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# Talking With God

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## Part 2 - Your Will Be Done

Prayer is not just something that is important to us here at Riverlife, it's in fact a cornerstone of a relationship with God, and a daily lifeline to stay connected to the only One who can make any sense in this world!

Last week, we looked at the Lord's Prayer:

*Pray then like this: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil."*

Matthew 6:9–13 (ESV)

Have you ever prayed that 'faith-filled' prayer, "If it's Your will?"

How do we know what God's will is?

### Knowing God's Will

We know from scripture the general elements of God's will.

Could you honestly say that you have perceived God's leading, or direction, or instruction, or at least His love, encouragement or conviction? That's Him communicating with you!

We have the witness of scripture to guide us into discerning His voice: we call it the canon of scripture (canon means rule or standard or criteria by which something is judged).

Knowing scripture positions us to hear God's voice.

Isaiah 9:7

Zechariah 10:1

We pray for what God is doing in the day that He said He'd do it!

1 John 5:14–15

## **The Wisdom of God**

1 Corinthians 2:6–16

Those who are inhabited by the Spirit of God are designed to work in partnership with God, to reveal and work in His wisdom in this world.

- + John 10:27 – My sheep hear My Voice!
- + Genesis 2–3 – our created state is to fully know and in open communion with God.
- + John 16 – the Holy Spirit will take what was said by Jesus and declare (announce) it to us!

That is our defining characteristic – our God is always with us, within us, and around us, speaking, leading, guiding, forming, convicting, encouraging, teaching.

Our faith, biblically speaking, is one marked with a dynamic and present personal and intimate relationship with our living Lord Jesus.

## **Where do we begin?**

Matthew 10:7–8

Matthew 28:19–20

- + **Question 1:** Are you a disciple of Jesus?
- + **Question 2:** Did you understand how He taught us to pray?
- + **Question 3:** Can you hear His voice?

Let's practice!

## **Practicing Hearing God**

Let's spend a minute listening to God, each one of us by ourselves.

- + I'd love us to do something to bless and encourage someone else.
- + Ask the Lord to bring someone to mind that you could bless or encourage.
- + Then ask Him how you can encourage them – what do they need to know about God, themselves, or their situation that will encourage them, make them feel loved, feel valued by the Father?
- + If you have any trouble hearing God, there's always a few questions that I know God is quick to answer, and can help us have confidence that God speaks.
  1. Ask Him – is there anyone who I need to forgive? Or –
  2. Is there anything that I need to repent of, where I have sinned against you, God?

## **Discussion Questions and Activities**

1. Have you taken the time to pray through the Lord's Prayer in Matthew 6:9-13? Spend some time now refreshing yourself with the passage and read it aloud.
2. What do you understand God's will to be? Where can you find that expressed in the New Testament scriptures?
3. What has been your experience in understanding God's will for a situation, and then praying accordingly? How has that impacted your prayer life?

4. When we read Matthew 10:7-8, how comfortable are you with those expressed parts of God's will?
5. If the above question makes you feel uncomfortable, stop and invite the Holy Spirit to minister to you, bring the comfort and peace of God into your life. His job is to comfort you when you are uncomfortable! Welcome to being in God's will!
6. How do you personally perceive God's communication to you? Do you hear? Sense? 'Know'? See?
7. How have you experienced this in the past?
8. How has it blessed you?
9. How could you hear God for others? What practical ways can you pass on God's encouragement and heart to others?
10. Spend some time practicing the 'Practice' section in the above notes, and see what God shows you! Share those words and love with those who God highlights to you, and share the testimony of that with others around you to encourage them.