

CONVERSATIONS



GOD

Why should we listen to God in prayer?

1. God desires for us to listen to him.

Listen, my people, and I will admonish you.
Israel, if you would only listen to me!
There must not be a strange god among you;
you must not bow down to a foreign god.
I am the LORD your God,
who brought you up from the land of Egypt.
Open your mouth wide, and I will fill it.

“But my people did not listen to my voice;
Israel did not obey me.
So I gave them over to their stubborn hearts
to follow their own plans.
If only my people would listen to me
and Israel would follow my ways,
I would quickly subdue their enemies
and turn my hand against their foes.”

Psalm 81v8-14 (CSB)

Why should we listen to God in prayer?

1. God desires for us to listen to him.
2. Listening to God's voice is foundational to knowing him.

My sheep hear my voice, I know them, and they follow me.

John 10v27 (CSB)

How does God speak to us in prayer?

1. Through his Word (Scripture)
2. Through the Holy Spirit

All Scripture is inspired by God (*God-breathed*), and is profitable for teaching, for rebuking, for correcting, for training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

2 Timothy 3v16-17

Now we have not received the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who comes from God, so that we may understand what has been freely given to us by God.

1 Cor 2v12 (CSB)

But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and remind you of everything I have told you.

John 14v26 (CSB)

Word

Dangers of Word only

- ▶ God in a box. He can and wants to speak to us only one way
- ▶ Legalism; I might do God's will but not out of loving relationship with him
- ▶ I avoid adultery, but I miss compassion
- ▶ Little sense of being shaped by relationship with God
- ▶ Rationalism: only reason and logic are the measure of truth



Holy Spirit

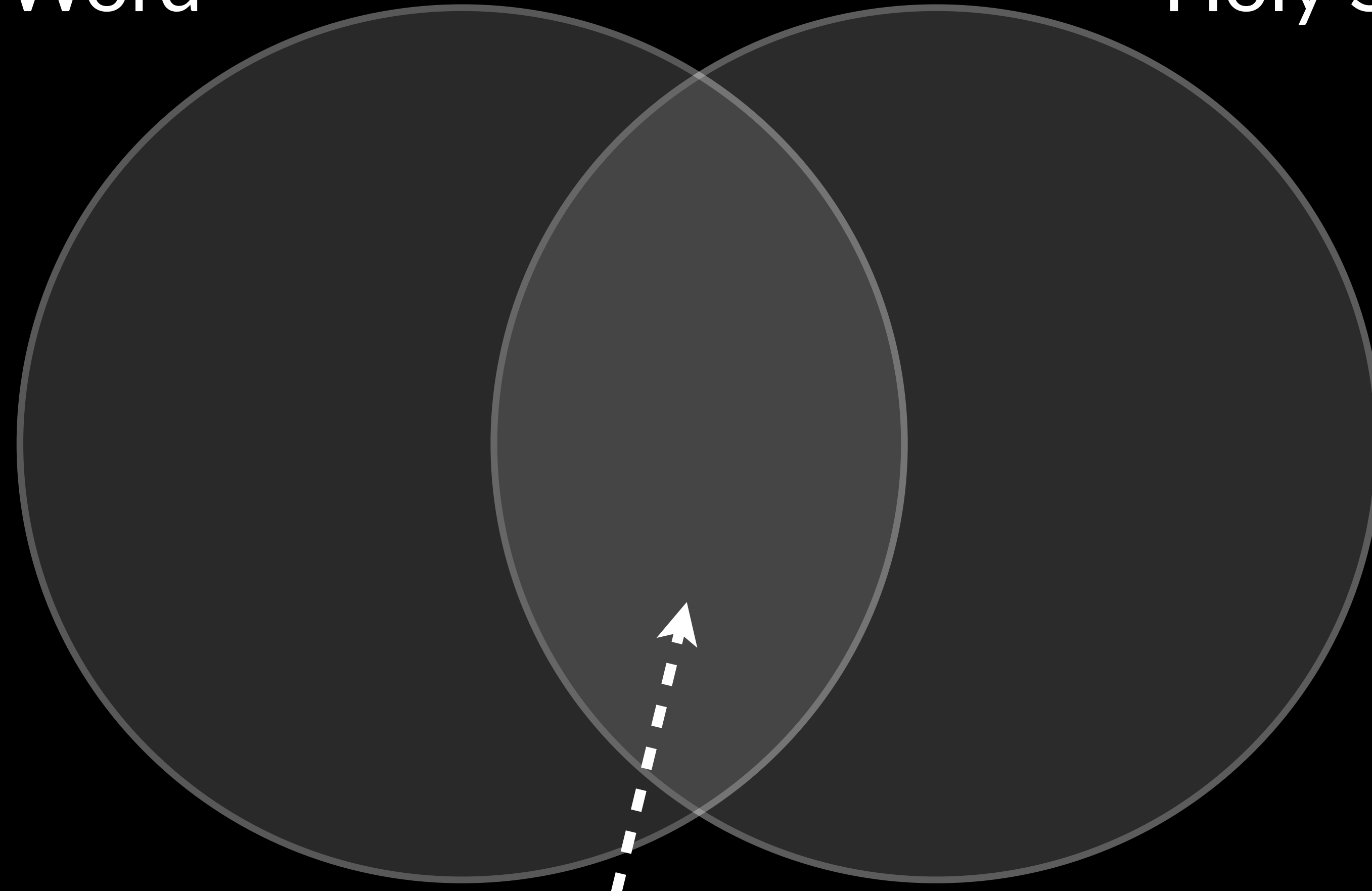


Dangers of Holy Spirit only

- ▶ My thoughts and intuitions are as authoritative as God's written words
- ▶ God does my will and bends to my desires
- ▶ Feelings rule my life, opening the door to lust and self-will
- ▶ Confusion between your will and God's will
- ▶ Romanticism: Intuition and feeling are the measure of truth

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Holy Spirit



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Word & Holy Spirit

Permeating my life with God's Word gives the Holy Spirit a vocabulary to make his words personal and applicable to me.

This results in an integrated life of hearing God's voice through a grounded, deep relationship.

What is our posture as we listen to God in prayer?

1. Listen with humility and openness
2. Listen with wisdom and discernment

Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God...

1 Peter 5v6 (CSB)

There is nothing secret about communion with God. If we live a holy life before God, broken of our pride and self-will, crying out for grace, then we will be in communion with God...The problem isn't the activity of listening, but my listening heart. Am I attentive to God? Is my heart soft and teachable?

- Paul Miller

Keys to listening with wisdom and discernment:

Harmony with Scripture

Confirmation in community

Patient reflection with a posture to obey

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