

How to deepen your prayer life By Erica Jermanus

If you struggle with your prayer life, then this book is for you! If you want to know how to pray and have a deeper relationship with Christ, then stay tuned for more!

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Introduction:

In this e-book, I talk about how to hear and know the voice of God. I talk about how to have a deeper and closer relationship with Jesus Christ. I talk about what prayer is and how to have a conversation with God. I talk about tuning out distractions and tuning into the voice of God. I also talk about how to pray, when to pray, where to pray, and why we pray.

Chapter 1: How to hear the voice of God? How do I know his voice?

Prayer is a two-way conversation with Heavenly Father. Prayer is when we talk to God and then he speaks back to us. If you want to know Jesus Christ and hear his voice, start by reading the Bible. The Holy Spirit also speaks to us believers through a still small voice. When you get quiet enough and remove all distractions, you can hear him speak to you through a small whisper. If you want to get instruction, guidance, and direction from God, get into his presence and word. John 10:27 says, "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:"

When you are in the presence of God, you may not hear anything, and it may just be silence. You may experience peace, and that is the Holy Spirit speaking to you. Sometimes, we just need to press in longer for us to hear his voice. He may want us to be patient and to wait on him to get instructions from him. Psalm 27:14 says, "Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD." Psalm 130:5 says, "I wait for the LORD, my soul doth wait, and in his word do I hope."

Another way that God speaks to us is through nudges. You may get a nudge in your spirit to do something or to go somewhere. He may put an idea on your heart to work on. It may be to start a new project or to pray for a particular person. He may put someone on your mind to pray for. He may have you go somewhere to share the gospel, to encourage or help someone in need. That is the voice of the Holy Spirit. That nudge may be the answer to someone else's prayer. When we follow those nudges, we are acting out of obedience to God.

How do you know you are listening to the voice of God and not another voice? If what you're listening to lines up with the Bible, then that voice is from the Lord. But if it goes against scripture in the Bible, then it is not from God. There are other voices that we may hear, such as our own voice, the world's, the devil's voice, and then God's voice. So we may have to tune out the voices that are not of Jesus Christ.

John 1:1 says, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."

John 1:14 says, "And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth."

John 14:6 says, "Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."

Numbers 23:19 says, "God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?"

Another way you can hear the voice of the Holy Spirit is when you get a check in your spirit. When you do something right or you are on the right path, you will get a check in the spirit. You will feel at peace in your spirit when you are on the right path. When you are on the wrong path, you will feel uneasy. Sometimes the Lord will allow you to smell certain scents to let you know what path you are on. You may smell flowers or fresh laundry scents. That is a sign you are on the right path. Other times, you may smell burning fire, and that is a sign you are on the wrong path. But this is not always

the case. Sometimes you just smell these scents either way.

Another way that the Lord speaks to us is through conviction of the Holy Spirit. Whenever we sin against God, we will be convicted. That is a true sign that you are a born-again believer and you have the Holy Spirit. Unbelievers do not get convicted of sin. You will feel bothered by sin until you confess and repent of it. John 16:8-9 says, "And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:"

There is a difference between conviction and condemnation. Condemnation is not of God, but is of the enemy Satan. The enemy wants us to feel condemned after we have already confessed our sins, repented, and been forgiven. Romans 8:1 says, "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit." John 3:17 says, "For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved."

The number one way that God speaks to us is through the Bible. You could be reading a verse in the Bible,

and it jumps off the pages at you. That verse is exactly what you needed at that moment. That is the Holy Spirit speaking to us. The Bible says in Hebrews 4:12, "For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart." Psalm 119:105 says, "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path."

The Lord will use the Bible to correct us when we have sinned against him. The word of God helps us to get back on the right track. The word of God is how we get to know God, his character, and his attributes. The Bible is how we communicate with God and have a personal relationship with him. However, it is not the only way that he speaks. He can speak in many other different ways.

How else does God speak to us? He knows how to speak to us and get our attention when he has something to say to us. He will speak through the weather outside. There may be a big thunderstorm, tornado, or hurricane. The Lord will use the weather to get people to repent and turn back to him. The Lord will

use the weather to get people to know him and to get saved. The Lord reveals himself through the weather to show that he is sovereign over all that he has created. The Lord will use the weather to discipline his children when they have gone astray. The weather is like affliction to us believers, and it draws us closer to him. Hebrews 12:6 says, "For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth."

The Lord will also speak to us through nature and creation. How can you not know that there is a God when you look at nature or what he has created on earth? When you look at flowers blooming, the birds, the clouds in the sky, or snowflakes falling, you have to know that God is real. When you look at the way Jesus Christ created us human beings so intricately, you have to know that he exists. God has revealed himself through what he has created.

Romans 1:19-20 says, "Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them. For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood

by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:"

If you want to know God more or have a deeper connection with him, get out in nature. Go by the water, go by a wooded area, or look up at the sky. The Lord will speak to you through the nature that he has created. The Lord will speak through animals and children too. He will speak through a baby's laugh. He will speak through the sun shining on your face. He will speak through the rain falling on the ground. He speaks in a number of ways. But it is just up to us to pay attention to what he has to say. It is up to us to tune in to him and his creation.

Many of us are so busy and distracted that we do not hear the voice of God when he speaks to us. We are not paying attention to him and what he is trying to say. Sometimes he will not speak to us until we are quiet or until we have obeyed the last thing he has told us to do. There are many voices clamoring for our attention in this nonstop busy world. It is either our own voices we hear or the voices of secular news media or the devil's voice, and then there is the voice of the Holy Spirit.

God has so much that he wants to say to us when we get into that secret place with him. He can download revelation, wisdom, guidance, and knowledge into our hearts and minds. If we want to know what God's will is for our lives and what it is we are called to do for the kingdom, it starts by either sitting still in the presence of God or getting into the Bible and reading. It also helps to meditate on a scripture and think about that scripture. God will use his word to speak to us.

He wants us to act on the things that we know are from him. If he has called us to do something for his glory and his kingdom, we should step into that assignment. He wants us to use our gifts and talents to serve him on earth. He wants us to fulfill our purpose in life.

Sometimes that calls for us to take a step of faith and do what we already know to do. It could be as simple as making a video on Youtube to share the gospel or a testimony. It could be praying for a friend or family member. It could encourage someone through a text message or a phone call. However, the Holy Spirit leads and guides you.

Another way that God speaks to us is through dreams and visions. The Lord may reveal something to you

about a particular person or place through dreams and visions. He may give you revelation and confirmation through your dreams or visions. The Lord may speak to us through our dreams about staying clear from a person, place, or thing.

Sometimes, when we wake up, we forget our dreams, and that is what the enemy wants. Ask the Lord to help you remember what you dreamed; he will bring it back to mind again. The Lord may show you something that is to come in the future through your dreams. The Lord may speak a prophetic word to you through dreams and visions, and then he may want you to share it with others so they can be blessed, encouraged, or warned.

You may get attacked in your dreams too, and that is the enemy. When you wake up from those dreams, rebuke or cancel them. The enemy will try to tempt us into sin in our dreams and when we wake up from those dreams. That is why we may need to resist those temptations when we wake up and rebuke the dreams.

God will also speak to us through other people and things. He will use anyone or anything to get our attention. He can use just about anything or anyone to

speak to us and get our attention. He will confirm with you something he has already told you through other prophets or through a pastor. He may speak through posts or videos you watch online. But test the spirits to see if what you are hearing is from God, because not everything we hear is from him. There are many false prophets and teachers out there in the world.

1 John 4:1 says, "Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world."

Chapter 2: How do we pray? Where do we pray? When do we pray?

How do we pray? Prayer is talking and listening to God. It is a two-way conversation with the Holy Spirit. When we talk to him, he talks back to us. We can carve out time in our schedule to spend time in prayer and reading the Bible. Prayer does not have to be long hours. We can simply pray for five or ten minutes or even just a minute or two of talking to God and reading and meditating on a scripture. We can talk to Heavenly Father throughout our day.

People think they have to pray really long prayers to be heard by God. Matthew 6:7-8 says, "But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking. Be not ye therefore like unto them: for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him."

The Lord knows what is in our hearts, and he sees our tears or our silent whispers. Those are prayers too. You can pray small prayers throughout your day, such as "help me God" or "thank you, Lord." It is not how long we pray, but that we pray with a sincere heart.

When you do not have the words to say to speak, you can just thank and praise him. You can also ask God to give you a prayer language and teach you how to speak in tongues. He will send someone to help you speak in tongues if that is something that you desire. Not every believer does speak in tongues, and that is okay. You can speak in your known language to God. Speaking in tongues edifies and builds up your spirit. 1 Corinthians 14:4 says, "He that speaketh in an unknown tongue edifieth himself; but he that prophesieth edifieth the church."

You may not know what you are praying when you speak in tongues unless it is a known language. But if you are praying in the Holy Ghost, you may need an interpreter. God knows what you are praying for because you are praying to him and not man. You can ask God to send you someone who can interpret your prayer language. Not every Christian has to speak in tongues, but it helps you build and grow your relationship with Christ.

Where do you pray? It doesn't matter where you pray. You can pray anywhere and everywhere. God is not limited to time and space. He is outside of time and space. He is omnipresent. He can be everywhere at once. So we can talk to him at any time, and he is there. But I would encourage you to pray to Heavenly Father in secret or somewhere that is private. That is what Jesus Christ did when he was on this earth. He prayed to Heavenly Father on a secluded mountain. It was just him and the Father alone.

Matthew 6:6 says, "But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray

to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly.”

When do we pray? We can pray any time of day. We can pray in the morning, afternoon, evening, and night. The Bible says in 1 Thessalonians 5:17, “Pray without ceasing.” We may not be able to pray without ceasing. But we can continually offer up prayers to God throughout our day. Even if the prayers we pray are small, short prayers. We can give him thanks and praise throughout our day. God just wants a relationship with us and not a religion. So when we pray to him, it does not have to be a mundane chore. It does not have to be a religious ceremony. We can come to him just like he is our best friend. We can talk to him about anything and everything. He is always there to listen.

The Lord is listening to our prayers if we do not have sin in our lives. Sin hides his face from us. God does not hear the prayers of the unbelievers because of their sins and because they are not reconciled to him. But when we confess our sins to him, our relationship with him is restored or reconciled.

Isaiah 59:2 says, “But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.”

1 John 1:9 says, “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

We can pray to God at any time of day. It can be when we are driving to work, doing dishes, washing laundry, or taking a shower. Whatever we do, we can have Jesus Christ at the forefront of our minds. When he is on our minds, we are either thanking him, praising him, or praying. There are times we get busy and forget to prioritize him. That is when we can find time in our day or night to get back to reading his word and talking and listening to him. We can put some worship music on and sing songs of praise to him.

Why do we pray? We pray because that is how we stay connected to the Father and stay in relationship with him. That is how we get to know him. Without a relationship with God, we cannot enter the kingdom of heaven. We need to know him and for him to know us, and that comes through prayer and obedience to his

word and commands. We also pray because there are so many needs in this fallen, broken, and sinful world. There are so many lost and headed for hell and destruction. Our prayers are so powerful and can change lives and save souls. Our prayers can change the outcomes of situations.

James 5:16 says, "Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much."

Who do we pray to? We pray to Heavenly Father in the name of Jesus Christ. We do not pray to Allah, Buddha, Muhammad, Mary, or the saints. Mary and the Saints do not hear our prayers, and neither do the other gods. 1 Timothy 2:5 says, "For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;" Matthew 6:9-13 says, "After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name."

Here is an example of what to pray in the Bible.

Matthew 6:9-13 says, "After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen."

When we pray, we can start off by worshiping Heavenly Father and singing praise to him. Then, we can give thanks to him for everything we have and for all that he has done for us. Then, we can confess our sins to him and ask for forgiveness and repent of anything we have done wrong. Then, we can ask him for what we need and make a supplication. Afterwards, we can make intercession and pray for others, ourselves, and the world. Then, we can pray against any spiritual warfare in our lives and others. Then, we can be still in his presence and listen to his voice to get instruction or guidance.

We can also pray the scriptures and the psalms, which are really helpful and edifying. Lastly, we can give thanks and praise to him to end the prayer. This is an

example of how we can pray daily. Every day may look different for us. One day may look different from another. As long as we are finding time in our schedules to talk to him and read our Bibles, that is all that matters.

Conclusion:

Thank you to all who have supported this business and ministry! I give thanks and praise to God Almighty and Jesus Christ for pushing me to keep going with these books and get them published. I couldn't have done it without all of you and without him above all.