

Reflecting the Principle through Self Evaluation
Life Principle #13

Listening to God is essential to walking with God.

- What type of *listener* are you? Do you purposefully listen to God or passively listen to God?
Purposeful listener expects God to speak and applies what they have learned.
Passive listener may enjoy a sermon, but has no intention on applying.
- During your quiet prayer time with the Lord do you dominate the conversation or do you listen to Him?
- Do you find yourself constantly unsettled about a particular area of your life; always praying about the situation but never feeling God's guidance or His peace? If so, are you expectantly listening for God's guidance; applying it to your life and being steadfast?
- Is there a *true* desire in your heart for guidance from the Lord? Or are you desiring to participate in the grace of God without experiencing the sacrifices He may be guiding you to make in obedience to Him?

How do we listen to God?

- **Read the Bible.** He will never tell you something that contradicts His Word.
- **Listen to the Holy Spirit.** One of His jobs is to guide you by speaking to your spirit.
- **Pray.** Prayer is talking and listening to God. Read at least a small portion of Scripture each day, and ask God to speak through it.
- **Be watchful.** Look for the Lord to reveal Himself to you through circumstances. When life takes you by surprise, ask Him what He is doing. Watch for Him to guide you through open and closed doors.
- **Expect Him to guide you through others.** He will use pastors, parents, friends, family members, and at times even strangers to lead you. Just be careful to evaluate everything in the light of Scripture.

What's the appropriate "posture" of listening to God?

- **Reflective** - Meditate on biblical passages. Slowly and thoughtfully read a section over and over.
- **Prayerful** - As you read God's Word, ask for His help in applying it.
- **Submissive** - Be willing to obey whatever the Lord tells you to do.
- **Expectant** - God *promises* to speak to us; anticipate Him speaking to you personally.
- **Patient** - On important decisions, it's sometimes necessary to pray for weeks before understanding what the Lord is saying.