COMMUNICATION:

It's a DIRECT CONNECTION

"An intimate relationship is one in which neither party silences, sacrifices, or betrays the self and each party expresses strength and vulnerability, weakness and competence in a balanced way."

– Harriet Lerner, Ph.D

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

James 4:8 "Come near to God and he will come near to you"

Isaiah 58:9 "Then you will call, and the Lord will answer; you will cry for help, and he will say: Here I am."

Psalm 66:19 "...but God has surely listened and heard my voice in prayer."

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- Check Your Hearing
 Creflo Dollar
- How to Hear From God Robert D. Pace
- None But Jesus Hillsong United

COMMUNICATION IS THE BASIS OF ANY SOLID RELATIONSHIP

In the beginning of any new relationship the only way to effectively get to know the other person is by talking with him or her. It requires an effort by both people and a commitment to make it work.

The same holds true for this new relationship you have just begun. God has a desire to have open lines of communication with YOU!

But HOW?

It's simple really. With God, there is no "ideal" way to communicate. You are merely talking with Him. You do not have to pick up your cell phone and send Him a text, sit on hold with an operator hoping to get through, or sign online and write Him e-mail...

You have a **DIRECT CONNECTION** to speak with Him, and He with you.

WINTERS' MINISTRIES WEEK 1

YOU

Talking to God is like talking to your best friend. You can express to Him your thoughts, desires, problems, and hurts, as well as give Him your thanks and praise. Communicating with God actively demonstrates your desire for His presence in your life and your faith in His existence. He already knows the

desires of your heart, but wants you to

COMMUNICATE with Him.

make that effort to

The beauty of this new relationship you have begun is that God will not put you on hold when you speak to Him. He is ALWAYS listening. We talk to God to constantly build and strengthen our relationship with Him, to get to know Him better, and to learn what He expects of us and what we can expect of Him.

GOD has UNLIMITED ways to communicate with You

He may speak to you through...

- o Prayer
- o His Word, the Bible
- The Holy Spirit who teaches, guides, and opens our hearts and minds
- o Worship
- Other believers and people around us in the world
- Divine circumstances

EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION IS A TWO WAY STREET.

GOD

However, in any effective relationship, communication is a two-way street. God will always hear you, but you must also LISTEN for Him to speak to you. Granted, you most likely won't hear a "booming voice" from Heaven, but you must allow yourself to be aware of Him in all ways. God speaks to a person's heart, mind, conscience, soul, and spirit. When Jesus Christ is dwelling with you, He is constantly communicating. Whether through prayer, the Bible, the Holy Spirit, people around you, worship, or divine circumstances He will make himself known to you.

One feature that distinguishes effective communication in almost any context is COMMITMENT.

In a successful relationship, there must be a commitment to the other person. You have already taken that first step by praying the sinner's prayer and accepting Christ as your Lord and Savior.

CONSISTENCY is another key factor in a successful relationship. With consistency comes growth, intimacy, and trust.

Being consistent in your commitment on your new journey will create the growth and opportunity to allow God to work in and through your life.