

Friday - March 28

God's there, listening for all who pray, for all who pray and mean it.

Psalms 145:18 (MSG)

As a child I was taught prayers to say at mealtime, bedtime, in church, and in other situations. As I got older, I was told that prayer was speaking to God. So, I began talking to God about things that bothered me, people and situations needing God's attention. Then someone told me prayer is not just talking but also listening to God. So, I added time to be quiet and listen after talking, but all I heard was silence! I told God to speak louder. Still, all I heard was the usual noise around me. God was silent. God spoke to people in the Bible, and people around me said they heard God speak, why wouldn't God speak to me!?

My prayer life became a ritual. I stopped listening for God. I just prayed because it was expected. Maybe God heard me, but I didn't hear anything back. Then my wife died and as I sat beside her body a doctor I'd never met came and sat beside me. He asked if I had any questions. I was angry with doctors and said, "No!" He gave me his card and said, "If you want to talk, call me anytime, I'll be there."

Later it dawned on me that this was God *talking* to me. Now, I realize that God uses people, nature, books, TVs, computers, all the things around us to speak to us if we have the ears to hear! God is here listening, let's pray.

Dave Woodyard

Prayer: Loving God, you know my questions, you know my fears, you know me; help my ears hear you speak through the people and things I encounter today. I ask this in the name of Jesus, the one who put on flesh to reveal you to us. Amen.