

Dear Paul,

Thank you for writing us at Christian Questions Radio. We are sorry we slipped up and did not respond to your letter earlier. The letter was mistakenly placed in a completed letter file. We will now attempt to answer your question, “How do I hear from God?”

We “hear” from God in two ways: through reading and studying his Word in the Bible and by communicating with Him through prayer, or supplication.

When we study the Bible we begin to learn of God’s plan to redeem humankind from the consequences of sin—death. In fact, this plan of redemption is the major theme of the entire Bible, from Genesis, when man fell, throughout the Old Testament, when God dealt with the Hebrew nation for the purpose of bringing into the world the Messiah, throughout the New Testament, where Jesus fulfilled that promise and offered a new and living way for those who choose to follow after him, to the final book of the Bible, Revelation, when the entire human race will once again be restored to perfection and have a standing with God (Revelation 21:3-4). The major character of the Bible is God’s Son, Jesus, who died as a ransom for Adam and his entire progeny. Jesus’ death and resurrection not only offered a heavenly salvation now for his faithful followers, but it will give every human that has ever lived the opportunity in the Millennial Age to attain a God-honoring perfect life on earth. “For since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead has also come through a human being; for as all die in Adam, so all will be made alive in Christ.” (1 Corinthians 15:21-22)

This beautiful plan is not the only way we hear from God. He gives the Christian all the instructions needed to attain a heavenly reward. “Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the Divine nature.” (2 Peter 1:4) These promises are numerous and are found throughout the Old and New Testaments. God has promised to never leave nor forsake us (Hebrews 13:5) and to deliver us from evil (Job 5:19). But, in order to be recipients of his promises, we must trust Him in all circumstances and pray for His strength, comfort and peace. “Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.” (Hebrews 4:16) Prayer is one of the most essential elements in the Christian’s life. It is through prayer that we are able to connect with God and experience the peace of God that transcends all understanding (Philippians 4:6-7). In fact, we could say that prayer is the Christian’s lifeline to God. When we are connected to God in prayer, we begin to see His overrulings in our lives. “And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are called according to His purpose.” (Romans 8:28)

When our Lord and Master Jesus walked the earth, He spent many precious hours in prayer communing with his Father. It was through this continual intimacy that he acquired patience and garnered strength when he was weary. His renewal was noted by his disciples when one of them asked, “Lord, teach us to pray” (Luke 11:1). Jesus, in what is now referred to as “The Lord’s Prayer,” told them to honor His Father’s name and pray for the kingdom of God to come. He told them to ask for food for the day and for forgiveness of their sins while at the same time forgiving others. He also told them to ask that they not be overtaken by temptation (Luke 11:2-

4). Assuredly, Jesus' complete reliance on his Father through prayer is an example to us now as it was then to his disciples.

Prayer should never be self-serving. If God answers a selfish prayer at all, the answer will not be what we desire, but will be what we need for our spiritual betterment. "When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures." (James 4:3) When we pray with the proper attitude and intent, God hears our prayers and answers them. "And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight." (1 John 3:22)

How do we hear from God? We "hear" from God by studying His Word in the Bible and by asking Him in prayer to give us the strength needed for each day. When we trust Him and submit our wills to him, we will see His overrulings in our lives and know that he is assisting us as we progress on our Christian walk.

We hope we have answered your question. Please write us again.

Sincerely,  
Christian Questions Radio