

Focus on the Seeking, Not the Finding

Luke 11:9–10 (ESV)

⁹ And I tell you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. ¹⁰ For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened.

Luke 11:9–10 (AMP)

⁹ “So I say to you, ask *and* keep on asking, and it will be given to you; seek *and* keep on seeking, and you will find; knock *and* keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you. ¹⁰ For everyone who keeps on asking [persistently], receives; and he who keeps on seeking [persistently], finds; and to him who keeps on knocking [persistently], the door will be opened.

If you consistently seek God with a pure heart, you will hear from Him.

How to Make Seeking Practical

Proverbs 2:1-9 - 1 My son, if you receive my words and treasure up my commandments with you, 2 making your ear attentive to wisdom and inclining your heart to understanding; 3 yes, if you call out for insight and raise your voice for understanding, 4 if you seek it like silver and search for it as for hidden treasures, 5 then you will understand the fear of the LORD AND FIND THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD. 6 For the LORD gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding; 7 he stores up sound wisdom for the upright; he is a shield to those who walk in integrity, 8 guarding the paths of justice and watching over the way of his saints. 9 Then you will understand righteousness and justice and equity, every good path;

4 Internal Matters

Receive

- Questions:
 - Have you rejected things God has already told you?
 - From Scripture
 - From the Holy Spirit
 - From a spiritual gift

How to Hear from God – Part 4

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- From your church
- From your pastor
- From an alter call appeal
- From your spouse
- From your parents
- From a family member
- From a book
- From a friend
- From a mentor
- From wise counsel
- From a mature believer
- From your discipleship group
- From your doctor
- From your therapist
- From your employer
- From a co-worker
- From a team member
- From life's circumstances
- From your conscience

Treasure

- Hide, Shelter, Keep, Save Up, Store
- Questions
 - Are you safeguarding the knowledge you receive?
 - Do you take notes?
 - Do you review your notes?
 - Do you review the audio/video?
 - Do you document instructions that wise people give you?

Make Your Ear Attentive

- “Pay attention, give heed, i.e. accept information as true and respond to it” [James Swanson, [*Dictionary of Biblical Languages with Semantic Domains : Hebrew \(Old Testament\)*](#) (Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems, Inc., 1997).]
- Questions
 - Do you have a devoted time with God?
 - Do you have a daily commitment to prayer and Scriptural meditation?
 - Do you fast?
 - Do you arrive to service on time?
 - Do you value physical church gatherings?
 - Are you participating in mid-week gatherings?

- Do you re-listen to audio or video teachings?
- When our ears are not attentive to God’s voice, it’s because they are attentive to a different voice
- Our ears are always attentive to something or someone. They are never neutral.
- Voices
 - Flesh (Demands of the body and mind)
 - Fear
 - Lust
 - Pride
 - World
 - Satan
- These voices are camouflaged as self-talk
- Self-talk is camouflaged as
 - Common sense
 - “My personality”
 - A personal creed (i.e. “I’m not going to let anyone disrespect me again)

Incline Your Heart

- “Stretch, spread, lengthen”
- Amplified Bible: “seeking it conscientiously and striving for it eagerly”
 - Questions
 - Is your heart open?
 - What is your body language like in service?
 - Do you sit in the back or the front?
 - Do you take notes?
 - Do you skip worship and stay only for the word?
 - Do you leave service early?
 - Do you participate in prayer meetings and/or prayer calls?
 - How receptive are you to rebuke or constructive criticism?

4 External Matters

Call Out

- Like a Summons – calling someone or something in your presence for a task
- Questions
 - Are you making specific requests?
 - Is what you’re asking for what you’re looking for?
 - Have you asked enough of the big questions to make specific requests?
 - Who Am I?
 - Where Am I From?
 - Where Am I Going?

- What Can I Do?
- What Am I For?

Raise Your Voice

- Questions
 - Is there any urgency in your request or are you too cool for school?
 - Are you concerned that someone will think you're ignorant?
 - Are you playing it safe?

Seek It (like sliver)

- “search, look for, i.e., try to learn information about an object, implying a diligence in the procurement of the information (1Sa 9:3)” [James Swanson, [*Dictionary of Biblical Languages with Semantic Domains : Hebrew \(Old Testament\)*](#) (Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems, Inc., 1997).]
- Are you persistent in your search as if you lost your wallet or purse?

Search for it (as for hidden treasures)

- **plot**, i.e., think about a plan of action alone, or with others; **devise**, **search for**, examine, i.e., try to learn information about an object; **search**, look around, track down, hunt down, inquire [James Swanson, [*Dictionary of Biblical Languages with Semantic Domains : Hebrew \(Old Testament\)*](#) (Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems, Inc., 1997).]
- Have you devised a strategy?
- Have you given thought to how you're actually going to do this?
- Have you worked out the practical dynamics involved in your search?
- Have you worked through the practical impediments to getting still with God individually or collectively?
 - Planning your week
 - Planning your rest
 - Planning your meals
 - Working out childcare
 - Working out transportation
 - Enlisting a team of support