

**“GOS IS SUPREME IN 2019”**

**DEVELOPING A LISTENING EAR TO GOD**

 Isaiah 30:21

 **Bible Fact: God expects** for His chosen, i.e. saved people, to hear His voice in order for them to demonstrate and communicate an effective response of obedience and **acceptance** of His will.

**The Big Idea:** By developing a **sensitive spiritual ear** to the voice of God the faith, righteousness, peace, prosperity, power and joy of every believer will become more **personally rewarding** and to the glory of God.

**Lesson 10**

**Hearing is the ability to collect, process and interpret sound.**

**When Christian Herter was governor of Massachusetts, he was running hard for a second term in office. One day, after a busy morning chasing votes (and no lunch) he arrived at a church barbecue. It was late afternoon and Herter was famished. As Herter moved down the serving line, he held out his plate to the woman serving chicken. She put a piece on his plate and turned to the next person in line.**

**"Excuse me," Governor Herter said, "do you mind if I have another piece of chicken?"**

**"Sorry," the woman told him. "I'm supposed to give one piece of chicken to each person."**

**"But I'm starved," the governor said.**

**"Sorry," the woman said again. "Only one to a customer."**

**Governor Herter was a modest and unassuming man, but he decided that this time he would throw a little weight around. "Do you know who I am?" he said. "I am the governor of this state."**

**"Do you know who I am?" the woman said. "I'm the lady in charge of the chicken. Move along, mister."**

**Bits & Pieces, May 28, 1992, pp. 5-6.**

There are **12 spiritual resources and tools Christians must effectively use to develop a listening ear to God.**

1. **FAITH: Faith is THE spiritual source that Christians use to form and maintain their relationship with God. By faith Christians hear God and follow Him as a proper response to the voice of the Word of God.**
* **Faith = to follow God (in harmony or in agreement with God)**
1. **OBEDIENCE: the action performed after believing God**
2. **Obedience is spiritual compliance in faith as you hear from God;**
* **Esther 4:8-17 = ignoring all norms to take a risk to learn with God**

**THE POWER OF PRAYER**

By Pastor Reuben Archer Torrey---1856-1928

(excerpt from his sermon on prayer)

Present-day Departure From Prayer

There is nothing else in which the church and the ministry of today or, to be more explicit, you and I have departed more notably and more lamentably from apostolic precedent than in this matter of prayer. We do not live in a praying age. A very considerable proportion of the membership of our evangelical churches today do not believe even theoretically in prayer. Many of them now believe in prayer as having a beneficial "reflex influence," that is, as benefitting the person who prays, a sort of lifting yourself up by your spiritual bootstraps.

But as for prayer bringing anything to pass that would not have come to pass if we had not prayed, they do not believe in it, and many of them frankly say so, and even some of our "modern ministers" say so. I believe it is still the vast majority in our evangelical churches-even they do not make the use of this mighty instrument that God has put into our hands that one would naturally expect. As I said, we do not live in a praying age. We live in an age of hustle and bustle, of man's efforts and man's determination, of man's confidence in himself and in his own power to achieve things, an age of human organization and human machinery, human push and human scheming, and human achievement, which in the things of God means no real achievement at all.

I think it would be perfectly safe to say that the church of Christ was never in all its history so fully, so skillfully and so thoroughly and so perfectly organized as it is today. Our machinery is wonderful; it is just perfect, but, alas, it is machinery without power; and when things do not go right, instead of going to the real source of our failure, our neglect to depend on God and look to God for power, we look around to see if there is not some new organization we can get up, some new wheel that we can add to our machinery. We have altogether too many wheels already. What we need is not so much some new organization, some new wheel, but "the Spirit of the living Creator in the wheels" we already possess.

I believe that the devil stands and looks at the church today and laughs in his sleeve as he sees how its members depend on their own scheming and powers of organization and skillfully devised machinery. "Ha, ha," he laughs, "you may have your Boy Scouts, your costly church edifices, your multi-thousand-dollar church organs, your brilliant university-bred preachers, your high-priced choirs, your gifted sopranos and altos and tenors and bases, your wonderful quartets, your immense men's Bible classes, yes, and your Bible conferences, and your Bible institutes, and your special evangelistic services, all you please of them; it does not in the least trouble me, if you will only leave out of them the power of the Lord God Almighty sought and obtained by the earnest, persistent, believing prayer that will not take no for an answer." But when the devil sees a man or woman who really believes in prayer, who knows how to pray, and who really does pray, and, above all, when he sees a whole church on its face before God in prayer, "he trembles" as much as he ever did, for he knows that his day in that church or community is at an end.

Prayer has as much power today, when men and women are themselves on praying ground and meeting the conditions of prevailing prayer, as it ever has had. God has not changed, and His ear is just as quick to hear the voice of real prayer and His hand is just as long and strong to save as they ever were. "Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save: neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear. But our iniquities may "have separated between us and our God, and "our sins have hid His face from you, that He will not hear" (Isaiah 59:1,2). Prayer is the key that unlocks all the storehouses of God's infinite grace and power. All that God is, and all that God has, are at the disposal of player. But we must use the key. Prayer can do anything that God can do, and as God can do anything, prayer is omnipotent. No one can stand against the one who knows how to pray and who meets all the conditions of prevailing prayer and who really prays. "The Lord God Omnipotent" works from him and works through him.

**Different types of prayers:**
**1.         The prayer of faith:**

**2.         The prayer of agreement (also known as** [**corporate prayer**](https://www.gotquestions.org/corporate-prayer.html)**)**

**3.         The prayer of request (or** [**supplication**](https://www.gotquestions.org/prayer-of-supplication.html))

**4.         The prayer of thanksgiving:**

**5.         The prayer of worship**

**6.         The prayer of consecration**

**7.         The prayer of instruction**

**8.         The prayer of intercession:**

**9.         The prayer of imprecation:** [Imprecatory prayers](https://www.gotquestions.org/imprecatory-prayer.html)

**10.** [**Praying**](https://www.gotquestions.org/praying-Spirit.html) **in the Spirit:**

11.       **Prayer of forgiveness/repentance**:

12.       **The prayer of salvation**

1. **PRAYER: the vehicle or instrument used to talk to God and to hear from God in**

 **relationship with Him (prayer is our modern day cell phone)**

* **God requires a consistent prayer program or routine**
	+ **The invitation to pray; Hebrews 4:16**
	+ **The Christian model prayer; Matthew 6:9-13**
	+ **Silent prayer; Psalm 5:1; 139;1-6**
	+ **Groaning prayer; Romans 8:26,27**
	+ **Daily morning prayer; Psalm 5:3; 88:13; 143:8; Isaiah 33:2**
	+ **Twice a day prayer; Psalm 88:1**
	+ **Three times a day prayer; Psalm 55:17; Daniel 6:10**
	+ **All night prayer; Luke 6:12**

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