

## EXPERIENCING GOD GOD SPEAKS, PART 2

### What Happens When You Pray?

God always has far more to give than you can even ask or think. Paul wrote, “Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever!”

You can't imagine a prayer that comes close to what God wants to give you. Only the Spirit of God knows what God is doing or purposing in your life. Let God give you all He wants to give.

Our problem is that when we pray, we usually don't relate to our prayers anything that subsequently happens. After you pray, practice spiritual concentration. When you pray in a particular direction, immediately anticipate God's activity in answer to your prayer. Throughout Scripture when God's people prayed, He responded.

Here's what happens if you pray and then forget about what you prayed. Things start to happen during the day that are unusual. Seeing them as distractions, you try to ignore them and fail to connect them with what you prayed about earlier.

When you pray, you should immediately begin to watch for what happens next and prepare to make adjustments to what happens in your life.

Expect God to answer your prayers but stick around for the answer. His timing is always right and best. You must decide whether you will do what you want and ask God to bless it or go to work where He is working.

Sometimes you pray and God is silent. What does this mean?

Sometimes God's silences are caused by sin in your life. If you have unconfessed sin, you must confess it and make it right. If God is still silent after that, you should get ready for a new experience with Him like you've never had. Sometimes God is silent as He prepares to bring you to a deeper understanding of Himself.

You can respond to God's silence in two ways. You can become frustrated, feel guilty or be impatient. Or you can expect that God is about to bring you to a deeper knowledge of Himself. These responses are a different as night and day.

### God Speaks Through Circumstances

The Holy Spirit uses the Bible, prayer, circumstances and God's people to speak to us...to show us the Father's will. Circumstances are how Jesus knew the Father's will for His life and daily activities. Only the Father has the right to initiate a divine work.

Jesus always looked for where the Father was at work...then joined Him. Jesus immediately adjusted His life to His Father's activity around Him. The Father then accomplished His purposes through Jesus.

This is exactly what Jesus wants us to do through His lordship in our lives. We see what He is doing...then we adjust our lives, our plans and our goals to Him. We are to place our lives at His disposal...where He is working...so He will accomplish His purposes through us.

Sometimes circumstances appear to be negative. Maybe you've found yourself in the middle of a difficult circumstance and you asked God, "Why is this happening to me?" You are NOT alone.

To understand your painful or difficult circumstances, God's perspective is vital. When you face hardships of confusing situations, they can overwhelm you. When you look at God from the middle of your circumstances, you will always have a distorted understanding of Him.

### **When Circumstances Are Confusing**

1. Settle in your mind that God has forever demonstrated His unfailing love for you.
2. Don't try to understand what God is like from the middle of your circumstances
3. Go to God and ask Him to help you see His perspective on your situation.
4. Wait on the Holy Spirit. He can take God's Word and help you understand your circumstances.
5. Adjust your life to God and to what you see Him doing in your circumstances.
6. Do all He tells you to do.
7. Experience God working in and through you to accomplish His purposes.

### **The Truth of Your Circumstance**

You cannot know the truth of your circumstance until you have heard from God. Aren't you glad that God is patient with us?

When you face confusing or difficult circumstances, don't blame God. Don't give up on following Him. Instead, ask Him to reveal the truth of your circumstances. Ask Him to show you His perspective.

Radically orient your life to God.

The most difficult thing you will ever have to do is deny self, take up God's will and follow Him. The most challenging part of your relationship with God is being God-centered.

Never determine the truth of a situation only by looking at the circumstances. Don't evaluate your situation until you've heard from Jesus...He is Truth.

Always remember that God will never give you an order without releasing His power to enable it to happen. Trust Him and obey Him and it will happen.