



# soulmind

Connecting you with God's heart

## Meaning and Purpose

Matthew 6:6-13

Welcome to **Soulmind**.

We are learning our way through a very practical and helpful book by Dallas Willard, *Hearing God: Developing a Conversational Relationship with God*. Although not necessary to read with this devotional, the book is crammed with deep insights and very well worth reading. Here's a quick link to [GET THE BOOK](#).

Based on some feedback from a listener, I am adding something new this week to the daily emails. You will find an additional audio link to the short thought and Scripture from each day's email, along with the links to the complete Devotional, Scripture, and Music.

I'd love to hear back about what you think of this experiment, so hoping you'll try this and let me know your thoughts.

~Jeannie



[LISTEN TO THE DEVOTIONAL](#)

Be sure to check out the **SOUL PRACTICE** suggestion for this week (*see below*).

## Topic Overview

We've talked about God's plan to be present and involved with us, and about the fact that He is always with us. We are never left alone or abandoned. There's no doubt that God's presence is powerful and something to be greatly desired and depended on – those special moments when we sense Him being so very near, or clearly see an answer to our prayers, and the evidence and effects of His actions around us. A key concept we are learning is that hearing from Him on any kind of day-to-day, personal level happens only in the context of a relationship with Him—when we prioritize our interactions with Him as we would with other people who important to us – our spouse, children, and close friends.

As wonderful and important as experiencing the presence of God is, along with the Holy Spirit's

gifts of peace, joy, and comfort that His nearness brings, guess what? God is not necessarily concerned only about my comfort, my success, my peace, my happiness, and so on.

There is a deeper reason for God to speak with us individually. He wants to bring meaning and purpose to our lives by engaging with Him as a friend and co-worker in what He is doing here in this world – a much bigger purpose for communicating with us.

Before we can really get down to the specifics of *how* we might hear from God, we have to ask ourselves what and whom we are living for. Hearing God as a day-to-day reality is for those who are committed to living for the glory of God and the advancement of His Kingdom, not their own.

Whatever the situation or context in which you are living and working – an executive, teacher, office-worker, at-home mom, student, entrepreneur, or retiree, here's a question to think about: Have you come to the place where you can truly say that you are living for one thing – to become like Christ and to do his work?

## Daily Scriptures

### MONDAY

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#### 1 John 5:14 (NIV)

This is the confidence we have in approaching God; that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us.

### TUESDAY

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#### Matthew 6:9-10 (NIV)

"This, then, is how you should pray: 'Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.'

### WEDNESDAY

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#### Mark 4:23-24 (NIV)

"If anyone has ears to hear, let them hear. Consider carefully what you hear," he continued. "With the measure you use, it will be measured to you—and even more."

### THURSDAY

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#### Isaiah 59:1-2 (NIV)

Surely the arm of the Lord is not too short to save, nor his ear too dull to hear. But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear.

### FRIDAY

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#### Ephesians 6:18-19 (NIV)

And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people. Pray also for me, that whenever I speak, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel.

## Doing Your Part

### SOUL PRACTICE

### Preamble to The Lord's Prayer

The first part of this prayer beautifully expresses the purpose of all God's activities in and through us: "Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be *your* name, (not mine), *your* kingdom come (not mine), *your* will be done (Not mine), on earth as it is in heaven."

Write out this first sentence on several Post It's and put in several prominent places to remind you to breathe out this prayer throughout the day. If this reflects the desire of your heart, this simple prayer will put you in alignment with God's purposes for you, and in a great starting place to hear His guiding voice.

### Wise Words

*Why should God speak to me? What am I doing in life that would make speaking to me a reasonable thing for him to do? Are we in business together in life? Or am I in business just for myself, trying to 'use a little God' to advance my project?*

**Hearing God**, Dallas Willard

*Your kingdom come, Your will be done. ~Matthew 6:10*

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For more info, go to [soulmind.net](http://soulmind.net)

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