

How God Speaks To Us

Based on the command of Christ #24 (Pt.2) – “Hear God’s voice”.

Deuteronomy 8:3 (ESV) - And he humbled you and let you hunger and fed you with manna, which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, that he might make you know that man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by EVERY WORD that comes from the mouth of the Lord.

Matthew 11:15 (ESV) - He who has ears to hear, let him hear!

To build a relationship with God, we must hear His voice.

God is speaking 24 hours a day.

His proceeding word is always available.

“God does not speak intermittently, we hear intermittently” – Steve Sampson

The church has become de-sensitized to the voice of the Spirit.

Hebrews 5:11 (ESV) - About this we have much to say, and it is hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing.

Paul begins making comparisons of Jesus and Melchizedek.

He then digresses to complain of the low attainments of these Palestinian Christians.

He’s saying that It’s, “hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing.”

So, instead of saying many things, he writes in comparatively few words.

Many in the church today have become dull of hearing.

The Spirit is unable to explain much.

We have to learn to hear by our spirit man, not our natural man!

Romans 10:17 (ESV) - So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

Word = rhema (spoken, revealed by the Holy Spirit, not a physical transaction)

We are triune beings.

We are spirit beings, we have a soul and we live in a body.

1Thessalonians 5:23 (ESV) - Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

1. Our body is world-conscious.

- It is corruptible and likened to machinery.
- It is lead by the five senses.
- It operates in the physical realm.

2. Our soul is self-conscious.

- It is our mind, our will and our emotions.
- It operates in accordance with feelings and reasoning.

3. Our spirit is God-conscious.

- It is the human spirit that communicates with God.
- Heavenly communication happens in the spirit realm!

Anything that God speaks to you, is not a product of your reasoning or thought processes!

1 Corinthians 14:14 (ESV) - For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays but my mind is unfruitful.

Your spirit man resides deep within your being.

John 7:37-39 (ESV)

37 On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink.

38 Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, 'Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.'"

39 Now this he said about the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were to receive, for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

'Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.'"

Heart = koy-lee'-ah – belly, womb, heart, innermost being

Notice Jesus didn't say out of your head will flow rivers of living waters.

Your spirit is not in your head... it's your core!

It's not made up of physical matter.

It's of the unseen, not the seen.

So, how does the Holy Spirit Communicate with us?

God speaks through...

I. The witness of the Holy Spirit

Romans 8:16 (ESV) - The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,

A witness is a 'knowing' or a 'spirit connection' that God is confirming an answer.

It is like a light bulb turned in our spirit man.

You just suddenly know something.

When my wife and I graduated from Bible College, we had offers to work in several different churches or ministries, with pay I might add, but we both knew that we were supposed to go back and serve in our home church in Lake Charles for no pay.

God knew that we needed some more development and refinement and that was the place where it would happen.

No one told us that, we both just knew!

God had placed that “knowing” in our spirits!

It can be described as a flooding peace.

There is such a thing as a positive and negative witness.

With a negative witness, instead of feeling peace, you sense a sudden heaviness or dread in your spirit man.

Some describe this as a sinking feeling concerning what they are hearing.

It’s really not a feeling at all, it’s a knowing in your spirit!

1 John 5:6b (ESV) - ... And the Spirit is the one who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth.

God speaks through...

II. The revelation of the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit gives specific revelation knowledge!

Ephesians 3:1-6 (ESV)

1 For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles—

2 assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God's grace that was given to me for you,

3 how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly.

4 When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ,

5 which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit.

6 This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

1 Corinthians 12:8 (ESV) - For to one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit,

1 Corinthians 2:9-10 (ESV)

9 But, as it is written, "What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him"—

10 these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God.

The word of the Lord is simple, but it's ramifications are profound!

The revelation of the Holy Spirit is simply knowing the thoughts of God.

Amos 4:13 (ESV) - For behold, he who forms the mountains and creates the wind, and declares to man what is his thought, who makes the morning darkness, and treads on the heights of the earth— the Lord, the God of hosts, is his name!

Micah 4:12 (ESV) - But they do not know the thoughts of the Lord; they do not understand his plan, that he has gathered them as sheaves to the threshing floor.

Psalms 139:17 (ESV) - How precious to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them!

We can know the thoughts of God!

The Holy Spirit will speak with us this way.

We must fast from our own thoughts!

John 5:30 (ESV) - "I can do nothing on my own. As I hear, I judge, and my judgment is just, because I seek not my own will but the will of him who sent me.

God's thoughts are higher, but they are obtainable.

Isaiah 55:8-9 (ESV)

8 For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord.

9 For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

He speaks simply, but the revelation to our inner man is profound!

God speaks through...

III. The instructive voice of the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit speaks to us with his voice...

Sometimes it's a still small voice.

Acts 10:19-20 (ESV)

19 And while Peter was pondering the vision, the Spirit said to him, "Behold, three men are looking for you.

20 Rise and go down and accompany them without hesitation, for I have sent them."

Sometimes it's a more commanding voice!

Acts 13:2 (ESV) - While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them."

The Holy Spirit will speak to us typically in our spirits, not audibly, so that our physical ears hear it, because He is not speaking to our brains.

1 Corinthians 2:14 (ESV) - The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned.

Paul when he was Saul heard an audible voice, but he was not saved yet and his spirit had no ability to communicate with the Holy Spirit.

It was the person of Jesus Himself who spoke to Paul!

God speaks through...

IV. The voice of the human spirit

Romans 9:1 (ESV) - I am speaking the truth in Christ—I am not lying; my conscience bears me witness in the Holy Spirit—

Our inner man has a voice – it is the conscience.

This is how our spirit communicates to our soul.

When we listen to our spirit, then God has dominion in our life.

We are yielded to Him.

We find His perfect will for our lives.

This is why we must train our spirits to hear the Spirit of God, to be sensitive to the voice of the Lord.

Jesus said “He would send the Holy Spirit and He would lead us into all truth.”

The Holy Spirit is called the Spirit of truth.

So many Christians worry about whether they are doing the “right thing.”

If we are correctly hearing the voice of the Holy Spirit, we are doing the “right thing”, unless we are in rebellion.

God is imparting strategies to increase the Kingdom of God and our personal lives regularly.

God speaks through...

V. The Visions from the Lord.

Acts 2:17 (ESV) - "And in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams;

Acts 9:10-12 (ESV)

10 Now there was a disciple at Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." And he said, "Here I am, Lord."

11 And the Lord said to him, "Rise and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul, for behold, he is praying,

12 and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight."

Acts 10:3 (ESV) - About the ninth hour of the day he saw clearly in a vision an angel of God come in and say to him, "Cornelius."

Acts 10:9-19 (ESV)

9 The next day, as they were on their journey and approaching the city, Peter went up on the housetop about the sixth hour to pray.

10 And he became hungry and wanted something to eat, but while they were preparing it, he fell into a trance

11 and saw the heavens opened and something like a great sheet descending, being let down by its four corners upon the earth.

12 In it were all kinds of animals and reptiles and birds of the air.

13 And there came a voice to him: "Rise, Peter; kill and eat."

14 But Peter said, "By no means, Lord; for I have never eaten anything that is common or unclean."

15 And the voice came to him again a second time, "What God has made clean, do not call common."

16 This happened three times, and the thing was taken up at once to heaven.

17 Now while Peter was inwardly perplexed as to what the vision that he had seen might mean, behold, the men who were sent by Cornelius, having made inquiry for Simon's house, stood at the gate

18 and called out to ask whether Simon who was called Peter was lodging there.

19 And while Peter was pondering the vision, the Spirit said to him, "Behold, three men are looking for you.

Acts 16:9-10 (ESV)

9 And a vision appeared to Paul in the night: a man of Macedonia was standing there, urging him and saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us."

10 And when Paul had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go on into Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.

Acts 18:9-11 (ESV)

9 And the Lord said to Paul one night in a vision, "Do not be afraid, but go on speaking and do not be silent,

10 for I am with you, and no one will attack you to harm you, for I have many in this city who are my people."

11 And he stayed a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them.

There are many more!

God speaks through...

VI. The Angels of the Lord

Acts 12:6-11 (ESV)

6 Now when Herod was about to bring him out, on that very night, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains, and sentries before the door were guarding the prison.

7 And behold, an angel of the Lord stood next to him, and a light shone in the cell. He struck Peter on the side and woke him, saying, "Get up quickly." And the chains fell off his hands.

8 And the angel said to him, "Dress yourself and put on your sandals." And he did so. And he said to him, "Wrap your cloak around you and follow me."

9 And he went out and followed him. He did not know that what was being done by the angel was real, but thought he was seeing a vision.

10 When they had passed the first and the second guard, they came to the iron gate leading into the city. It opened for them of its own accord, and they went out and went along one street, and immediately the angel left him.

11 When Peter came to himself, he said, "Now I am sure that the Lord has sent his angel and rescued me from the hand of Herod and from all that the Jewish people were expecting."

There are also many more of those examples.

God speaks through...

VII. The Prophets or Spokesmen of God

The Holy Spirit will speak prophetically to us through others.

Acts 2:18 (ESV) - even on my male servants and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit, and they shall prophesy.

Acts 11:27-28 (ESV)

27 Now in these days prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch.

28 And one of them named Agabus stood up and foretold by the Spirit that there would be a great famine over all the world (this took place in the days of Claudius).

Acts 21:10-11 (ESV)

10 While we were staying for many days, a prophet named Agabus came down from Judea.

11 And coming to us, he took Paul's belt and bound his own feet and hands and said, "Thus says the Holy Spirit, 'This is how the Jews at Jerusalem will bind the man who owns this belt and deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles.'"

God uses both men and women to prophecy!

Remember Acts 2:17 (ESV) "...and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,"

Acts 21:8-9 (ESV)

8 On the next day we departed and came to Caesarea, and we entered the house of Philip the evangelist, who was one of the seven, and stayed with him.

9 He had four unmarried daughters, who prophesied.

And most importantly...

God speaks through...

VIII. The written Scripture

Every voice, vision or prophetic word must line up with the written Word of God!

If it doesn't, it must not be acted on!

Ephesians 3:3 (ESV) - how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly.

2 Peter 1:19-21 (ESV)

19 And we have the prophetic word more fully confirmed, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts,

20 knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation.

21 For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

2 Peter 2:1 (ESV) - But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing upon themselves swift destruction.

2 Peter 1:20-21 (ESV)

20 knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation.

21 For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

So, God speaks in many different ways to us...

Ask Him to help you clearly discern when He is speaking to you and always be willing to obey!