

When God Speaks To Us

John 10:2-5 (ESV)

2 But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep.

3 To him the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.

4 When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice.

5 A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers.”

Isaiah 55:8-11 (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.

I. Testing what you hear...

1 Thessalonians 5:20-22(ESV)

20 Do not despise prophecies,

21 but test everything; hold fast what is good.

22 Abstain from every form of evil.

1. When God speaks to us, it will always honor Christ!

John 15:26 (ESV) - “But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me.

John 16:14 (ESV) - He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

1 John 4:1-3 (ESV)

1 Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world.

2 By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God,

3 and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already.

2. When God speaks to us, it will always be consistent with his Word!

Luke 21:33 (ESV) - Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

2 Timothy 3:13-17 (ESV)

13 while evil people and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived.

14 But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it

15 and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

16 All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness,

17 that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

3. When God speaks to us, it will many times conflict with human wisdom and the human will!

4. When God speaks to us, it will challenge your faith!

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

5. When speaks to us, it will find confirmation with spiritually mature people in your life!

Proverbs 13:20 (ESV) - Whoever walks with the wise becomes wise, but the companion of fools will suffer harm.

Proverbs 12:1 (ESV) - Whoever loves discipline loves knowledge, but he who hates reproof is stupid.

II. When God speaks to us, some will receive it!

1. It will produce good fruit!

Matthew 7:15-16 (ESV)

15 "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves.

16 You will recognize them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thornbushes, or figs from thistles?

Galatians 5:22-23 (ESV)

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,

23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

2. It will bring peace to our spirits!

1 Corinthians 14:33 (ESV) - For God is not a God of confusion but of peace.

Peace = (i-ray'-nay) prosperity, quietness, rest, set at one again.

Opposite of confusion... con-(against) - fusion (united or melted together to make one)

1Cor.14:33 (KJV) - For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace

James 3:16 (KJV) - For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work.

John 14:26-27 (ESV)

26 But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.

27 Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.

Isaiah 55:12a (ESV) - "For you shall go out in joy and be led forth in peace;

Isaiah 32:17 (ESV) - And the effect of righteousness will be peace, and the result of righteousness, quietness and trust forever.

3. It will shall accomplish and succeed in that which He purposes!

Isaiah 55:10-11 (ESV)

10 "For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,

11 so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

III. When God speaks to us, some will NOT receive it!

Rev. 2:29 - He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

1. Many will not pay any attention to it!

Jeremiah 37:1-2 (ESV)

1 Zedekiah the son of Josiah, whom Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon made king in the land of Judah, reigned instead of Coniah the son of Jehoiakim.

2 But neither he nor his servants nor the people of the land listened to the words of the Lord that he spoke through Jeremiah the prophet.

Isaiah 30:9-11 (ESV)

9 For they are a rebellious people, lying children, children unwilling to hear the instruction of the Lord;

10 who say to the seers, "Do not see," and to the prophets, "Do not prophesy to us what is right; speak to us smooth things, prophesy illusions,
11 leave the way, turn aside from the path, let us hear no more about the Holy One of Israel."

1 Kings 22:18 (ESV)- And the king of Israel said to Jehoshaphat, "Did I not tell you that he would not prophesy good concerning me, but evil?"

1 Kings 22:13-14 (ESV)

13 And the messenger who went to summon Micaiah said to him, "Behold, the words of the prophets with one accord are favorable to the king. Let your word be like the word of one of them, and speak favorably."

14 But Micaiah said, "As the Lord lives, what the Lord says to me, that I will speak."

Jeremiah 5:23a (ESV) - But this people has a defiant and rebellious heart;

2. Many will let their pride keep them from obeying it!

Jeremiah 37:3-4 (ESV)

3 King Zedekiah sent Jehucal the son of Shelemiah, and Zephaniah the priest, the son of Maaseiah, to Jeremiah the prophet, saying, "Please pray for us to the Lord our God."

4 Now Jeremiah was still going in and out among the people, for he had not yet been put in prison.

Jeremiah 37:5 (ESV) - The army of Pharaoh had come out of Egypt. And when the Chaldeans who were besieging Jerusalem heard news about them, they withdrew from Jerusalem.

Jeremiah 37:11-16 (ESV)

11 Now when the Chaldean army had withdrawn from Jerusalem at the approach of Pharaoh's army,

12 Jeremiah set out from Jerusalem to go to the land of Benjamin to receive his portion there among the people.

13 When he was at the Benjamin Gate, a sentry there named Irijah the son of Shelemiah, son of Hananiah, seized Jeremiah the prophet, saying, "You are deserting to the Chaldeans."

14 And Jeremiah said, "It is a lie; I am not deserting to the Chaldeans." But Irijah would not listen to him, and seized Jeremiah and brought him to the officials.

15 And the officials were enraged at Jeremiah, and they beat him and imprisoned him in the house of Jonathan the secretary, for it had been made a prison.

Jeremiah 37:6-10 (ESV)

6 Then the word of the Lord came to Jeremiah the prophet:

7 "Thus says the Lord, God of Israel: Thus shall you say to the king of Judah who sent you to me to inquire of me, 'Behold, Pharaoh's army that came to help you is about to return to Egypt, to its own land.

8 And the Chaldeans shall come back and fight against this city. They shall capture it and burn it with fire.

9 Thus says the Lord, Do not deceive yourselves, saying, "The Chaldeans will surely go away from us," for they will not go away.

10 For even if you should defeat the whole army of Chaldeans who are fighting against you, and there remained of them only wounded men, every man in his tent, they would rise up and burn this city with fire.'"

Jeremiah 37:17a (ESV) - King Zedekiah sent for him and received him. The king questioned him secretly in his house and said, "Is there any word from the Lord?"

Jeremiah 37:17b (ESV) - Jeremiah said, "There is." Then he said, "You shall be delivered into the hand of the king of Babylon."

Jeremiah 38:14 (ESV) - King Zedekiah sent for Jeremiah the prophet and received him at the third entrance of the temple of the Lord. The king said to Jeremiah, "I will ask you a question; hide nothing from me."

3. Many will put on a good show at first, but still do their own thing!

Jeremiah 42:1-6 (ESV)

1 Then all the commanders of the forces, and Johanan the son of Kareah and Jezaniah the son of Hoshaiah, and all the people from the least to the greatest, came near

2 and said to Jeremiah the prophet, "Let our plea for mercy come before you, and pray to the Lord your God for us, for all this remnant—because we are left with but a few, as your eyes see us—

3 that the Lord your God may show us the way we should go, and the thing that we should do."

4 Jeremiah the prophet said to them, "I have heard you. Behold, I will pray to the Lord your God according to your request, and whatever the Lord answers you I will tell you. I will keep nothing back from you."

5 Then they said to Jeremiah, "May the Lord be a true and faithful witness against us if we do not act according to all the word with which the Lord your God sends you to us.

6 Whether it is good or bad, we will obey the voice of the Lord our God to whom we are sending you, that it may be well with us when we obey the voice of the Lord our God."

Jeremiah 42:10-16 (ESV)

10 If you will remain in this land, then I will build you up and not pull you down; I will plant you, and not pluck you up; for I relent of the disaster that I did to you.

11 Do not fear the king of Babylon, of whom you are afraid. Do not fear him, declares the Lord, for I am with you, to save you and to deliver you from his hand.

12 I will grant you mercy, that he may have mercy on you and let you remain in your own land.

13 But if you say, 'We will not remain in this land,' disobeying the voice of the Lord your God

14 and saying, 'No, we will go to the land of Egypt, where we shall not see war or hear the sound of the trumpet or be hungry for bread, and we will dwell there,'

15 then hear the word of the Lord, O remnant of Judah. Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: If you set your faces to enter Egypt and go to live there,

16 then the sword that you fear shall overtake you there in the land of Egypt, and the famine of which you are afraid shall follow close after you to Egypt, and there you shall die.

Jeremiah 42:19-22 (ESV)

19 The Lord has said to you, O remnant of Judah, 'Do not go to Egypt.' Know for a certainty that I have warned you this day

20 that you have gone astray at the cost of your lives. For you sent me to the Lord your God, saying, 'Pray for us to the Lord our God, and whatever the Lord our God says, declare to us and we will do it.'

21 And I have this day declared it to you, but you have not obeyed the voice of the Lord your God in anything that he sent me to tell you.

22 Now therefore know for a certainty that you shall die by the sword, by famine, and by pestilence in the place where you desire to go to live."