



SPIRIT – HOW GOD SPEAKS

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Introduction

We are on our journey in our series Church Alive. We're trusting that each one of us will be awakened in our God-given gifts and callings in a fresh way and begin to serve one another and make a difference in our city.

We have examined the topics of Identity and the church as a Body and are now learning about the indwelling Holy Spirit and how to hear His voice. Today we will look at the different ways God speaks.

How God Speaks

This is probably one of the most difficult questions to answer.

It is very personal and will be different from person to person and will depend on our relationship with God, our knowledge of Him as well as our intentional engagement with Him.

Testimony: My hospital story

Experience of hearing a symphony of heavenly music from 2:17 to 3:33 whilst in an extended hospital stay that reassured me God was with me, even when things weren't looking good.

The question still remains: HOW DOES ONE HEAR FROM GOD?

People say things like, "God spoke to me" or "The Lord told me." What does that mean? Did they hear an audible voice like Samuel? How can I hear from God?

We primarily hear from God by regularly spending time reading the Bible and obeying **what it says. The Bible is God's message to humankind. Everything we need to know to live the Christian life is already in the Bible.** As we spend time meditating on his Word, God reveals his truth to us.

THE BIBLE SPEAKS OF SIX WAYS THAT GOD SPEAKS TO US:

1. GOD SPEAKS TO US THROUGH SCRIPTURE

"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work." 2 Timothy 3:16-17

This is the primary way God speaks to us... Whatever you need, go to the Word!

2. GOD SPEAKS THROUGH GIFTED TEACHERS WHOSE SOURCE IS THE BIBLE

"We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully." Romans 12:6-8

God speaks to us through people, gifted men and women He's called to teach us. Make sure they have a living relationship with God and that their life speaks of wisdom.

3. GOD SPEAKS TO US THROUGH DIFFICULTIES

"Before I was afflicted I went astray, but now I obey your word. You are good, and what you do is good; teach me your decrees." Psalm 119:67-68

Many times hardships is where we learn something.

Testimony: Journey with trailer

Sometimes things go wrong and we don't understand, but if we wait a bit we will see how good God is.

4. GOD SPEAKS THROUGH THE HOLY SPIRIT

"But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you." John 14:26

Holy Spirit is our Comforter, friend and counsellor. He will speak to you and give you direction if you allow Him to.

5. GOD SPEAKS THROUGH HIS CREATION

"The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they reveal knowledge." Psalm 19:1-2

The skies pour forth speech!

Testimony: Sunrise.

Don't get so busy with everything else around you. Take time to let God speak to us through His creation.

6. GOD SPEAKS THROUGH WHATEVER OR WHOMEVER HE CHOOSES, BUT NEVER IN DISAGREEMENT WITH THE BIBLE

"For God does speak - now one way, now another - though no one perceives it" Job 33:14

CAN ANYTHING KEEP US FROM HEARING GOD?

Wrong attitudes, resentment, or unconfessed sins can create distance in our relationship with God. When this happens, confession and repentance will bring us back into a close relationship where we can hear from God again.

Think about times when God spoke to you through nature, circumstance, trials or people.

If our relationship is not solid, communication suffers.

IN SUMMARY, GOD SPEAKS TO US THROUGH:

- WORD
- WISDOM
- WHISPER

IN CONCLUSION, TO HEAR GOD T-A-L-K:

T - Time

Slow down. Pause. Take that drive/ that moment/ go into your "prayer closet"

A - Attention

Be attentive/sensitive to what He is saying to you. Find out what He wants to show you/say to you.

L - Listen and Learn

Listen and look to see what He want to show you or tell you.

K - Knowledge

We need knowledge of God. If you don't know who He is, that He loves you, guides you counsels you, etc. it will be difficult to hear him.

If you're not hearing Him, there could be some distance, unresolved matters or sin in your life:

1. Accept His salvation. Jesus' blood was shed to take all sin away.
 2. How loud is our own voice? It may be so loud that you don't hear Him. If you're making decisions that don't have His rubber stamp on, you're in trouble.
 3. Maybe you're not paying attention. Stop and listen.
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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. How does God speak to you? Share with the group.
2. God primarily speaks to us through His Word. Share how this works in your life. How do you "Go to the Word" when you have a need?
3. To hear God, we need T-A-L-K (Time – Attention – Listen and Learn – Knowledge). How does this apply to you?
4. Are there unresolved matters between you and God? Is your voice so loud that you can't hear His? Find someone who walks with Him, whose life speaks of wisdom, to help you.