

CHATTING WITH GOD

By Nyx Martinez

The protocols of prayer are as simple as a two-way conversation. Just like chatting on the phone or text messaging on-line. You can't immediately see the people you are conversing with, but your message gets through to them through the phone lines or air-waves, and their responses are carried back to you the same way.

What would the other person you were communicating with think if you spewed off what you wanted to say on the phone and then hung up without waiting for a reply? Or, if you asked him a question in the chat room and then signed out before he could answer? Or, if you asked his opinion on something and then turned off your cell phone without giving him a chance to respond? If you made this a habit, the person would probably stop trying to communicate with you.

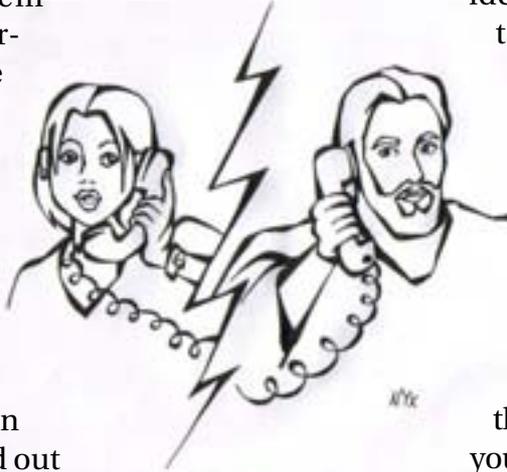
Now, imagine how God must feel every time you talk to Him and then end the conversation without giving Him a chance to participate. Ac-

cording to *Webster's Comprehensive Dictionary*, the word *conversation* is defined as: "the speaking together of two or more persons; informal exchange of ideas, information, etc."

Speaking together. Exchange of ideas. Obviously, it's a give-and-take scene. I ask a question; you answer. You ask a question; I answer. I contradict your answer; you contend for it. We finally come to some conclusion. That's one of the ways it works.

So why does it seem strange to carry on a normal conversation with God? He's listening—all the time. And He's just waiting for you to let Him in on the exchange of ideas. You might have a question, and He just might have the perfect answer. But you've got to stay on-line and wait for that answer.

Does God speak? *Audibly?* The answer to this question might be self-discovered. And while you're taking the time to experience it for yourself, you'll find that, as with conversations on the phone, text messaging, or the Internet, chatting with God can become *very* addicting.



When Prayer Is Listening

Thoughts from David Brandt Berg

Prayer is not just getting down on your knees and speaking your piece to God, but giving God a chance to speak His, too—and waiting until He answers!

You need to learn to talk to the Lord, and how to listen most of all. It's not up to the king to try to go chasing his subjects around, screaming and hollering at them to try to get them to do what he wants. Jesus is the King of kings, so you should come to Him with quietness and respect, sincerely present your petition, and wait silently to get the answer.

I love to be alone with the Lord because I can hear God so clearly when I'm alone and quiet. The Lord speaks in a still, small, but very definite, very firm, very loving voice—but if you're too noisy, you're not going to hear it!

You've got to know you can't solve your own problems; you've got to be desperate for God's answers, and stop everything else and listen. Take time to hear from God, and He'll take time to straighten out the problem.