

Two-way Conversations with God

1: Ask God, “What should I do?”: Example: Lord, right now I’m in the middle of this problem. What should I do? Then sit quietly and let God impress you. Or, “Lord, how would you have me spend this extra money? Then stop and listen, Or, Lord, how would you have me handle this conversation with John? Its going to be a tough conversation, what would you have me do? Or, Lord, who would you like me to help today? What should I say or what should I do? Or, Lord, what character quality do you want me to work on today? Or, Lord, what do you want me to do for my career? Or, Lord, what do you want me to do with my family, or my friends this weekend?

2: Present to him any area you need counsel in. James 1:5 says, “If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all. Maybe it’s a problem with a teacher or fellow student. Your prayer is, “Father, how would you have me deal with this. How can I do it so you will be glorified?

3: Say, “Father, I’m going to sit here with an open mind. You bring to mind what ever you want.” Now that can be scary. Often, you will find that God brings to your mind people or situations that should have been handled a lot sooner. Or, sometime God will bring to mind worshipful thoughts and you will spend time thinking about His love and blessings and goodness. When was the last time you said, “here I am, Father, what is it that you want for my life, my career, my family You set the agenda, Father.”

4: Take a verse like Psalms 103:12 – As far as the east is from the west, God has removed our transgressions from us. Run it over in your mind and let God bring it to life for your situation. What price did He pay? Personalize each line and listen for God to speak to you.

5: When you are really down, that is when your Abba wants to encourage you the most. Put on a praise CD and listen to the words. Close everything out and let God speak to you through the music. You will be amazed at how our Father will minister to you and tell you that He loves you.

#1: In the original Hebrew the meaning of “be still” is – enough. God is saying, “enough is enough. STOP! Listen to what I have to say to you.” You won’t get to first base until you stop all of the things going on in your life and all of the things that make noise in your life and become STILLLL. The word STRIVIMG best describes what goes on in our lives each day. We strive to get going, we strive to get to school, we strive to get our assignments done, we strive to get good grades, we strive to impress people, we strive, we strive, we strive....But God says, “Stop your striving. BE STILL so you can hear what I have to say to you.

Question: What is it that keeps you from stopping everything so you can hear your Father talk to you?

Three groups of people who don’t listen: 1) I don’t want to group – If I stop I will find things in my life that I don’t like, so I’ll just keep on going fast and not take time to look at myself and my life. Donald Trump said, “If you study yourself too closely you may see things you would rather not see. I keep busy, I don’t have time to think about my problems.” To that group God says, “Why don’t you listen now, while we have time to clean you up?”

The second camp is: I can’t afford to listen – These people say, “I would like to stop striving, but if I do, I will get behind. I can’t afford to get behind.” Note: If you face life in your own strength and don’t have time to include God, the best you can ever hope for is survival.

Third camp: I don’t know how to group – You want to stop striving, but you don’t know how to get off the treadmill. Here is one practical help for this camp. Schedule time with God and keep it. If you don’t schedule time to be alone with God, you will never find the time. Martin Luther said, “I have so much to do today, I can’t see spending less than 4 hours in prayer.” NOTE: When we work ... we work. When we pray ... God works.

2: David is reminding us that prayer doesn't come from your lips, it comes from your heart. Some of the most eloquent prayers you could ever hear, never get beyond the ceiling. On the other hand some of the most simple prayers, those cries for our Abba to help us, go straight from our hearts to His. Vs. 16: If I regard wickedness in my heart, God will not hear. God needs to have clean hearts and if our hearts are not clean, we need to make them clean before we go any further. David says in this Psalms: when you come, make sure your heart is quiet, then pour out your heart to your Father. After you have poured out your heart, be still, be still, be still, listen... that is what it sounds like before God speaks to you and places His thoughts in your mind.