

## **WAYS IN WHICH GOD SPEAK (Session 2)**

**By Abri Brancken – 11 Dec 2016**

Our creative God is not limited to one form of communication. The Bible is filled with accounts of God speaking to individuals, to families, and to nations. God speaks to all men through creation (Romans 1:18–20 and Psalm 19:1–2)

“God spoke unto Noah, saying” (Genesis 8:15).

“The Lord had said unto Abram ...” (Genesis 12:1).

“The Lord said unto Moses ...” (Exodus 24:12).

“Then came the word of the Lord to Isaiah ...” (Isaiah 38:4).

God still speaks to us today. Here are some of the ways in which God speaks.

### **Jesus Christ**

God Spoke to Us Through His Son. When Jesus was on the earth, God spoke to us through Him, and when Jesus returned to the Father, the Holy Spirit was sent to lead us into all truth—to be our “communicator” from God. (See Matthew 10:18–20; John 14:26, 16:7–8, 13; Romans 8:26; I Corinthians 2:9–16; and Acts 8:29, 13:2.)

### **Holy Spirit**

The Holy Spirit also communicates with us, just like He did in Biblical times.

### **Paul**

Acts 16.6-7 And they went through the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia. And when they had come up to Mysia, they attempted to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus did not allow them.

The question is, how does the Father, Son and Holy Spirit communicate with us?

### **Ways in which God speak:**

#### **1. Scriptures (Bible):**

God's Word is alive.

2Ti 3:16 Every scripture inspired of God is also profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for instruction which is in righteousness.

Sometimes a verse in the Bible can “jump” out at us. Often that is God trying to tell us something. When the devil tempted Jesus in the wilderness, Jesus responded to the devil's temptations by quoting truth from God's Word. (See Matthew 4:1–11).

#### **2. Audible Voice:**

Here are some examples of God possibly speaking in an audible way.

**Samuel** - God spoke to the boy Samuel (1 Sam 3)

#### **Moses**

Exodus 33.11 Thus the LORD used to speak to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend.

Num. 12.6-8 And he said, "Hear my words: If there is a prophet among you, I the LORD make myself known to him in a vision; I speak with him in a dream. Not so with my servant Moses. He is faithful in all my house. With him I speak mouth to mouth, clearly, and not in riddles, and he beholds the form of the LORD. Why then were you not afraid to speak against my servant Moses?"

**3. In your spirit:**

You are spirit and sometimes God communicates with you by speaking to your spirit. To me personally, God often communicates in this way.

**4. Visions, or pictures:**

**Jeremiah**

Jer. 1.11-13 And the word of the LORD came to me, saying, "Jeremiah, what do you see?" And I said, "I see a rod of almond." Then the LORD said to me, "You have seen well, for I am watching over my word to perform it." The word of the LORD came to me a second time, saying, "What do you see?" And I said, "I see a boiling pot, facing away from the north."

**Zechariah**

Zech. 4.2 And he said to me, "What do you see?" I said, "I see, and behold, a lampstand all of gold, with a bowl on the top of it, and seven lamps on it, with seven lips on each of the lamps which are on the top of it."

**5. Dreams:**

For example, Joseph in Egypt. Also, Joseph, Mary's husband.

Mat 2:13 Now when they were departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeareth to Joseph in a dream, saying, Arise and take the young child and his mother, and flee into Egypt, and be thou there until I tell thee: for Herod will seek the young child to destroy him.

Num. 12.6 And he said, "Hear my words: If there is a prophet among you, I the LORD make myself known to him in a vision, I speak with him in a dream."

Acts 2.15-18 (Joel 2.28-32) For these men are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day. But this is what was uttered through the prophet Joel: "'And in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams; even on my male servants and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit, and they shall prophesy.'"

**6. Circumstances:**

Sometimes God orchestrate situations to guide you.

**7. Things in our everyday life:**

e.g. Parables, Prophets illustrations (Ezekiel) yoke on him; Hosea had to marry a prostitute, etc. You can even read a book and suddenly realise something important or discover a truth.

## **8. Nature**

Romans 1:20 - For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:

## **9. Open spiritual eyes**

2 Kings 6:16-17 - So he answered, "Do not fear, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them." Then Elisha prayed and said, "O LORD, I pray, open his eyes that he may see." And the LORD opened the servant's eyes and he saw; and behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.

The Lord has opened my eyes many times to see things hidden from the natural eyes.

## **10. Messengers (angels or people)**

### **Nathan:**

2 Sam. 12:1-15, 25 and sent a message by Nathan the prophet; so he called his name Jedidiah, because of the LORD.

### **Agabus:**

Acts 11:28 And one of them named Agabus stood up and foretold by the Spirit that there would be a great famine over all the world; and this took place in the days of Claudius.;

Acts 21:10-11 While we were staying for many days, a prophet named Agabus came down from Judea. And coming to us, he took Paul's belt and bound his own feet and hands and said, "Thus says the Holy Spirit, 'This is how the Jews at Jerusalem will bind the man who owns this belt and deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles.'"

### **Angels:**

Angels announced Jesus' birth as well as the birth of John the Baptist. An angel also spoke to Daniel & also to John (the book of Revelation)

Rev 1:1 The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show unto his servants, even the things which must shortly come to pass: and he sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John;

## **11. Peace & prophetic witness:**

Let the peace of God guide you.

Acts 15:28 For it has seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us to lay on you no greater burden than these requirements:

Rom. 8:16 it is the Spirit himself bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God

## **12. Sometimes God speaks by not speaking:**

Sometimes we know what the right thing is to do, but we don't do it. It does not help to keep on asking God to speak to you if you don't obey what He has already said.

### **Tips in hearing God's voice:**

- Expect God to speak
- Develop an attentive spirit e.g. Ps 119:164 the Psalmist prayed 7 times a day & made a vow of worship to the LORD. The prophet Daniel prayed 3 times a day.
- Learn to know His voice – spend time with Him. “My sheep hear my voice”
- Obey when He speaks
- Ask the Holy Spirit to help you hear or see when God is speaking to you.
- Exercise your hearing and seeing ability, don't stop.
- Don't let mistakes discourage you.

GROW IN YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE LORD