

Conversing with God

Prayer & Listening – Part 1

Life Church St. Louis – March 19, 2017

Lead Pastor – Dr. Dan Walker

1 John 5:14-15 (NIV) This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of him.

Revelation 3:20 (NIV) Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me.

1. Begin with a _____ from God

Genesis 15:1 (NIV) After this, the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision: “Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your very great reward.”

1A. Be honest about your _____

Genesis 15:2-3 (NIV) But Abram said, “Sovereign LORD, what can you give me since I remain childless and the one who will inherit my estate is Eliezer of Damascus?” And Abram said, “You have given me no children; so a servant in my household will be my heir.”

1B. _____ for God’s answer

Genesis 15:4-5 (NIV) Then the word of the LORD came to him: “This man will not be your heir, but a son who is your own flesh and blood will be your heir.” He took him outside and said, “Look up at the sky and count the stars—if indeed you can count them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your offspring be.”

1C. Choose to _____ God

Genesis 15:6 (NIV) Abram believed the LORD, and he credited it to him as righteousness.

2. Continue with God’s _____

Genesis 15:7 (NIV) He also said to him, “I am the LORD, who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land to take possession of it.”

2A. Express your _____

Genesis 15:8 (NIV) But Abram said, “Sovereign LORD, how can I know that I will gain possession of it?”

2B. _____ God’s directions

Genesis 15:9-10 (NIV) So the LORD said to him, “Bring me a heifer, a goat and a ram, each three years old, along with a dove and a young pigeon.” Abram brought all these to him, cut them in two and arranged the halves opposite each other; the birds, however, he did not cut in half.

2C. _____ against opposition

Genesis 15:11-12 (NIV) Then birds of prey came down on the carcasses, but Abram drove them away. As the sun was setting, Abram fell into a deep sleep, and a thick and dreadful darkness came over him.

2D. Hear God’s _____

Genesis 15:17-18 (NIV) When the sun had set and darkness had fallen, a smoking firepot with a blazing torch appeared and passed between the pieces. On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram and said, “To your descendants I give this land, from the Wadi of Egypt to the great river, the Euphrates—

Action Plan for This Week

- Have a daily quiet time of Bible reading, prayer & writing.
 Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat Sun

- How will I obey God’s Word this week? _____

Conversing with God Study Guide

Prayer & Listening – Part 1

Life Church St. Louis – March 19, 2017

Lead Pastor – Dr. Dan Walker

Intro. How would you define prayer? What is the purpose of prayer?

Why is prayer frustrating for some people?

What is the primary reason for unanswered prayer requests (1 John 5:14-15)?

How can prayer as two-way communication lead to more prayer answers?

How does prayer relate to Jesus' invitation to lukewarm believers in Revelation 3:20?

1A. Why should prayer usually begin with a promise from God's Word or a word from the Lord (Genesis 15:1)?

1B. How was Abram being honest about his doubts and respectful at the same time (Genesis 15:2-3)?

1C. What type of questions can we expect answers from God for (Genesis 15:4-5)?

1D. Why was it important that Abram believed God (Genesis 15:6, Romans 4:3-5)?

1E. What principles can you use from Abram's conversation with God to help you in your own prayer life?

2A. How is the second promise of God in Genesis 15:7 linked to the first promise in Genesis 15:1 (also see Genesis 12:7, 13:14-17)?

2B. What was behind Abram's question in Genesis 15:8?

2C. Why did the Lord not answer Abram's question immediately (Genesis 15:9-10)?

2D. Why did Abram have to drive away the birds of prey (Genesis 15:11-12, Matthew 13:4, 19)? What principle does this teach us?

2E. Why did God give Abram the prophetic revelation in Genesis 15:13-16 about the future of Israel and the land?

2F. How did God ultimately answer Abram's question in Genesis 15:8 (Genesis 15:17-18)?

2G. How can you use the principles from Abram's prayer to pray for the lost? What promise from God's Word would you begin with?