



**Sermon Discussion Guide for Cumberland Fellowship Church Sermon Series:
"Prayer", Week 13 - July 27, 2025
Theme: Learning to Listen to God – How to Hear God's Voice**

Opening Prayer: Begin by asking God to open your heart and mind to hear His voice clearly.

Part 1: Removing Obstacles to Prayer (Isaiah 1:15)

Discussion Questions: Pastor Sam mentioned that unconfessed sin creates obstacles to our prayers being heard. What are some common "obstacles" that might hinder our communication with God? Read Proverbs 28:9 and James 4:3 together. How do these verses challenge us about our motives in prayer? Take a moment of silent reflection: Is there anything in your life that might be creating distance between you and God? How can we create space for honest self-examination? Why do you think God requires us to align our hearts with His will before He responds to our prayers? What does this reveal about His character?

Part 2: Six Ways to Hear God's Voice

Method 1: Alignment with God's Word (2 Timothy 3:16)

Discussion: How has God spoken to you through Scripture in the past? Why is it important that God's answers never contradict His Word? Share a time when a Bible verse provided clear direction for a decision you were facing.

Method 2: Test the Spirit (1 John 4:1)

Discussion: Pastor Sam shared examples of God's seemingly "illogical" instructions to Noah, Abraham, Moses, Joshua, and Gideon. What do these stories teach us about trusting God's direction even when it doesn't make sense? How do we distinguish between God's voice, our own desires, and other influences? What are the key questions to ask: "Does this glorify God or me? Is it rooted in faith or fear?"

Method 3: Pay Attention to Peace or Restlessness (Colossians 3:15)

Discussion: Describe the difference between external happiness and inner peace. Can you think of a biblical example? Have you ever experienced God's peace about a difficult decision? What was that like? How do we handle situations where we feel both peace about God's direction and anxiety about the practical implications?

Method 4: Wait for Confirmation

Discussion: Why do you think God often requires us to wait for confirmation rather than giving immediate, obvious answers? Think of a time where God confirmed His direction through another person or circumstance. How do we balance waiting for confirmation with the need to make timely decisions?

Method 5: Look for Open or Closed Doors (Revelation 3:7)

Discussion: How do we discern whether a closed door is God's protection or an obstacle to overcome through faith and persistence? Can you remember a time when a "closed door" turned out to be God's protection? What's the difference between God opening a door and us forcing one open?

Method 6: Seek Godly Counsel (Proverbs 15:22)

Discussion: What qualities should we look for in spiritual advisors? Why is it important that our counselors be "biblically grounded" and know our walk with God? How do we handle conflicting advice from multiple godly counselors?

Part 3: Practical Application

Personal Reflection Questions: Is there a decision or situation in your life right now where you need to hear God's voice more clearly? Which of the six methods might be most helpful? Are there any obstacles in your life that might be hindering your prayers? What steps can you take to address them?

Closing Prayer: Ask God to reveal and forgive any obstacles to hearing His voice. Pray for your commitment to practice listening to God this week. Thank God for His desire to communicate with us and guide our lives

Memory Verse: *"This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us."* - 1 John 5:14

"Prayer isn't only about us presenting our request but about learning to listen to his response."

JULY 2025

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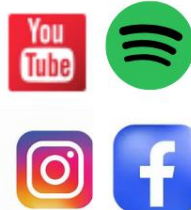
Info Meeting: 7/21/25 @ 5pm CST, SN Room
in the 123 building, Crossville Campus

Cost: 2,000- 2,500

For additional information please stop by the
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8/22- 8/24
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8/23 - 8/30

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CROSSVILLE CAMPUS- SUN 8, 9:30 & 11AM & MON 6PM
SPRING CITY CAMPUS- SUN 9 & 11AM
PIKEVILLE CAMPUS- SUN 11AM
JAMESTOWN CAMPUS- SUN 10:30AM