

“Can We Talk...Again?”

Biblical Reflections on Prayer

What is Prayer?

Prayer is dialogue between God and me.

1. Not to impress
2. Publicly and privately
3. Simple
4. Persistent
5. Don't expect immediate answers

Hearing God

1. Hearing when we have not prayed
2. Hearing before we have prayed
3. Hearing because we have prayed

Hearing because we have prayed:

1. Directly as asked
2. Delayed but as requested
3. Differently than prayed
4. Denied altogether

2 Corinthians 12:8-10

God's *Will* Frames Our Entire Life

Matthew 26:39 “Not My will, but Your will”

James 4:15 “If the Lord wills, we will do...”

2 Corinthians 5:15 “...no longer live for themselves, but live for Him who died and rose again on their behalf...”

Hearing God, but **Rejecting** His Answer

Israel's Habit

Psalm 81:13

***“Oh that My people would listen
to Me, that Israel would walk in
My ways!” (11-16) (Romans 1)***

John 10:27

***“My sheep hear My voice, I know them,
and they follow Me.”***

Pattern of submission in true believers.

John 14:15

Hearing God's *Silence*

Silence is sometimes louder than an answer

James 4:3

Wrong Motives

Psalm 66:18

Cherishing sin in heart

1 Peter 3:7

Troubled relationships

James 4:2

Don't ask, wont tell

Is Anyone There?

James 1:5-7 Faithless prayer

1 John 5:14ff Praying outside God's will

Romans 8:26 Ignorant prayer

Luke 18:1-8 Lack of persistent prayer

Matthew 6:5ff Arrogant prayer

Is Anyone There?

James 1:3 Testing of faith

Perhaps silence because God has planned
a better time.

Hearing *Someone Other* Than God

Authentic Voice of God:

1. Wont contradict Scripture
2. Wont direct you to act sinfully
3. Wont take you outside of God's will
4. Wont come by supernatural means

Hearing for *Effect*

Admission	“I am unworthy & unable!”
Submission	“You know best!”
Transmission	“Please intervene!”
Intermission	“I will wait on You!”
Permission	“Thanks for Your response!”

Hearing *Aids* to Prayer

1. Review biblical reasons for not hearing
2. Spend time in Bible (Job 23:12)
3. Review past answers to prayer
4. Recognize small prayer answers
5. Be thankful (1 Thessalonians 5:17)
6. Always pray for God's glory & will
7. Keep a prayer journal...write it down!