

EXPERIENCING GOD



How to Know & Do God's Will

A SPIRITUAL GROWTH SERIES PRESENTED BY GT CHURCH, VANCOUVER
(CREDIT AND INSPIRATION TO HENRY & RICHARD BLACKABY)

WEEK 6: GOD SPEAKS, I LISTEN

God speaks by the Holy Spirit through the Bible, prayer, circumstances and the church to reveal Himself, His purposes, and His ways.

Memory Verse for the week:

"Whoever is of God hears the words of God. The reason why you do not hear them is that you are not of God." John 8:47 ESV

How God spoke to His people in the Old Testament

The fact that God spoke to His people is far more important than how He spoke. In the Old Testament period, people knew two things when God spoke: 1) that it was God and 2) what He was saying. Read Genesis 16, 15, & 28:10-19, Exodus 8:20-25, and 1 Kings 19:12

- b. How many different ways do you see God speaking?
- c. What was God saying? How did the people respond?

God speaks by the Holy Spirit

Starting with the book of Acts, God mostly speaks by the Holy Spirit. Jesus told us upon His departure that He would send the Holy Spirit as a Counsellor (John 14:16), Comforter, Helper, Teacher (John 14:26); and Revealer of Truth (John 16:13). We can understand spiritual truth because the Holy Spirit is working in our lives.

The Holy Spirit communicates to us.

- a. **Bible** (2 Timothy 3:16). "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work".
- b. **Prayer/Revelation/Visions** (1 Thess. 5:17, Eph. 1:17). Prayer is an ongoing conversation we have with God. The Holy Spirit will strive to lay God's heart over ours so we grasp His perspective on our situation and the amazing work He intends to do.
- d. **The Church** (1 Cor. 12:12-30, Proverbs 11:14). When you encounter another Christian, you have the possibility of hearing the Holy Spirit. A multitude of gifts reside in Christian brethren and leaders from Wisdom to Prophecy and often just wise counsel.
- c. **Circumstances** (Acts 18:1-3). God is an expert at engineering and turning circumstances to provide direction and answers. Remember, God is at work around you.
- d. **Peace/Confirmation** (Phil. 4:6-7, Matt. 18:16). Peace is a sign of the presence of the Holy Spirit and often is the confirmation of what is being communicated by other methods.

Questions to Meditate on.

What are some ways God has spoken to you? How did you know it was God?
What are some other ways God can also speak to you drawing from the list above?

