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LEARNING TO TALK WITH GOD

“This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of him.” John 5: 14-15 NIV

A common hindrance in prayer is the feeling that no one is listening. We feel like the parent who is talking to his teenager while she is texting. Or the wife who tries to talk to her husband while he is watching a game. No feedback, no response, not even an occasional, “Uh-huh.”

But prayer is not a one-way conversation. It is intended to be a spirited interaction between us and a living Being with whom we have an intimate and growing relationship. It’s not merely what we say to God; it is responding thoughtfully to what He is saying to us through His Word.

To grow in your intimacy with God, try this. Read a passage of Scripture. Ask God to help you discover the interests of His heart. Then respond conversationally from your own heart to what you are hearing. **Psalm 42:1-2 is a good example.** *“As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, my God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When can I go and meet God?”*

Lord, those words express how I feel. I feel so dry and tired and weak from running. My strength is gone. I don’t know how much longer I can go on. If you don’t help me I’m not going to make it. I know that someday I will stand before You. But I long to hear from You now. What do you want from me? What do you want me to do?

As you interact with God through His Word and prayer, you will begin to discover what God is doing in your own heart. Amen.

Dave Egner

Excerpted and adapted from *Praying with Confidence*

“And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.” Matthew 28:18 – 20

