



## 5. Be obedient

**Jesus said, 'If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching.' John 14:23**

- It is God who gives you faith in his Son and who lives in you by the Holy Spirit: you belong to him!
- So listen to God by obeying what he says in the Bible: live a life of obedience that gives him pleasure.
- Study and memorise the Bible; listen to it preached. God will use it to speak to you, directing your paths, challenging you and changing you.



James 1:22 | Ephesians 2:8,9 | Leviticus 18:5  
John 14:21, 23 | Galatians 2:19-20  
Psalm 119:33-35



## 6. Be persistent

**Be persistent in prayer, and keep alert as you pray, giving thanks to God. Colossians 4:2**

- Keep praying for what God puts in your heart and mind.
- Is there a prayer God hasn't answered? Why not listen to see if God speaks to you about why that might be?
- Keep praying until the Holy Spirit prompts you to move on.



Colossians 4:2 | Philippians 4:6 | Jeremiah 33:3  
Luke 18:1-8 | Matthew 26:41



## 7. Be thankful

**The sacrifice that honours me is a thankful heart. Psalm 50:23 (CEV)**

- Prayer and giving thanks go together.
- Picture prayer like breathing in God, praise like breathing out to God.
- Praise releases power!
- Don't depend on your feelings. Feelings can block you from listening to God.
- Giving thanks and praising is a discipline. Give thanks not because you feel like it, but because God deserves it.



Psalm 50:23 | Psalm 86:10-12  
Romans 11:33-36 | Psalm 110:4,5  
Psalm 63:2-5 | Jude 25 | Ephesians 5:19  
1 Chronicles 16:34

**Speak Lord, for your servant is listening.**

**1 Samuel 3:9**



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**Practical steps to help you listen to God**

***I will listen to what God the Lord says: he promises peace to his people, his faithful servants.***

**Psalm 85:8**

**ALL PRAYER** should be a two-way conversation between you and God. God speaks through his Word—and by his Spirit.

**You can listen to God ANYWHERE, at ANY TIME, but it helps to have...**



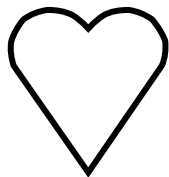
### ... a quiet place

*Think: where could I go?*



### ... a quiet time

*Think: when is best for me?*



### ... a quiet heart

*Think: am I ready to listen?*

**Here are 7 practical steps to help you listen to God...**



## 1. Be still

***Come near to God and he will come near to you. James 4:8a***

- Open the Bible and get ready to listen.
- Reflect on God's goodness, his power, his love, what he is like, what he has done.
- Read a psalm of praise or a favourite Bible passage. Reflect on it.
- Worship and praise God: use your own words, or listen to a worship song.
- Focus on God, not your own needs.



James 4:8a | Psalm 62:5,11-12 | Hebrews 4:16  
Psalm 47:6-8 | Colossians 1:15-23  
1 Chronicles 29:10-13 | Psalm 19:14  
Psalm 46:10-11



## 2. Be clean

***Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts... James 4:8b***

- Take time to let the Holy Spirit search your heart. Respond to his prompting.
- What do you need to say sorry for? Ask him to forgive you and make you clean inside.
- Accept his forgiveness. Thank him.
- Ask him to fill you with the Holy Spirit.



James 4:8b | Psalm 66:18-20 | Psalm 24:3-5 |  
Psalm 51:16-17 | 1 John 1:9 | James 5:16b |  
Ephesians 5:18b | Luke 11:13



## 3. Be armed

***Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Ephesians 6:10***

***Stand up to the devil. He will run away from you. James 4:7***

- The all-powerful name of Jesus and the Bible, the Sword of the Spirit, are your armour. They are mighty weapons.
- Picture yourself putting on “the whole armour of God” and “putting on Christ”.



James 4:7 | 1 Peter 5:8,9 | Luke 10:19  
Colossians 2:15 | Colossians 3:16,17  
2 Corinthians 10:4-6 | Ephesians 6:10-18

*Remember! God and Satan are not equal enemies. God is more powerful—Jesus rising from the dead proves this. He is the all-powerful King of Kings and Lord of Lords—you have nothing to fear when you come into God's presence when you come in the name of Jesus.*



## 4. Be submissive

***Do not be wise in your own eyes. Proverbs 3:7***

- Put aside your own ideas, lists, desires.
- Ask God what *he* wants you to pray for.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to direct your prayers and pray through you.
- Praise God for his willingness to answer.



John 4:7a | Proverbs 3:5,6 | Romans 8:26,27  
Isaiah 55:8-11 | Ezra 8:23 | John 14:26  
John 15:7