

...and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembly together...but encouraging one another.  
 Heb 10:24-25

Share the teaching  
 Guard the sharing

# Male Call

## December 12, 2008—Our Spiritual PDA—Practicing the Presence of God

6:00 – 6:05	Coffee & Donuts Opening Prayer																						
6:05 – 7:00	<p>Every Christian should be able to answer two questions. First, what do you think Jesus is saying to you at this point in your life, in the context of the challenges and opportunities you are facing? Second (and just as critical), what indicators give you some measure of confidence that it is indeed Jesus speaking to you rather than someone or something else?<sup>1</sup></p> <p>1) If this is true, then where are you looking to experience/hear from God?</p> <p>2) So many types of prayer<sup>2</sup>:</p> <table border="1"> <tr><td>Simple Prayer</td><td>Unceasing Prayer</td></tr> <tr><td>Prayer of the Forsaken</td><td>Prayer of the Heart</td></tr> <tr><td>Prayer of Examen</td><td>Meditative Prayer</td></tr> <tr><td>Prayer of Tears</td><td>Contemplative Prayer</td></tr> <tr><td>Prayer of Relinquishment</td><td>Prayer of the Ordinary</td></tr> <tr><td>Formation Prayer</td><td>Petitionary Prayer</td></tr> <tr><td>Covenant Prayer</td><td>Intercessory Prayer</td></tr> <tr><td>Prayer of Adoration</td><td>Healing Prayer</td></tr> <tr><td>Prayer of Rest</td><td>Prayer of Suffering</td></tr> <tr><td>Sacramental Prayer</td><td>Authoritative Prayer</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>Radical Prayer</td></tr> </table> <p>It is important to note that <i>spontaneity</i> is of the very essence of prayer, as it is of all dialogue.<sup>3</sup></p> <p>3) Handout: Temperament and types of prayer</p> <p>4) Meditative prayer group exercise: Luke 10:38-42</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What stands out to you in this passage?             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Your thoughts <i>and</i> feelings <i>and</i> emotions</li> </ol> </li> <li>Why do you think the Holy Spirit has brought this to your attention?</li> <li>Rationally assess your emotions. What are your emotions saying about you, your current situation in life, and your relationship with God?</li> </ol>	Simple Prayer	Unceasing Prayer	Prayer of the Forsaken	Prayer of the Heart	Prayer of Examen	Meditative Prayer	Prayer of Tears	Contemplative Prayer	Prayer of Relinquishment	Prayer of the Ordinary	Formation Prayer	Petitionary Prayer	Covenant Prayer	Intercessory Prayer	Prayer of Adoration	Healing Prayer	Prayer of Rest	Prayer of Suffering	Sacramental Prayer	Authoritative Prayer		Radical Prayer
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<sup>1</sup> *The Voice of Jesus*. 1.

<sup>2</sup> *Prayer: Finding the Heart's True Home*. Table of Contents.

<sup>3</sup> *Opening to God*. 38. Emphasis in original.

	<p>What we see from Ignatius and Edwards, as well as Wesley, is that we do not know ourselves, much less God and the presence of God in our lives, unless we are able to make some sense of what is happening to us emotionally. We seek an understanding of our lives—our circumstances, problems, challenges, and opportunities—that is illuminated by the presence of the Spirit...We truly understand when we know something with heart <i>and</i> mind. Discernment, then, is not merely a matter of rational analysis, of weighing the pros and cons and seeking to respond with a biblically informed mind to the options we are facing. Neither is discernment a matter of pure revelation, what some call a “word from the Lord.” Rather, it is a way of knowing and seeing that is experienced as a profound interplay of the intellect and emotion in which the head and heart are informing and guiding each other. Discernment is a matter of attending to both the circumstances of our lives and the emotional contours of our hearts...But equally important, it is a knowing that results in generous and courageous action in the world.<sup>4</sup></p> <p style="text-align: center;">ATTENDING TO OUR EMOTIONS IS TYPICALLY VERY HARD FOR MEN</p>
7:00	Closing Prayer

Further reading:

- *The Bible*
- Craig, William Lane. *Reasonable Faith*. Crossway Books. 1994.
- Foster, Richard J. *Prayer: Finding the Heart's True Home*. HarperSanFrancisco. 1992.
- Green, Thomas H. *Opening to God: A Guide to Prayer*. Ave Maria Press. 2007 printing.
- Keirse, David. *Please Understand Me II*. Prometheus Nemesis Book Company. 1998.
- Smith, Gordon T. *The Voice of Jesus*. Intersity Press. 2003.
- Willard, Dallas. *Hearing God*. Intersity Press. 1999.

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<sup>4</sup> Ibid. 53, 54.