

Listening



God speaks to make himself known to us. He wants to share his mind and his heart with his people, and to build relationship with us.

We'd encourage you to take time to be silent as you pray and to listen. If you haven't done this before, here are some simple steps* to help you:

1) Know who you are – God is your Father and you are his child. He loves you and he wants to speak to you.

2) Recognise all the normal everyday ways God communicates with us and be thankful. He shows us himself through creation, through other people, by putting something on our minds and hearts, by giving us a sense of peace or clarity, and through the Bible.

3) Understand that we all hear God in different ways:

- **Seeing** (this could be a picture or vision in our mind)
- **Hearing** (words, sentences or phrases – audible or internal)
- **Scripture** (through the Bible)
- **Sensing** (this is when we have a “feeling”, maybe of peace, a burden about someone or something, discernment or intuition)

4) Be expectant

God has promised us that he is with us always (Matthew 28:20) and that he will reveal truth to us by his Spirit (1 Corinthians 2:9-10).

Ask God, “What do you want to say to me?” and then wait. You don't need to strive to hear him. If you don't feel you've heard anything right away, that's ok – often spending time “tuning in” will make you more aware of him speaking to you later on that day or week.

What do we do if we think we've heard from God?

We can check whether what we've heard is from God using the ABC method from 24-7 Prayer:

Affirming - does it fulfil the criteria of 1 Cor. 14, by being strengthening, encouraging, comforting, edifying and uplifting?

Biblical - Is it consistent with the broad teaching and witness of scripture?

Christlike - does it sound like the kind of thing Jesus would have said and feel like the kind of person he was?

Finally, we'd suggest talking to a trusted Christian friend or family member about what you think God has said.

**These steps to tuning in are taken from Accessible Prophecy's Prophetic Lifestyle Course.*