

Summer of Spiritual Growth: How to Pray 2

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A prayer life is a two-way street.

Hearing His voice is where you experience “intimacy” with your Father.

John 10:1-16 – “I can guarantee this truth: The person who doesn't enter the sheep pen through the gate but climbs in somewhere else is a thief or a robber. ² But the one who enters through the gate is the shepherd. ³ The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep respond to his voice. He calls his sheep by name and leads them out of the pen. ⁴ After he has brought out all his sheep, he walks ahead of them. The sheep follow him because they recognize his voice. ⁵ They won't follow a stranger. Instead, they will run away from a stranger because they don't recognize his voice.”

The voices of the thief and the robber are crying out for our attention.

The Shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. He walks ahead of them and prepares the way.

His Sheep:

- Respond to His voice
- Are called by name
- Are led
- Recognize His voice
- Won't respond to the voice of the stranger or the thief

Five Steps to Have a Devotional Life:

1. Set a daily appointment
2. Be still and worship
3. Pray
4. Read the Word – God speaks through His Word
5. Listen and write – God speaks to you

Three Kinds of Prayer:

1. Prayer of Dedication and Consecration to God

Psalm 19:14 – “Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O Lord, my strength and my Redeemer.”

2. Prayer of Casting your Care

Philippians 4:6-7 – “Do not fret or have any anxiety about anything, but in every circumstance and in everything, by prayer and petition (definite requests), with thanksgiving, continue to make your wants known to God.⁷ Before you know it, the peace of God, a sense of God's wholeness, everything coming together for good, will come and settle you down and transcend your understanding. It's wonderful what happens when Christ displaces worry at the center of your life, as He will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.”

3. Prayer of Petition

Ephesians 1:17-18 – “That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him,¹⁸ the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints.”