



Does God Speak to Me, Today?

▶ Introduction:

- I. You might have come across someone that indicates that the Lord speaks with them directly today.
 - A. Just recently I saw an e-book entitled: "Four Keys to Hearing God's Voice." (by Mark and Patti Virkler)
 1. In the description of this book it states: "Wouldn't it be wonderful to move beyond having a theology that states that God loves you to actually hearing Him whisper words of love into your heart?" (Communion With God Ministries, <http://www.cwgministries.org/store/4-keys-hearing-gods-voice-ebook?gclid=CKDJoPWluMcCFYUXHwodSq0NXg>)
 2. In the introduction it states that "all Christians can do it! You can do it! Jesus promised, "My sheep hear My voice" (John 10:27). So you can hear His voice." (Four Keys to Hearing God's Voice, page 13)
 3. In the opening chapter the authors state: "From Genesis to Revelation, people heard God's voice and saw visions. I wanted that, too! What I didn't know at the time was that this hunger to know God had been placed in my heart by the Holy Spirit, and that God fully intended to satisfy this passion." (Four Keys to Hearing God's Voice, page 17)

- ▶ B. The book of Hebrews summarizes the methods of how Deity communicated to man.

Hebrews 1:1-2

"God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets,
has in these last days spoken to us by His Son,..."

1. So indeed in the past God communicated to various individuals, **not everyone**, but the fathers and prophets through dreams, visions, angels, and even speaking directly to some.
 - a. God spoke with Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. (Genesis 3:8-13)
 - b. God spoke to Abraham and several of the other Patriarchs, including Moses.
 - c. And we know that God spoke through the prophets of the Old Testament.

2. Wayne Jackson wrote: “Since the book of Hebrews presents a contrast between Jehovah’s revelatory methods of the past (embracing both Patriarchal and Mosaic ages), and his mode of communication in this age, it follows naturally that the inspired writer is affirming that today (in this final dispensation of time), the Lord is not speaking by dreams, visions, etc., but exclusively by means of Christ through the New Covenant Scriptures.” (Christian Courier, <https://www.christiancourier.com/articles/595-does-god-speak-directly-to-man-today>)

3. Jackson offers scriptural evidence to support this conclusion:
 - a. In the Lord’s teaching He stressed not direct communication from God but rather guidance through His teaching. (John 6:63) Plus, The Lord taught that ultimately His message would be conveyed through the Apostles and other inspired individuals. (Luke 10:16; Matthew 10:19-20; Acts 2:42)
 - b. Paul taught that the noble people of Berea wanted to know the Truth regarding the new covenant, however they did not wait for the inner voice of God but rather they examined the Scriptures. (Acts 17:11)
 - c. Paul affirmed that by studying the Scriptures then one would have all they need for teaching, conviction, correction, and instruction in righteous providing the Christian with completeness and ready for every good work. (II Timothy 3:16-17)
 - d. And Jude acclaims that the Gospel was “once for all delivered” (Jude 3) meaning “once for all time” therefore there is no need for direct communication from God today!

- II. So from the Bible we recognize that God does not directly speak with individuals today!
 - A. However God does use other means to speak to us.
 - B. This morning we are going to examine some of the way in which God speaks to us today!

Discussion:

- ▶ I. God speaks to us through His creation!
 - A. It has always interested me that the evolutionists constantly search the universe for signs of our evolutionary beginnings, when if they truly observed the universe and all its glories that they would see and hear God.
 - B. The Psalmist of the Old Testament related that the heavens and universe speak of God.

Psalm 19:1-2
“The heavens declare the glory of God;
And the firmament shows His handiwork.
Day unto day utters speech,
And night unto night reveals knowledge.
There is no speech nor language
Where their voice is not heard.
Their line has gone out through all the earth,
And their words to the end of the world.”
 - 1. The universe reveals God’s glory and handiwork.
 - ▶ 2. Paul relates similar thoughts that we also understand God’s eternal power and divine nature from observance of the universe. (Romans 1:19-20)
 - ▶ 3. The universe displays a marvelous and very meticulous design that demonstrates a magnificent designer.
 - C. Yet, to we truly listen to the wonders and certainty of what God’s creation teaches us?

1. David must have taken the time to observe everything and he had a deep admiration for the creation that God has set before us.

Psalm 8:3

“When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers,
The moon and the stars, which You have ordained,

Psalm 104:24-25

“O LORD, how manifold are Your works!
In wisdom You have made them all.
The earth is full of Your possessions—
This great and wide sea,
In which are innumerable teeming things,
Living things both small and great.”

Psalm 139:14

“I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made;
Marvelous are Your works,
And that my soul knows very well.”

2. If we but open our eyes to the very world around us then we would truly come to an understanding our Almighty God!

D. Indeed, through God’s creation we hear His say: “I AM! I Exist!”

- a. Yet, this alone does not help us to understand what this supreme Being desires of us!
- b. What does God want me to know and to do?

▶ II. To understand God’s desires for us then we turn to His written Word through which Deity speaks to us!

A. In our introduction to this lesson we mentioned a few thoughts concerning the Word of God, indeed God speaks to us through His written Word!

1. The Word of God is designed to produce faith in God!

Romans 10:17

“So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”

▶ 2. Yet, God did not just provide a written Message for us without proof that it indeed is from Him.

- a. God provided prophecies within His Word that have been fulfilled to exacting detail. Only an all knowing, eternal God would have been able to foretell of future events and happenings.
- b. The Bible also presents eyewitness testimony of Christ and His life upon the earth.

Acts 10:39-42

“And we are witnesses of all things which He did both in the land of the Jews and in Jerusalem, whom they killed by hanging on a tree.

Him God raised up on the third day, and showed Him openly, not to all the people, but to witnesses chosen before by God, even to us who ate and drank with Him after He arose from the dead.

And He commanded us to preach to the people, and to testify that it is He who was ordained by God to be Judge of the living and the dead.”

- c. We could study the ancient manuscripts and see the evidence that attests to the Bible authenticity. Do you realize that there no other manuscripts that surpass the amount and the accuracy of the Bible manuscript.
- d. It is interesting to notice that God’s Word has spread to every nation and translated into virtually every language; so that everyone can come to know God’s Message.

Romans 10:17-18

“So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

But I say, have they not heard? Yes indeed:

Their sound has gone out to all the earth,

And their words to the ends of the world.”

- 3. Through God’s Word we are to follow God’s directive: “This is my beloved Son, hear Him!” (Matthew 9:7)



B. So, how well do we listen to God speak to us through His Word?

- 1. Do we take seriously the importance of our Bibles by taking the time to not just read it but to study it?
 - a. David indicated that God’s Word is of extreme importance to those that will listen to it!

Psalm 19:10-11

“More to be desired are they than gold,
Yea, than much fine gold;
Sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb.
Moreover by them Your servant is warned,
And in keeping them there is great reward.”

Psalm 119:105-106

“Your word is a lamp to my feet
And a light to my path.
I have sworn and confirmed
That I will keep Your righteous judgments.”

b. Someone recently reminded me that of the written Word of God all that David had during his time was the first five books of the Old Testament, the Pentateuch.

2. Today, we have the completed revelation of God for all ages are we taking advantage of it and allowing it to produce our spiritual faith?

John 20:30-31

“And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.”

C. God speaks to us through nature relating that He exists, He speaks to us through His Word that has been graciously given to us, and His Word relates to us about Christ in whom we are to believe!

▶ III. This lead us to another way in which God speaks to us, He speaks to us through His Son!

A. It is through Jesus Christ that God manifest Himself to the fullest!

Hebrews 1:2-3

“has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds;
who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,”

John 1:14-18

“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. John bore witness of Him and cried out, saying, “This was He of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me is preferred before me, for He was before me.’” And of His fullness we have all received, and grace for grace. For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.”

1. Jesus’ life, His teaching, His death, and His resurrection changed all history!
2. Through His Son God says: “This is who I AM, this is what I desire of you.”
3. Jesus revealed the completely will and plan of Deity to restore man from their sins and back to a righteous relationship.
4. Therefore it is only through Jesus Christ that we come to understand God and His plan, it is only through Christ that we can find an answer our sins!



B. So, are you listening to Christ?

1. Do we listen to Christ and what He reveal about God?

John 14:6-9

“Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; and from now on you know Him and have seen Him.”

Philip said to Him, “Lord, show us the Father, and it is sufficient for us.”

Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, ‘Show us the Father’?”

2. Do we listen to Jesus when He offers warnings concerning our eternal life?

Matthew 7:13-14, 21-22

“Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it.

Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.”

Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.

Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?'"

3. Jesus even stated on several occasions strongly related to those around Him, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear!" (Mark 4:9)
4. If we do not listen to Jesus then we are rejecting the very one that has the words of eternal life.
 - a. When Christ was on the earth, many of His followers turned away from Him and He asked His Apostles if they were going to abandon Him as well.
 - b. Peter offers the correct answer!

John 6:67-69

"Then Jesus said to the twelve, "Do you also want to go away?" But Simon Peter answered Him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.

Also we have come to believe and know that You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.""

▶ IV. God also speaks to us today through His faithful followers!

A. God's voice is strongly heard when His servants faithful present His Word!

1. Jesus presented to His Apostles the Great Commission and as part of their command we in turn are commissioned to do the same.

Matthew 28:19-20

"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen."

Mark 16:15-16

"And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned."

2. We have an absolutely awesome responsibility! We have the obligation to teach others, the Message of Christ!

I Peter 2:9

“But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may **proclaim** the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;”



3. The Bible also teaches us that our actions will also loudly proclaim God.

a. As His people our love and our unity speak powerful messages to this world.

John 13:34-35

“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another.

By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”

John 17:21-23

“that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me.

And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one:

I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me.”

b. Through us, God’s children, God tells the world: “I love you, I sent My Son to Save You, and make you One with Me!”



B. Are you listening to those that are faithful servants of God?

1. Paul relates the importance of preaching but also the importance of listening as the Word is preached.

Romans 10:14

“How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?

And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written:

“How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, Who bring glad tidings of good things!””

2. On the Day of Pentecost many were listening to Peter; are you willing to listen as they did? They listened to the point that they were touched in their hearts and motivated to ask: "What shall we do?" (Acts 2:37)
3. Peter taught them the will of God, the Message of Christ, I hope that you are willing to continue to listen the Lord's Message.

▶ Conclusion:

- I. God does speak to us today! However, Deity does not speak to us directly.
 - A. God speaks to us through His Creation.
 - B. God speaks to us through His Word.
 - C. God speaks to us through His Son.
 - D. God speaks to us through His faithful followers.

▶ II. Are you listening?

- A. The Lord's Message is that He came to this earth and lived a perfect life so that He could be the perfect sacrifice for us. His divine blood was shed for us, which demonstrates His love, mercy and grace.
- B. However we must respond to such love and grace through our faith and obedience.
 1. We must believe or have faith in Christ and His gracious sacrifice for us. (Hebrews 11:6)
 2. We must repent of our sins, changing from a lifestyle of sin to a life filled with righteousness. (Acts 3:19)
 3. We must confess or profess to others our commitment and complete devotion to Christ. (Matthew 10:32; Romans 10:9-10)
 4. And we must be buried in water, immersed or baptized, which is the Lord's command and when His blood covers our sins. (Matthew 28:18-19; Mark 16:15-16; I Peter 3:21)

- 5. Are you listening to the Lord, have you obeyed His commands to receive the grace that He offers?
- C. If you are a child of God's yet fallen back into the snare of sin. Listen to the Lord and know that He will forgive you through faithful repentance. (1 John 1:5-10)
- D. If we can assist you today in listening and obeying God, then come as we together stand and sing!