

# SERMON NOTES:

Series: Rhythms of Grace | Part 2: Have His Ear (Voice)

**His voice, His ear, and His body.**

**We cannot have a genuine and life-giving relationship with God without prayer.**

**David Mathis**, *“Prayer, for the Christian, is not merely talking to God, but responding to the One who has initiated toward us. He has spoken first. This is not a conversation we start, but a relationship into which we’ve been drawn. His voice breaks the silence. Then, in prayer, we speak to the God who has spoken.”*

**C.S. Lewis**, *“Prayer in the sense of petition, asking for things, is a small part of it; confession and penitence are its threshold, adoration its sanctuary, the presence and vision and enjoyment of God its bread and wine.”*

**Acts 1:14** (NLT)

<sup>14</sup> They all met together and were constantly united in prayer, along with Mary the mother of Jesus, several other women, and the brothers of Jesus.

**Romans 12:12** (NLT)

<sup>12</sup> Rejoice in our confident hope. Be patient in trouble, and keep on praying.

**Colossians 4:2** (NLT)

<sup>2</sup> Devote yourselves to prayer with an alert mind and a thankful heart.

**1 Thessalonians 5:17** (NLT)

<sup>17</sup> Never stop praying.

**Ephesians 6:18** (NLT)

<sup>18</sup> Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere.

**Matthew 7:11** (NLT)

<sup>11</sup> So if you sinful people know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give good gifts to those who ask him.

**Matthew 6:8** (NLT)

<sup>8</sup> Don’t be like them, for your Father knows exactly what you need even before you ask him!

**Romans 8:34** (NIV)

<sup>34</sup> Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us.

**Hebrews 7:25** (NLT)

<sup>25</sup> Therefore he is able, once and forever, to save those who come to God through him. He lives forever to intercede with God on their behalf.

#### **Hebrews 4:16 (NLT)**

<sup>16</sup> So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive his mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it most.

#### **1. Pray in secret.**

#### **Matthew 6:5-6 (NLT)**

<sup>5</sup> “When you pray, don’t be like the hypocrites who love to pray publicly on street corners and in the synagogues where everyone can see them. I tell you the truth, that is all the reward they will ever get. <sup>6</sup> But when you pray, go away by yourself, shut the door behind you, and pray to your Father in private. Then your Father, who sees everything, will reward you.”

**Tim Keller**, *“The infallible test of spiritual integrity, Jesus says, is your private prayer life. Many people will pray when they are required by cultural or social expectations, or perhaps by the anxiety caused by troubling circumstances. Those with a genuinely lived relationship with God as Father, however will inwardly want to pray and therefore will pray even though nothing on the outside is pressing them to do so. They pursue it even during times of spiritual dryness, when there is no social or experiential payoff.”*

#### **Private prayer will reveal if we are the real deal.**

**David Mathis** writes, *“This is the heart of prayer – not getting things from God, but getting God. Prayer is where we speak back to God, in response to his word to us, and experience what it means to enjoy him as an end in himself, not just a means to our petitions.”*

#### **Matthew 14:23 (NLT)**

<sup>23</sup> After sending them home, he went up into the hills by himself to pray. Night fell while he was there alone.

#### **Luke 5:16 (NLT)**

<sup>16</sup> But Jesus often withdrew to the wilderness for prayer.

#### **Mark 1:35 (NLT)**

<sup>35</sup> Before daybreak the next morning, Jesus got up and went out to an isolated place to pray.

#### **5 practical (quick) suggestions for Secret Prayer:**

1. **Create your closet.**
2. **Begin with the Bible.**
3. **Walk through ACTS.** (Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, and Supplication.)
4. **Put it all on the table.**
5. **Make it new again.**

## 2. Pray with constancy.

**Luke 18:1** (NLT)

<sup>1</sup> One day Jesus told his disciples a story to show that they should always pray and never give up.

**Tim Keller** says, *“Everywhere God is, prayer is...Since God is everywhere and infinitely great, prayer must be all-pervasive in our lives.”*

## 3. Pray with company.

**Acts 1:14** (NLT) -

<sup>14</sup> They all met together and were constantly united in prayer, along with Mary the mother of Jesus, several other women, and the brothers of Jesus.

**Acts 2:42** (NLT)

<sup>42</sup> All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord’s Supper), and to prayer.

**Acts 4:24** (NLT)

<sup>24</sup> When they heard the report, all the believers lifted their voices together in prayer to God: “O Sovereign Lord, Creator of heaven and earth, the sea, and everything in them—

**Acts 6:6** (NLT)

<sup>6</sup> These seven were presented to the apostles, who prayed for them as they laid their hands on them.

**Acts 12:5** (NLT)

<sup>5</sup> But while Peter was in prison, the church prayed very earnestly for him.

**Acts 12:12** (NLT)

<sup>12</sup> When he realized this, he went to the home of Mary, the mother of John Mark, where many were gathered for prayer.

**Acts 13:3** (NLT)

<sup>3</sup> So after more fasting and prayer, the men laid their hands on them and sent them on their way.

**Acts 14:23** (NLT)

<sup>23</sup> Paul and Barnabas also appointed elders in every church. With prayer and fasting, they turned the elders over to the care of the Lord, in whom they had put their trust.

**Acts 16:25** (NLT)

<sup>25</sup> Around midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening.

**Acts 20:36** (NLT)

<sup>36</sup>When he had finished speaking, he knelt and prayed with them.

**Acts 21:5 (NLT)**

<sup>5</sup>When we returned to the ship at the end of the week, the entire congregation, including women and children, left the city and came down to the shore with us. There we knelt, prayed,