

How do we make the most of the privilege of prayer?

We make sure that our heart's motive for prayer is to meet with God, to get to know Him personally. As part of that, we determine to develop the ability to recognize His voice when He speaks to us by placing His thoughts into our minds and His desires into our hearts.

How can we be sure such thoughts and desires are from Him? Because Jesus promised we will know:

“...the sheep listen to [the shepherd's] voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out...his sheep follow him because they know his voice. But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognize a stranger's voice.” (John 10:2-5)

Note that the sheep had to listen, to be attentive and responsive. Sheep have to learn to recognize their shepherd's voice, as we learn to recognize the voice of any other person. The better we know someone, the easier that becomes. Jesus leaves no doubt—we will be able to recognize His voice, even though He speaks silently, if we are listening.

How can we get to know God if we do all the talking?