

How Does God Speak To Us?

Developing a Conversational Relationship With God

Guidelines For Talking With God

1. Love God with all your being
2. Mere Humans can talk with god
3. God has given us a living examples of what our relationship with Him is like
4. Hearing from God does not make us righteous

How does God Speak to Us?

- God addresses us in various ways
 - Dreams, visions, voices, the Bible, extraordinary events
- God can and does sometimes direct us by the “opening” and “closing” of “doors” in His sovereign will, but He can and does also guide us by addressing US.
- In terms of importance, the Written Word and Jesus, the Living Word, are the final authority, but the “still, small voice” will have a great role in our lives.

What is the Still Small Voice?

- **1 Sam. 3:8-9** – Samuel learns to recognize God's voice
- **1 Kings 19:11-13** – Elijah sees the power of God, but learns He speaks quietly
- It can be translated –“a gentle whisper of a voice” or “a gentle whispering” or known as the inner voice
- It is unremarkable, inconspicuous, unassuming
- It is this still, small voice that is the preferred and valuable form of individual communication for God.

What is the Still Small Voice?

- In the still, small voice of God we are given a message that bears the stamp of God's personality that we will learn to recognize.
- The method is diminished almost to the vanishing point, taking the form of thoughts that are not our thoughts, though these thoughts are not from us
- Prov.20:27- "The spirit of man is the lamp of the LORD, searching all the innermost parts of his being." NASB

Seeking God

- **To understand the importance of the inner voice we must contrast it with the other ways God has spoken**
- **Read the Bible as if this was happening to us. Most think these marvelous things only happen to others. These people tell us they were people just like us.**
- **God will not run us over. Ask, Seek, Knock!**
 - **Moses - the bush, Samuel - the voice, Peter – the sheet**

How Has God Spoken?

- 1. A Phenomenon plus a voice**
 - Abraham Gen. 15:17-18; Moses – Ex.3:3-6, Sinai – Ex.20; Jesus Baptism – Matt.3:17; Saul – Acts 9:3-8
- 2. Angels – Abraham- Gen.18; Lot - Gen.19; Joshua – Josh.5; parents of Samson- Judges 6; Daniel Dan.9; Mary, Joseph, Zechariah, Peter, Paul. These were encountered in a normal state of mind**
- 3. Dreams and Visions – Both involve some degree of trancelike condition. Sets them apart from waking consciousness – Paul –Acts.16:9; Peter Acts 10:9**

How Has God Spoken?

- Dreams generally require more interpretation than visions and visions usually in a clearer consciousness
- 4. An audible voice – Gen.22:11, 1Sam.3:9, Acts 10
- 5. The human voice – God clearly using the voice of a human, speaking along with them.
 - Not mechanical like a telephone, but in union with the human voice.
 - My brother, board members, Breakforth, Authors
 - This method of God speaking would also include the Bible

How Has God Spoken?

- **2Pet.1:21** - 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.
- **God often chooses weaker vessels for His purpose – Moses – Ex.4; Paul** - When I came to you, I did not come with lofty speech or wisdom. I was with you in weakness and in fear and much trembling, and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God. **1Cor.2:1-5**

How Has God Spoken To You?

- **Acts 4:13** – Religious leaders recognized Peter and John were uneducated, common men, but they had been with Jesus.
- They were people just like you and me.
- How has God spoken to you?
- God invites you into a conversational relationship with Himself. Will you join Him?
- Next week we will look at hearing the Inner voice, the Still, Small Voice of God.