

ESTABLISHED IN PRAYER

Prayer is more than a habit we check off a list—it's the lifeline of our faith. It is the steady rhythm that draws us closer to God, grounding us when life feels uncertain and lifting us when hope seems far away. Through prayer, we align our hearts with His will, we exchange our worries for His peace, and we find strength for every season of life. In our new series, *Established in Prayer*, we'll take time to truly understand the power and purpose of prayer. We'll learn what it means to approach God with confidence, trusting that He not only hears us but also speaks to us.

Together, we'll explore how prayer anchors us in truth, equips us to stand firm in trials, and transforms the way we see the world around us.

This series will remind us that prayer isn't just about speaking to God—it's about walking with Him daily, experiencing His presence in the ordinary and extraordinary moments alike. As we seek Him together, we'll discover how prayer builds resilience, deepens intimacy with our Creator, and establishes us firmly in the unshakable foundation of His love.

DAY 1

LISTENING FOR GOD'S VOICE

Reading: 1 Samuel 3:1-10

In a world filled with noise, it can be challenging to hear God's voice. Like young Samuel, we may be serving in God's house without truly knowing His voice. Today's passage reminds us of the importance of positioning ourselves to listen. Take time to "lie down" in God's presence, creating space in your day for stillness and quiet.

Practice saying, "Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening." Remember, God is always speaking; the question is, are we listening? Reflect on areas of your life where you may have missed God's voice due to busyness or distraction. Ask God to tune your heart to His frequency and commit to creating daily moments of quiet listening.

DAY 2 THE POWER OF WAITING

Reading: Psalm 27:13-14

Our fast-paced world often makes waiting feel like wasted time. Yet, as we saw in Samuel's story, waiting is a crucial part of hearing God's voice. Today's psalm encourages us to "wait for the Lord." This isn't passive inactivity, but active expectation. As you read, consider areas in your life where you're rushing ahead of God.

Are there prayers you've given up on because the answer didn't come quickly? Remember, God's timing is perfect, even when it doesn't align with our expectations. Today, practice the discipline of waiting. In your prayer time, include periods of silence, allowing God space to speak. Trust that in the waiting, God is working – both in your circumstances and in your heart.

DAY 3 OBEDIENCE AS LISTENING

Reading: James 1:22-25

True listening, as we learned from Samuel's story, involves both hearing and obeying. James reinforces this, urging us to be "doers of the word, and not hearers only." Reflect on recent messages you've received from God – through Scripture, sermons, or personal prayer. Have you acted on these promptings, or merely acknowledged them?

Remember, obedience often precedes further revelation. If you feel spiritually dry or distant from God, consider whether there's a step of obedience you've been hesitating to take. Ask God for the courage to move from hearing to doing, trusting that as you obey, your relationship with Him will deepen and your ability to hear His voice will sharpen.

DAY 4 **GOD'S PERSISTENT LOVE**

Reading: Hosea 2:14-20

Even when we fail to listen or obey, God's love remains constant. Today's passage from Hosea beautifully illustrates God's persistent pursuit of His people. Like Israel, we often turn away from God, chasing other "lovers" – be it success, comfort, or worldly pleasures. Yet God continues to "allure" us, speaking tenderly and drawing us back to Himself.

As you read, picture God pursuing you with this same relentless love. Where in your life do you need to respond to His gentle call? Take time to acknowledge the "valleys of trouble" where God is trying to plant hope. Thank Him for His faithfulness, even in the face of your unfaithfulness, and recommit yourself to His loving embrace.

DAY 5 TUNING OUR HEARTS TO GOD'S VOICE

Reading: John 10:1-5, 27-28

Jesus describes Himself as the Good Shepherd whose sheep know His voice. This intimate knowledge comes through consistent exposure and relationship. Just as we learn to recognize a friend's voice through repeated conversations, we learn to discern God's voice through regular communion with Him. Today, focus on cultivating that familiarity. As you read, picture yourself as one of Jesus' sheep, attuned to His unique voice.

What "other voices" in your life might be drowning out the Shepherd's call? Commit to spending regular, focused time in God's Word and prayer. Ask the Holy Spirit to heighten your spiritual senses, making you increasingly aware of God's voice in your daily life. Remember, the more you listen and obey, the clearer His voice becomes.