

In Jesus' Steps

Disciples for Life

Steps to Communicating with God

1. Prepare to talk with and listen to God. Find a quiet place with no or few distractions. Get your mind and heart in a neutral position. In other words, do not have any predetermined notion of what you want God to say to you. Desire His will and His words to and for you.
2. Focus on God and His attributes. You might think about Jesus as the risen Lord (Revelation 1:13–16) or the majesty of God's throne room (Revelation 4:2–11).
3. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you in your communication with God (Romans 8:26–27; Ephesians 6:18).
4. The Holy Spirit may lead you in thanksgiving, worship, confession, intercession, fellowship, or help for a personal issue. These are all forms of communicating with God, and the Spirit will lead you in all of these at various times. There is no special order. Sometimes you will experience all of them in your time with the LORD. He will also lead you through prayer in the Bible or by another means (1 Samuel 2:1–10; Nehemiah 1:5–11; Psalm 51; Matthew 6:9–13).
5. Speak from your heart to God and ask Him to speak to you (1 Samuel 3:10). You might say, "Speak Lord, your servant is listening." However, do not expect to hear an outside voice. Today, God usually speaks by impressing thoughts and ideas in our hearts and minds. Remember, Jesus' Spirit lives within believers.
6. Write down what God says to you and obey His instructions immediately. Sometimes you may not be sure if you heard correctly. Was God speaking to me, or were these my own thoughts? Ask God to separate His words from your own thoughts. Trust and believe that He will answer your prayer. Remember, God will not ask you to do anything that goes against the Bible. He will not ask you to hurt or harm yourself or another person (Matthew 22:36–40). Satan and his followers always try to get you to have wrong thoughts. Be on guard.
7. Thank God for the gift of communicating with Him. Be patient in listening and know that He hears you. Keep trusting God even when He seems far away and not communicating with you.