

# 40 DAYS of PRAYER



**WEEK  
SIX**

**Theme: Listening to and Inquiring of the Lord**  
**Song for Reflection: “Know Your Heart” (David Leonard)**  
**Suggested Video: [www.bit.ly/RCC40DAYSWK6](http://www.bit.ly/RCC40DAYSWK6)**

## **Day 36 – Wednesday, August 21**

*My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one can snatch them away from me, for my Father has given them to me, and he is more powerful than anyone else. No one can snatch them from the Father's hand. [John 10:27-29 NLT]*

When you respect someone, you listen to them. Relationship with God can't be vibrant without a willingness to listen to Him, and to hear from Him. Listening and hearing always involves **following**. To “hear and not to follow” is incomplete. The comforting thing is – even at the times when we don't listen real well – God assures us that if we have chosen to follow him, he has given us eternal life and we are secure in His arms.

Today is a day to first affirm in prayer God's promise of eternal life to you. Spend time with Him and celebrate His amazing promise to you! Then ask Him in what areas of your life you can re-commit to following Him.

## **Day 37 – Thursday, August 22**

*My child, pay attention to what I say. Listen carefully to my words. Don't lose sight of them. Let them penetrate deep into your heart, for they bring life to those who find them, and healing to their whole body. Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life. Avoid all perverse talk; stay away from corrupt speech. Look straight ahead, and fix your eyes on what lies before you. Mark out a straight path for your feet; stay on the safe path. [Proverbs 4:20-26 NLT]*

Paying attention to God and following Him carefully is richly rewarding...but it takes a singular focus. There are many things that distract in this world and draw our attention and path away from Him. And there are things we can do to “re-focus” on paying attention to Him. For instance, re-inquiring of God before we make key choices and decisions (read how David did this in 1 Samuel 30:8). Or simply realizing and accepting that God will sometimes take our path in a different direction than we had planned (Proverbs 16:9). It takes a resolve to protect our heart against the things that would pull us away, and to focus each day on walking “in Jesus' footsteps”. It takes a level of determined commitment...and trust.

*Trust in the LORD with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take. (Proverbs 3:5-6, NLT)*

What distractions are pulling you away from listening carefully to God? Fix your eyes on Him today, talk to Him, and listen to what He has to say to you about it.

## Day 38 – Friday, August 23

*“Anyone with ears to hear should listen and understand.” Then he added, “Pay close attention to what you hear. The closer you listen, the more understanding you will be given – and you will receive even more. To those who listen to my teaching, more understanding will be given. But for those who are not listening, even what little understanding they have will be taken away from them.”*

*[Mark 4:23-25 NLT]*

Jesus says that understanding and learning from him begins with listening closely. Sometimes we think God isn't interested in speaking to us; but the real issue is that we simply choose not to listen. We've closed the ear of our soul to his voice: “That is why the Holy Spirit says, ‘Today when you hear his voice, don't harden your hearts as Israel did when they rebelled, when they tested me in the wilderness.’” (Hebrews 3:7-8, NLT)

We can listen carefully to him by reading his Word, by hearing the teaching of his Word, and by talking to him in prayer and asking him questions of the heart. As we listen, he'll respond to us through the harmony of answered prayer, His revealed will in Scripture, and other trusted voices that speak into our lives.

Talk to God today and ask him for understanding in a specific area of your life. Seek His response through his word, through teaching, through trusted voices, and through His voice speaking to your spirit.

## Day 39 – Saturday, August 24

*Understand this, my dear brothers and sisters: You must all be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to get angry. Human anger does not produce the righteousness God desires. So get rid of all the filth and evil in your lives, and humbly accept the word God has planted in your hearts, for it has the power to save your souls. But don't just listen to God's word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves. [James 1:19-22 NLT]*

Listening is a “skill of the soul” that only God can grant. It grows when it's cultivated in good soil, and that soul is the word of God that we approach with humility and allow it to be planted in our hearts, so that we'll walk in His ways and not in the ways of sin (Psalm 119:11).

Pray God's Word today – for example, read aloud to yourself a chapter like Romans 12, and let each verse sink in as to how it would shape your character and how you fit into God's family, then talk to God and ask Him to shape that characteristic in you. In this way, God can renew your mind and transform you into someone who is “quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to get angry”...and who's also quick to listen for His guidance through His word.

## Day 40 – Sunday, August 25

**Read Psalm 139.**

God knows everything about you. He fashioned you together. He surrounds you, He lifts you up, He carries you, and He searches your heart.

End this prayer devotional with a recognition that God is your “all in all”. Spend time in His presence. “Be still, and know that He is God” (Psalm 46:10), and let him quiet any trouble in your soul. Invite Him once again to search your heart, and to lead you on life's journey toward Him.

