

The Four Types of Prayer

<u>Talking at God</u>	recited prayers, ready-made prayers, written prayer, traditional prayer, prayers written by someone else.
<u>Talking to God</u>	a more personal prayer, speaking to God like a friend, from my heart; extemporaneous prayer, spontaneous prayer, intercessory prayer.
Listening to God	discernment, meditation, knowing, sensing, intuiting God's communication to me, hearing God's voice through scripture and other means.
<u>Being with God</u>	sitting in stillness, happily lost in God, resting in God's presence, a state of being, listening to God's silence, mystical union, pure contemplation, a gift from God. This is the experience of intimate relationship with God; it is as close as one might come in this life to tasting heaven.

Armchair Mystic: Easing Into Contemplative Prayer Mark E. Thibodeaux, S.J., 2001

