

Prayer Following Ministry

Father in heaven, thank You for sharing with us, by the power of the Holy Spirit, Your Son's ministry of healing and deliverance. We praise for the healings and deliverance that we have witnessed. Father, we realize that sickness and oppression is more than our humanity can bear. We ask You to free us of any sadness, negativity, depression, anxiety, self condemnation, anger, frustration, confusion, doubt, despair, sickness or infirmity that may have attached itself to us during our time of ministry.

If during our time of ministry we have sinned through pride, lust, self righteousness, impatience, or jealousy we repent and ask that the blood of Jesus cleanse us any unrighteousness.

If any evil spirit has attached itself to us we command it to depart now, through the intercession of the Mother of God, Mary, most holy and the ministry of Saint Michael and our Guardian Angels. As you depart you are sealed from any communication, interplay, or interaction with any other demonic host. In the name of Jesus, go to the foot of Christ crucified, never to return to us, our family, or any with whom we are associated.

Heavenly Father, fill any empty space in our soul with the fruit of the Holy Spirit, which is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control, chastity, modesty, and purity. Father, we give you permission to conform us to Christ.

We thank you for all the protection You have given us by the blood of Jesus. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Written by Brendan Case

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Hearing the Voice of God Seminar

**Listening and Responding
to God in Your Life**



“I will hear what the Lord God will speak in me:
for he will speak peace unto his people:
And unto his saints:
and unto them that are converted to the heart.”
Ps 85:8 DRB

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Spiritual Director

CCC #2690

The Holy Spirit gives to certain of the faithful the gifts of wisdom, faith and discernment for the sake of this common good which is prayer (*spiritual direction*). Men and women so endowed are true servants of the living tradition of prayer.

According to St. John of the Cross, the person wishing to advance toward perfection should "take care into whose hands he entrusts himself, for as the master is, so will the disciple be, and as the father is so will be the son." And further: "In addition to being learned and discreet a director should be experienced. . . . If the spiritual director has no experience of the spiritual life, he will be incapable of leading into it the souls whom God is calling to it, and he will not even understand them."

Find wise counsel in Prayer Groups

CCC #2689

Prayer groups, indeed "schools of prayer," are today one of the signs and one of the driving forces of renewal of prayer in the Church, provided they drink from authentic wellsprings of Christian prayer. Concern for ecclesial communion is a sign of true prayer in the Church.

Peace is the first gift of the Resurrection

Jn 20:19

On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being shut where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you."

Is 26:3

Thou dost keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee, because he trusts in thee.

If we are stayed on God, locked on His will, determining in our hearts, "I will hear what the Lord has to say, a voice that speaks of peace" (Ps 85:8), we will be kept in peace.

Second principle of Discernment:

God does not contradict Himself as he is not the author of confusion –

1 Cor 14:33

For God is not a God of confusion but of peace.

God will not contradict

1. Scripture
2. Tradition
3. Magisterium

Third principle of Discernment:

Seek Wise Counsel

Sir 6:2

Do not exalt yourself through your soul's counsel, lest your soul be torn in pieces like a bull.

Pro 12:15

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

Where do we find wise counsel?

Spouse

Those in authority over us:

Priest

Parents

Teachers

Principles for Hearing:

- | | |
|--|-----------|
| 1) God is my Father | 1 Jn 2:1 |
| 2) My Father has a plan for my life | Jer 29:11 |
| 3) My Father wants to make known the plan for my life. | Is 30:21 |

Faith Increasing Scriptures that God Speaks:

Jn 10:27

"My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me."

Is 30:21

And your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, "This is the way, walk in it," when you turn to the right or when you turn to the left.

1 Sam 3:10

"Speak, for your servant is listening."

Psalm 32:8-9

I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you. Be not like a horse or a mule, without understanding, which must be curbed with bit and bridle, else it will not keep with you.

Jn 2:5

"Do whatever he tells you."

Lk 8:18

"Take heed then how you hear..."

Imitation of Christ

Book 3, Chapter 1

THE INWARD CONVERSATION OF CHRIST WITH THE FAITHFUL SOUL

I WILL hear what the Lord God will speak in me."

Blessed is the soul who hears the Lord speaking within her, who receives the word of consolation from His lips. Blessed are the ears that catch the accents of divine whispering, and pay no heed to the murmurings of this world. Blessed indeed are the ears that listen, not to the voice which sounds without, but to the truth which teaches within. Blessed are the eyes which are closed to exterior things and are fixed upon those which are interior. Blessed are they who penetrate inwardly, who try daily to prepare themselves more and more to understand mysteries. Blessed are they who long to give their time to God, and who cut themselves off from the hindrances of the world.

Book 3, Chapter 2

The children of Israel once said to Moses: "Speak thou to us and we will hear thee: let not the Lord speak to us, lest we die."

Not so, Lord, not so do I pray. Rather with Samuel the prophet I entreat humbly and earnestly: "Speak, Lord, for Thy servant heareth." Do not let Moses or any of the prophets speak to me; but You speak, O Lord God, Who inspired and enlightened all the prophets; for You alone, without them, can instruct me perfectly, whereas they, without You, can do nothing. They, indeed, utter fine words, but they cannot impart the spirit. They do indeed speak beautifully, but if You remain silent they cannot inflame the heart. They deliver the message; You lay bare the sense. They place before us mysteries, but You unlock their meaning. They proclaim commandments; You help us to keep them. They point out the way; You give strength for the journey. They work only outwardly; You instruct and enlighten our hearts. They water on the outside; You give the increase.

They cry out words; You give understanding to the hearer.

Let not Moses speak to me, therefore, but You, the Lord my God, everlasting truth, speak lest I die and prove barren if I am merely given outward advice and am not inflamed within; lest the word heard and not kept, known and not loved, believed and not obeyed, rise up in judgment against me.

Speak, therefore, Lord, for Your servant listens. "Thou hast the words of eternal life." Speak to me for the comfort of my soul and for the amendment of my life, for Your praise, Your glory, and Your everlasting honor.

Discernment of Spirits

The ability given by the Holy Spirit to know if something is of the human spirit, an evil spirit or the Holy Spirit.

1 Cor 12:10

to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the ability to distinguish between spirits, to another, the working of miracles; to another, prophecy; to another, the discerning of spirits... DRB

1 Thes 5:19-22

Do not quench the Spirit, do not despise prophesying, but test everything; hold fast what is good, abstain from every form of evil.

God is going to give us good things (Mt 7:7-11).

Do not let fear capture your heart.

There is a difference between caution and fear. Fear moves us away. With caution we take a stand until we see clearly. Many fear when they approach hearing the voice of God.

Three principles of Discernment:

Peace
God does not contradict Himself
Seek wise counsel

First principle of discernment:

Do you have peace?

Peace is the gift that Jesus desired to leave with His disciples:

Jn 14:27

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.

Practicing Word of Knowledge and Prophecy: Model #2

1) Break into groups of four. Preferably you should find people you do not know.

1st person is receiver

2nd is minister

3rd and 4th are prayer support with the

3rd person as recorder writing all down.

2) 2nd person, the person doing the ministry prays - "What area of this person's life do you want to edify, exhort, or encourage, Lord?"

Example: marriage, work, ministry, etc.

Person doing ministry speaks this out.

Recorder writes this down.

3) Person doing ministry spends some time in silence asking God what He wants to say or reveal to this person about this area of their life.

Person doing ministry allows the Holy Spirit to bring images and any words to be spoken out.

Recorder writes this down anything spoken.

4) The person doing ministry asks the receiver if this is connecting with their life.

5) The person doing ministry prays for the receiver based on what was revealed.

6) These steps are repeated with the other members.

Book 3, Chapter 3

I taught the prophets from the beginning, and even to this day I continue to speak to all men. But many are hardened. Many are deaf to My voice. Most men listen more willingly to the world than to God. They are more ready to follow the appetite of their flesh than the good pleasure of God. The world, which promises small and passing things, is served with great eagerness: I promise great and eternal things and the hearts of men grow dull. Who is there that serves and obeys Me in all things with as great care as that with which the world and its masters are served?



Sacrament of Confirmation:

Is 11:2-3

And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

1) Counsel

To know God's will

2) Wisdom

To know how to do God's will

3) Fortitude

To do God's will

Lectio Divina

Pope Benedict "tool of the New Evangelization"

I would like in particular to recall and recommend the ancient tradition of "Lectio divina": "the diligent reading of Sacred Scripture accompanied by prayer brings about that intimate dialogue in which the person reading hears God who is speaking, and in praying, responds to him with trusting openness of heart" (cf. "Dei Verbum," n. 25). If it is effectively promoted, this practice will bring to the Church -- I am convinced of it -- a new spiritual springtime.

Sept 16th, 2006



Saint Benedict,
Pray for us!

Components of Lectio

Lectio- to read: Look up and then write the passage down. As you read have faith that God is speaking to you personally.

Meditatio – to meditate: What is God saying to you? Use who, what, where, when, why.

Oratio – to speak: Speak to God about what He is saying to you.

Contemplatio – to contemplate: Read the passage again. Sit and enjoy the presence of the Lord. Let the Word you have read become a point for God to speak more clearly and personally into your life.

God Speaks to

- 1) Encourage
- 2) Edify
- 3) and exhort

1 Cor 14:3

Practicing Word of Knowledge and Prophecy: Model #1

- 1) Break into pairs
- 2) One person will be the receiver and the other the minister.
- 3) The minister lays hands on the shoulder of the person being ministered to or holds their hands.
- 4) The receiver asks the Lord in their heart what the Lord would like to do for them.
- 5) In their heart the minister asks, "Lord, what area of this person's life do You want to edify, exhort, or encourage?"

Example: marriage, work, ministry, etc.

- 6) The minister quietly prays in their heart for what the Lord is revealing to them about the person being ministered to.
- 7) After a period of time, the minister asks, "Lord, is there anything else that You would like to reveal to me and have me pray for this person?"
- 8) The minister shares his experience: what was revealed and how he prayed. The receiver shares their experience.
- 9) Reverse.

Ground rules for ministry time:

Lay hands softly on shoulder of the person receiving ministry or hold hands.

No prophesying or words of knowledge about death or pregnancy or words of judgment.

You are not to share this experience outside of here and use the person's name.

Directions on receiving a Personal Prophecy –

- 1 Write down your personal prophecy.
- 2 Pray to the Holy Spirit for the gift of Discernment and then listen to your attached word prophecy.
Note: Discernment is the gift whereby believers test to see if something is from good human intention, an evil spirit or the Holy Spirit. As believers we are looking only for the movement of the Holy Spirit, for it alone is eternal.
- 3 After listening, transcribe the personal prophecy.
- 4 Saint Paul teaches, "Despise not prophecies. But prove all things: hold fast that which is good." (1 Thessalonians 5:20-21 DRB). Do not assume something is a word from the Lord, but bring it to our Father, in prayer, asking for the confirmation of the Holy Spirit through a sense of peace. How can you do this?
- 5 Share it with other members of the Church who are walking in a committed relationship with the Lord. Ask them to pray.
- 6 When you receive Holy Communion at Mass, ask Our Lord Jesus to either give you a sense of peace to confirm the word or a dis-settled spirit as a sign to dismiss it. If this is not a word from the Lord you should pray that its influence would be washed from your life by the blood of Jesus.
- 7 Jesus teaches, "Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven". (Matthew 6:10 DRB) Through prophecy the Father reveals His will, but that does not mean He is revealing what will happen. We must agree with the Father and pray His will into the earth. Once confirmed, you should stand upon this prophecy by praying for it to manifest the blessings that it has promised.

God Usually Speaks

- 1) In a still small voice. A voice within that is gentle and quiet.
See 1 Kings 19:9-13
- 2) In a voice that is familiar. He speaks in your own voice or the voice of someone you love.
See 1 Samuel 3:1-16

H.O.W.S.

Heart
Others
World
Sacred Revelation

Heart – God will give promptings to the heart as to His will. We need to pay attention to what is going on inside of us.

Others – God has given us the gift of others to help us hear His voice. Others will be pointing things out to us. This is the importance of those of authority in our lives:

Spouse
Parents
Priest
Teachers
Spiritual directors
Prayer community
Where you know others and they know you.

World – God will speak to use through our circumstances.

Sacred Revelation (Usually called *Divine Revelation*)

Scripture
Tradition
Magisterium of the Church

Obeying the Promptings of the Holy Spirit

"There will be a new springtime for the Church if people will welcome the promptings of the Holy Spirit."
Pope John Paul II

Lk 16:10

"He who is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much..."

Obedience

Mt 7:21

"Not every one who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven."

Jn 14:15

"If you love me, you will keep my commandments."

Jas 1:22

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

Guidelines for Prophecy and Word of Knowledge:

1) Avoid dogmatism by saying, "The Lord told me..." Say rather,

"It seems to me that the Lord ...

"I believe the Lord would say ...

"I sense the Lord is saying to you ...

2) It is good to have someone record the prophecy either in written form or as an audio file. This record can be used for two things:

* Discern the authenticity of the prophecy.

* To build the person's faith as they wait on the fulfillment.

3) If you sense that you have a word of knowledge or a prophecy, speak it out and let the church discern it. The community should have the attitude of love where you can make mistakes such as getting nervous, stuttering, stopping in the middle of a word you have begun, etc.

4) Be sensitive to the Holy Spirit as to whether this is something to be shared or just prayed through in the quiet of your heart. The Lord does not humiliate people. Just because the Lord tells you something it does not mean you should tell others.

5) Use the gift of tongues before you enter into this ministry as God will reveal things through interpretation of tongues.

6) Avoid trying to be dramatic in your ministry by seeking only the things that are shocking. Words from God might seem simple to us but might strike the one being prayed with to the core.

7) Ask questions of the Holy Spirit and the person if you are not sure.

"_____ is coming to me. Does this makes sense to you?"

"Holy Spirit, I am not clear on what you are showing me.

What does it mean/what should I do with this?"

8) Always encourage the person to discern what has been ministered. *See Prophetic Discernment Guidelines. These would be good to handout to the person.*

9) Always submit to Church leadership.

10) Work in ministry teams where others can add to the prophetic ministry and others can discern all that is shared.

11) If you have mis-spoken, ask for forgiveness.

Word of Knowledge

Knowing something you could not humanly know about a person or situation.

Many times the gift of prophecy is coupled with the word of knowledge.

Examples:

"I believe the Lord is telling me that you are about to buy a car. Does this fit your life?" "The name _____ keeps coming to me. Is this someone in your life?" "I sense that we need to pray for your marriage. Does this fit your prayer need right now?"

Prayer Before Ministry

Father, we thank you for calling and empowering us through the waters of Baptism and the anointing of Confirmation. We ask that You would increase our faith, strengthen our hope, and deepen our love. May Your Holy Spirit fill our hearts with fear of the Lord, piety, counsel, wisdom, fortitude, knowledge, and understanding.

Jesus, we enter into this time of ministry declaring our dependence on you. Lord, what You want we want; what You say, we will do. Give us your Holy Spirit without measure. Holy Spirit, as You will, distribute to us words of wisdom and knowledge, faith and healings, prophecy, miracles, discernment of spirits, tongues and interpretation of tongues for the building up of your Body, the Church.

Holy Spirit, clothe us with the armor of God: the helmet of salvation, the breastplate of righteousness, truth as our belt, eagerness to spread the Good News as our footgear, the Word as our sword, and faith as our shield.

Humble Father, we welcome the ministry of any Saint or angelic host that you would send from your heavenly throne. (Allow the Spirit to bring to you the names of any Saints.) Saint....., pray for us.

May the Blood of Jesus cover us to protect us from the enemy. We seal this place and these people off from any influence of the enemy. **We proclaim that any curses, hexes, or spells on any of the people we will encounter or on this gathering be broken by the authority of the name of Jesus Christ who has come in the flesh.** (Repeat three times).

We consecrate this time of ministry to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary, to make reparation for all who do not adore Jesus in the Holy Eucharist. May a cry resound throughout the earth: Praise to the Divine Heart that wrought our salvation; to It be glory and Honor forever. Amen.

Journaling

Journal is not a diary.
A journal is to record your dialogue with the Lord
and not to record events.

Why is journaling important:

Mother Nadine Brown of the Intercessors of the Lamb

- * Journaling focuses us so that we do not wander from the Lord during our prayed listening time.
- * Journaling focuses us so that we can find the thread of what God is trying to say to us.
- * Journaling helps us get a recall of what has happened during our prayer time.
- * Journaling helps us to get in touch with our feelings and learn to recognize the movements of the heart, consolation and desolation.
- * In times of aridity and desolation, we have a tendency to think that God never speaks to us but when we reread our journal, we see that, yes, the Lord has been speaking to us, even in these times of dryness.
- * Journaling helps us to avoid just thinking about ourselves which will go nowhere. It doesn't mean that we can't think about ourselves and get our feelings out, but we take our feelings to God. This is healthy introspection that leads to dialogue with God. It helps us deal with the truth of the emotions that are there.

Freedom & Flow

2 Cor 3:17

Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.

Jn 7:38

"He who believes in me, as the scripture has said, 'Out of his heart shall flow rivers of living water.'"

In these passages there are two words associated with the presence and work of the Holy Spirit: Freedom and Flow.

How to Journal

I recommend that you buy a journal that will be sacred to you.

Do not write in the first 6 pages as this will be your index. I will talk more about this. Number your pages, beginning on page 7 of your journal. This will be page #1 for your journaling.

Is 28:9-10

Whom will he teach knowledge, and to whom will he explain the message? Those who are weaned from the milk, those taken from the breast? 10 For it is precept upon precept, precept upon precept, line upon line, line upon line, here a little, there a little.

The Lord, many times, reveals in part, "Here a little, there a little – precept on precept, line upon line."

Journaling helps us to build line upon line.

Set a time and place where you will not be interrupted. Consecrate this time to God. An excellent time to hear from the Lord is after you have received Holy Communion and when you are in Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

At this point you can use Lectio Divina or "The 4 Keys to Hearing God Speak" or "Letter Writing to the Lord."

Write down what comes to you. It does not need to be in a full sentence. Let your thoughts and feelings flow.

Do not judge your thoughts or feelings; just write them down.

The freer you are with your self expression, the freer you will be in allowing the Holy Spirit to speak to you.

At the end of your journaling time, ask the Holy Spirit to summarize in a few words what is being spoken to you. Go back to the index and record this short phrase and the page numbers of this journaling session.

We should eagerly desire, covet the gift of prophecy

1 Cor 14:1

Make love your aim, and earnestly desire the spiritual gifts, especially that you may prophesy.

Num 11:29

But Moses said to him, "Are you jealous for my sake? Would that all the LORD's people were prophets, that the LORD would put his spirit upon them!"

1 Thes 5:19-20

Do not quench the Spirit, do not despise prophesying...

Categories:

1) True Prophecy— Comes from God and leads to God. It is submitted to the authority of the Church.

2) Non-prophecy— Pious thoughts coming out of a good heart. Comes out of the human desire.

3) False prophecy— Pulls away from God and points to a false god. Psychics are false prophets. False prophets are not submitted to the authority of the Church.

Examples:

Word of Encouragement -

"My people, I am a loving Father seeking always the good of His children.

With this in mind, come to Me and trust Me."

Word of Edification—

"Little ones, I am not asking you to add more penances to your life. I am asking you to simply offer Me the love that you give others. This will console My most merciful heart."

Word of Exhortation—

"Listen to Me and hearken to My words. It is time for you to lay aside your self concerns and step forth in faith to lead others to my Kingdom, trusting that I will give you the words to speak.

The Gift of Prophecy



Prophecy is the gift whereby the Holy Spirit manifests His presence by speaking in first person through a believer to another believer or to the Church.

Prophecy sounds like this –
"Thus saith the Lord, my people..."
"My people, I would say to you..."
"For the Lord would say..."
"Hear me, for I am the Lord, and I say..."

1 Cor 11:7-11

To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the ability to distinguish between spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. All these are inspired by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills.

Prophecy Makes Known the Presence of God

1 Cor 14:24-25B

But if all prophesy, and an unbeliever or outsider enters, he is convicted by all, he is called to account by all, the secrets of his heart are disclosed; and so, falling on his face, he will worship God and declare that God is really among you.

Reviewing your Journal:

Look for the thread.
Here a little, there a little.
Precept on precept.
Line upon line is how the Lord speaks.

Daily - review your journal before you go to sleep.

Weekly - Review your index once a week. After reviewing write any thoughts that come to you. This is a good Sabbath observance.

Monthly – Review your Index monthly. First Friday is a good time for this.

Do you see any common thread?

A good time to share your journal is with your spouse, your spiritual director and/or your prayer group.

Letter Writing to the Lord:

Write a Letter to God the Father, based on the H.O.W.S.
He is using to speak to you.
Start your letter like this:

"Heavenly Father,"
End with your name.

Now, let the Father speak to you:

Start your Letter with

"Dear your name,"

Be free and let the Holy Spirit bring the words of the Father to you.

End it with,
"Love, your Father in heaven."



4 Keys to Hearing the Voice of God

Mark Virkler *Communion with God Ministries*

Hab 2:1-4

I will take my stand to watch, and station myself on the tower, and look forth to see what he will say to me, and what I will answer concerning my complaint. And the LORD answered me: "Write the vision; make it plain upon tablets, so he may run who reads it. For still the vision awaits its time; it hastens to the end--it will not lie. If it seem slow, wait for it; it will surely come, it will not delay. Behold, he whose soul is not upright in him shall fail, but the righteous shall live by his faith.

1 Be Still – (Ps 42:10) Prepare your heart to be ready to receive a word from the Lord knowing that He wants to speak to you.

2 Fix your Eyes on Jesus (Heb 12:2) – We are not looking to our thoughts. We are looking to Jesus to hear what He will say and see what He will show us. Be aware of both the words and images that come to you.

3 Surrender to the Flow of the Holy Spirit (Jn 7:38-39) - Allow the Holy Spirit to begin to fill your inmost being with words and images. Do not judge them at this point.

4 Write (Hab 2:1-3) in your journal all that the Holy Spirit is bringing to you.

Blocks to Hearing the Voice of God

- * Lack of faith that God would speak to you.
- * Lack of formation as to how to hear from God.
- * Lack of experience.
- * Not taking the time to hear from God.
- * Fear of what God might say.
- * Not acting on a previous word from God.
- * Sin on your soul.
- * Not asking for the grace to hear His voice.
- * Devotional busyness.
- * The enemy.

What if you don't hear?

- 1) Try to discover God's will Eph 5:10
- 2) Seek Counsel Pro 12:15
- 3) Walk by faith 2 Cor 5:7

Story of college decision
"Bigger than the biggest mistake"
"make the decision and ask for a blessing"
Ro 8:28
We know that in everything God works for good with those who love him, who are called according to his purpose.

**Don't give up!
Hearing takes faith
and faith is built by practice.**