mercy, I will call on You as long as I live. Prompt me to always come to You first in prayer for all my needs as You ask me to in Your Word. (Ps 116:1-2; Phil 4:6)

Abba Father, how grateful I am that You ask me to call on You, and that if I do, You will answer and tell me great and hidden things that I have not known. (Jer 33.3)

Bless You, Father, for speaking to us through Your Word in the Bible so we will learn to know You, not just to know about You. May we wisely use the Word for Your teaching, for reproof, for correction and for training in righteousness. (2Tim 3:16)

May we realize, Lord, that we need to hear Your words, learn Your laws, receive them in our hearts, obey and act on them to gain wisdom like the man who builds his house on solid rock, so we will not drift away. (Deut 28:1-2; Ps 119:18; Prov 16:20; Ez 3:10; Matt 7:24; Mark 4:9; Luke 11:28, Phil4:9; Heb 2:1)

Lord, I confess and forsake each of my sins, daily, to You, asking Your forgiveness so I will not move toward hardening my heart and You will be able to hear me and I will be able to hear You. Thank You for the mercy you show me because of this.  
(Prov 28:13-14)

Merciful Lord, send Your angels to guard me so the cares of the world, the deceitfulness of riches, the desires for other things do not enter in and choke the Word so I do not listen. (Mark 4:18-19)

Lord, may we not return to the busyness of the past, but honor You by being still, knowing that You are God,

and waiting patiently on You. Help us to know Your ways, teach us Your paths and lead us in Your truth. Then in awe, praise and exalt You. (Ps 25:4-5, 37:7, 46:10)

Abba Father, make us sensitive to Your Words for us and how You speak to us - - - whether it is in Your still, small voice, through Your Word, by friends and mentors, dreams or media. (Job 33:14-15)

When I get an idea I think is from You, Lord, help me remember not to run with it until I confirm it to make sure it is from You and test it (ex: does it agree with the Bible, does it make me more like Christ - See "Learn How to Recognize God's Voice" above). (Prov 11:19; John 8:47; 2Cor 10:5; Phil 2:5; James3:14-17; Eph 2:10)

Thank You Father as we remember Pentecost (May 31st this year). Thank You for the precious gift of the Holy Spirit, who teaches us all things and helps us remember all that Jesus has said to us. (John 14:26)

You, Father, are our Shepherd, and we are grateful that You know each of us. We hear Your voice and follow You wherever you lead for You give us eternal life and we will never perish.  
(Ps 23; John 10:27-28)

*"Believer, abide in Christ, for there is the school of prayer - - - mighty, effectual, answer-bringing prayer. Abide in Him, and you shall learn what to so many is a mystery. That the secret of the prayer of faith is the life of faith – the life that abides in Christ alone."*

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