

EXPERIENCING GOD: Listening to God

Healthy relationships excel at communicating.
They are active in both speaking and listening.

The spiritual disciplines are personal practices I engage in
to put myself in a place where I can experience God.

Take the time and trouble to keep yourselves spiritually fit.

1 Timothy 4:7b Phillips

We can tend to get caught up with experiencing the disciplines
rather than seeing the disciplines
as a doorway into experiencing God.

LISTEN TO GOD THROUGH . . .

1. CREATION:

The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his
hands. Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they
reveal knowledge. They have no speech, they use no words;
no sound is heard from them. Yet their voice goes out into all the
earth, their words to the ends of the world.

Psalms 19:1-6 NIV

Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in
barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more
valuable than they?

Matthew 6:26 NIV

See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labor or spin.

Matthew 6:28 NIV

Earth's crammed with heaven
And every common bush afire with God;
But only he who sees takes off his shoes.

Elizabeth Barrett Browning

What do you hear God saying when you listen to creation?

2. PRAYER:

We may think that prayer is all about talking
BUT prayer is also an opportunity for us to listen to God.

Praying is more about us aligning our will with God's will
than it is God aligning his will with ours.

We Hear God in Prayer when we . . .

- Are Open
- Are Silent
- Are Tracking our Prayers and God's Answers
 - God answers prayer with a yes, a no, or a wait.

**Therefore, in order to keep me from becoming conceited, I was given a
thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. Three times I
pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. But he said to me, "My
grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness."**

2 Corinthians 12:7-9 NIV

When you pray are you also listening to God?

3. THE BIBLE:

**For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the
sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between
joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires.**

Hebrews 4:12 NLT

**All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking,
correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of
God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.**

2 Timothy 3:16-17 NIV

The Bible contains the words of God. We must put ourselves into
the bible stories realizing the experiences recorded there are
basically of the same type as ours would be if we had been there.

Without the Bible, there is a whole lot we would not know about God,
about life and about ourselves. Listening to the Bible is essential to
spiritual maturity.

Are you listening to God personally speak to you through the Bible?

(NIV New International Bible, NLT New Living Translation, Phillips Translation)