

NOT A PRAYER LIFE BUT A PRAYING LIFE

1 Samuel 3:1-21



SYNOPSIS

Continuing on in our Praying Life Series, we can learn from Samuel's first accounts of hearing from the Lord on how to cultivate a praying life. First of all, we need to make room for God to communicate to us in prayer. First of all, we need to come before God with a posture of "with-God Communion" rather than just a transactional interaction. Second, we need to make obedience the aim of prayer. As we come to God in prayer, we need to come with a healthy humility that says "more of you and less of me." Lastly, we need to make prayer a continual rhythm and learn how to give God regular access to our heart.

A practical way that we can do this is through breath prayers. Breath prayers are an ancient form of prayer that communicates a sense of nearness and trust and dependency on God. Ultimately, we want to people that not only have a prayer life, but a praying life. Rather than feeling guilty for not keeping to our regular hour of prayer, let's cultivate a life where we are continually coming to God in prayer throughout the day - becoming more and more aware of what God is saying and how He is leading us throughout the day.



3 IMPORTANT POINTS

1

MAKE ROOM FOR GOD TO COMMUNICATE

As Samuel finally learned how to say "Speak Lord, for your servant is listening," we too need to learn how to make room for God to communicate. Our interactions with Him is not simply a transactional one, but one that is "with" Him. We need to learn how to hear and discern His voice - this can be through scripture, through others who provide the "ministry of Eli" to help us understand the voice of God, or the promptings of the Holy Spirit that continue to lead us into Christ-likeness.

2

MAKE OBEDIENCE THE AIM OF PRAYER

Henry Blackaby in [Experiencing God](#) says that what God says in prayer is more important than what you say in prayer. As we come to God - do we really value what he says in prayer? Often times, the Lord takes us out of our comfort zone - and we need to discern whether we want to obey or avoid the promptings that lead us beyond our comfort zones. Let's make obedience the aim of our praying life!

3

MAKE PRAYER A CONTINUAL RHYTHM

Prayerlessness can lead us to rash decisions. A praying life gives us clarity where we can discern, understand his leading, obey and follow through. Again, a way to do this is through Breath Prayers, which is a form of prayer used throughout the centuries by believers. It's a powerful way to pause throughout the day, listening to God and following in obedience.



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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1

Do you approach prayer as a segmented "prayer life" or an interconnected "praying life"? What are some practical ways to transition towards a praying life?

2

How often do you make room for God to communicate to you? How can we pause in our day to listen to God?

3

Who has provided the "Ministry of Eli" in your life that has helped you to discern God's voice?

4

When was a time where God told you something that you were hesitant to follow through on?

5

Spend some time sharing some breath prayers that help you to pause and listen to God throughout the day.



BIG IDEA

Many of us feel guilty when we don't have a regular prayer life - whether we rush through it in the morning or are too distracted to even form one. While having unsolicited times of prayer is important, we also want to learn how to cultivate a praying life. We want to have a praying life that saturates the day with prayer - regularly pausing and listening to God and how He is leading. As we make room for God to communicate, make obedience the aim of prayer, and make prayer a continual rhythm, may God lead us and transform us, making us more and more like Him.