

## Listening to God

As I was reflecting on what Perry wrote in September issue of the Key, I thought of the “God questions” he suggested we begin with. That led me to remembering a reflection in one of my daily bible studies on listening attentively to God. I figure if we are going to be more aware of God in our midst and in our neighborhoods we need to listen. So I would like to share the 10 key aspects of listening attentively. I shared this at last month’s PPC but I think it is worth sharing with the entire parish.

1. **Be Expectant:** If we are to hear God we need to come to Her expecting that She will speak. Now I don’t know about you but this was an eye opener for me. I pray knowing God is listening and let her know what I need, or am grateful for but I hadn’t really considered that God would have something to say to me each time I pray. I like that.
2. **Be Quiet:** We have all heard “Be still and know that I am God.” Easier said than done for some of us, right! Still we need to take time and sit quietly so God has time to break through the clutter in our mind and we can focus on hearing.
3. **Be Patient:** Again not easy for some of us! We look for instant answers and are easily frustrated when they don’t come. Sometimes it seems so clear what God is saying and other times we seem to be left hanging. I believe God will answer but, in Her time, and we need to trust and be patient.
4. **Be confident:** Yes, God will answer. Maybe not in the way we would like or as quickly but when we listen we need to trust and believe the answer will come. We know that God wants good for us so She will show us the way.
5. **Be Dependent:** As Christians we depend on God. However, we often come before God with our agenda knowing what we believe would be best. Truly depending on God means coming into her presence focussed on Her agenda. This, I find takes practice.
6. **Be open:** God wants to speak and our hearts and minds need to be open to whatever God wants to say. It may be something we have been waiting to

hear or something we would like to avoid hearing. Whatever God has for us are we open to hearing?

7. **Be attentive:** Look deeply for understanding. What words do you hear? What are the feelings/thoughts that come to mind?
8. **Be careful:** We need to ensure what we hear is from God. Ask Holy Spirit to help you confirm what you have heard is from God. Are you finding confirmation through scripture?
9. **Be submissive:** Do you plan to obey God? Not something we often think about. But if we truly are to have a close relationship and hear God we have to be prepared to follow knowing she will be with us every step of the way.
10. **Be reverent:** Remember it is the Creator/Redeemer that speaks to you. How awesome and how privileged we are. We stand in awe and with gratitude.

I know these ideas are not new but it was good for me to be reminded that God is active and if I expect Her to speak, am quiet, attentive, open, confident, patient, dependent, submissive, careful and reverent then I will deepen my relationship with God and know more clearly what She is doing in the neighbourhood and how I am being called to join in.

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