



# The Prayer Room

Brought to you by the Good News Bearers  
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## LISTENING FOR THE VOICE OF GOD



My mother, bless her heart, once stepped on someone's foot in a busy department store. Mortified, she turned and gasped, "Oh! Pardon me!" only to find herself addressing a clothing dummy. Her apology was pure monologue, as the dummy never responded. Do our prayers sometimes seem like one-way conversations, as we wait and wait to hear God's voice?

That silence can make prayer a real tough nut to crack, a real tough spoonful to swallow. If **we** have to do all of the talking, we may just give it up. Sometimes, even those with the strongest faith, like Mother Teresa, cave in to frustration. We may give up on prayer from time to time, but then a persistent inner voice whispers us back to our Christian origins, to the one in whom we live and move and have our being. After all, the whole Bible witnesses to the fact that God keeps his promises, and we have Christ's own promise that God **will** answer our prayers. God is not some far-off being, but a loving parent who is **here** with us, every moment of our lives, who **hears** our every prayer.

When the waiting wears on us, maybe we ought to ask ourselves, "What kind of voice am I waiting to hear? In other words,

### HOW DOES GOD SPEAK TO US?

Let us count (some of) the ways. Surely, God can speak to us through:

- The Bible
- Books and other writings
- The voices of fellow-believers
- The fellowship of fellow-believers
- The preached and taught word of God
- Wise counsel
- Events, circumstances, the experiences of our lives
- Dreams and visions
- Inner peace
- Jesus Christ (ought to top our list, huh?)
- Our human conscience
- Contemplation of God's creation (the beauty of a sunset, the wonder of a newborn child)

Perhaps you can suggest other voices God can use. We Good News Bearers would love to hear from you about this. We'll begin to take a closer look at them next week. And we invite you to join us as we take it to the Lord in prayer.

Please include the following prayer in your devotions this week

**Dear Lord, I thank you with my whole heart for your loving presence and for your patient listening as I speak what's in my heart to you in prayer.**

**Oh, Lord, if I could only have some of that same patience as I wait to hear your answering voice. Please open my heart and mind so your Holy Spirit can plant and nourish the seed of that patience within me.**

**Give me wisdom to know where to listen for your voice, and ears to know it and to hear it.**

**In Jesus name I pray. Amen**