

Prayer is the puzzling practice of communicating with God.

Summer Bible Study: Prayer
#3: Samuel's Prayer to Hear
1 Samuel 3:1-4:1a

Context of 1 Samuel 3
Date: c. 1075 B.C.

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“In those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes.”

Judges 21:25

Context of 1 Samuel 3

Date: c. 1075 B.C.

Samuel's faithfulness: 1 Samuel 2:11, 18, 21, 26

Outline of 1 Samuel 3:1-4:1a

- I. Samuel and Eli are contrasted (3:1-3).**
- II. Samuel hears God's call (3:4-10).**
- III. Samuel receives God's message (3:11-14).**
- IV. Samuel relays God's message (3:15-18).**

“Such was Samuel’s introduction to the prophetic calling ... Already Samuel is learning that his words will not always be easy either for him to speak or for his hearers to receive, but he will continue to deliver God’s message without fear of the consequences, and so establish God’s rule in the land.”

— *Joyce G. Baldwin*

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- IV. Samuel relays God's message (3:15-18).**
- V. Samuel receives and relays God's Word (3:19-4:1a).**

“The prophet not only conveys; he reveals. He almost does unto others what God does unto him. In speaking, the prophet reveals God. This is the marvel of a prophet’s work: in his words *the invisible God becomes audible.*”

— Abraham Heschel, *The Prophets*

**Samuel's prayer shows us how to hear
God's voice.**

Hearing God in prayer requires ...

1) The Word of God

- **“word/words/messages/speak” (15x)**

“How did God reveal Himself? By the Word. God today is also revealing Himself through His Word.”

— *J. Vernon McGee*

For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

2 Peter 1:21

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness,

2 Timothy 3:16

Messages that God speaks to me, from His Word:

- ***“Love Me with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength.”***
- ***“Love others as you love yourself.”***
- ***“Forgive others as I have forgiven you through Christ Jesus, My Son.”***
- ***“Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. In all things, give thanks.”***
- ***“You are my child.”***

Messages that God speaks to me, from His Word:

- ***“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you.”***
- ***“Do not fear.”***
- ***“I am with you ... always.”***
- ***“I will provide all of your needs.”***
- ***“Be still and know that I am God.”***
- ***“My grace is sufficient for you.”***

Hearing God in prayer requires ...

1) The Word of God

Question: Am I investing time in God's Word to hear His voice? Or is God's Word rare in my life?

Hearing God in prayer requires ...

1) The Word of God

2) The Willingness of Heart

- **“Listening/hears” (3x)**
- **“Called” (11x)**
- **“Samuel” = “God hears” (21x)**

And in due time Hannah conceived and bore a son, and she called his name Samuel, for she said, "I have asked for him from the Lord."

1 Samuel 1:20

"Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one."

Deuteronomy 6:4

Hearing God in prayer requires ...

1) The Word of God

2) The Willingness of Heart

- “Shema” and “Samuel” = similar root

**But be doers of the word, and not hearers
only, deceiving yourselves.**

James 1:22

Hearing God in prayer requires ...

- 1) The Word of God**
- 2) The Willingness of Heart**

Question: Am I really willing to hear what He wants to say to me and do it?

Hearing God in prayer requires ...

- 1) The Word of God**
- 2) The Willingness of Heart**
- 3) The Wisdom of Community**

**The way of a fool is right in his own eyes,
but a wise man listens to advice.**

Proverbs 12:15

**Without counsel plans fail, but with many
advisers they succeed.**

Proverbs 15:22

Hearing God in prayer requires ...

- 1) The Word of God**
- 2) The Willingness of Heart**
- 3) The Wisdom of Community**

Question: Am I opening my ears to the counsel of others who help me hear His voice?

**Question: Would we be willing to pray:
“*Speak, for your servant hears*” this week?**