



How God Speaks

One of the simple facts that the Bible testifies to, time and time again, is that our God is a God who loves to express Himself to His people. Over and over again we see how God reveals Himself through different Revelations to different people. Although God is Spirit - He is a Being who has personality and has an active involvement and relationship with His creation.

Although we cannot fully grasp hold of God or understand His ways. (for our finite minds cannot grasp His infinite nature,) God does reveal Himself to us and guide our lives. God does speak to His people in many different ways. He does this to reveal to us His will for our lives and deepen and strengthen our sense of relationship with Him. Our God is a living, active God who **DOES** speak to His people.

Discuss - (In group / or small groups)

Q1) Have you ever had an experience where you believe God has guided / spoken to you?

Q2) What do you think are the different ways God can speak to you?

Q3) How do you think you can learn to hear God's voice and discern who's voice it is your hearing?

So what are the different ways that we hear God speak to us today?

Through His Word the Bible!!

One of the most important and fundamental ways that God has spoken to His people is through His Word. As you read the Word of God what you will find is that the Holy Spirit will use the "living Word" and speak it directly into your life. When this happens it is important that we first test it, in light of the passages around it and in light of wider Scriptural understanding. (Remember when the devil tempted Jesus, he misquoted scripture to do so.) Once you have established that, that which the Word is saying, is from God, for your particular situation - It is important to obey it. Remember Scripture is the plumb-line that we test every word we think we have from God!! 2 John v 4 - 11

Through other Christians!!

God has established you as part of a local body of believers in the church. A part of this establishing process is that you come under the protection and authority of older brothers and sisters in the Lord. (age not in years - but in spiritual maturity.) Within the church there will be those who know the Word of God well and are spiritually discerning who can help you test words that the Lord may have given you. Remember it is not the role of a prophet to test His own Word, but to allow the body of Christ to test and weigh it!" In the New Testament many times words were bought by the elders and prophets to the people. Acts 12 v 25 - Acts 13 v 3

Through circumstances and own inclinations!!

As a follower of Jesus, the Holy Spirit of God lives within you. This means that the Holy Spirit will use your own thought processes and inclinations to reveal to you mysteries from God. He will also lead you into different situations to place you in a right place for God to move and direct your life. 1 Corinthians 2 v 10 - 16

Through Supernatural means!!

One of the simple facts about God is that He is a supernatural Being. As such He uses many different supernatural ways to express Himself. Example found in the Bible are :- Angels, Visions, Dreams, prophecy, words of knowledge, things in the natural world! Acts 2 v 17 -21

1 Corinthians 12 v 7 -11

!!Absolutely Important - Test Everything!!

The Bible gives us a clear warning about testing and approving the words that we believe God has spoken to us. It makes it clear that the words we hear can have come from 3 sources. 1) God, 2) Evil Spirits 3) Our own desires and inclinations. The way we test a word is by examining what the Bible says on the matter. We also need to allow more mature Christians to help us discern what spirit is speaking and also use the experiences of our own, in regard to the way God has worked in our lives in the past and what God is doing in our life right now! Remember as you get to know God better, understand His word more, the more effectively you will be in discerning God's voice and direction. Hearing God's direction takes perseverance and a willingness to learn even when you get it wrong!!

1 John 4 v 1 - 6

