



Listen

Joy! Church | 5.15.2022

We love you. Yes, you

Scriptures founding today's message

- Matthew 13:1-23 (Mark 4). John 12:20-41. Acts 28:17-27
John 10:7-30

Note: In each case above the speaker cites Isaiah 6:9-10. Who is speaking? Who is he speaking to? Where did this occur? What was the culture? What was the situation?

- Isaiah 6:1-10; all of Chapter 55. *Jesus fulfilled all*
- Proverbs 3:13 thru 5:1; 8:1 thru 9:6; 18:13; 20:12 (and more)
- Revelation 2:7, 11, 17, 29; 3:6, 13, 20, 22; 13:9

Just wondering

God spoke to lots of people in the past: Men, women, children, prenatal infants, etc. in the Bible—both Testaments.

He even spoke to animals and plants and natural stuff.

We hear people say, “God said...”; “God spoke to me and...”; “God told me...”

Does God really speak to people still?

Has God ever communicated directly with you?

If so, how?

What was the outcome?

Some ways God spoke back then

1. Circumstances (Jonah)
2. Counsel (Proverbs, people, wise / trusted counsel)
3. Peace (Philippians 4:6-10, Colossians 3:15)
4. People (Acts 21:10-11)
5. Dreams & visions (Salomon-1st Kings 3; Peter-Acts 10; Joseph-Gen. 37-41, Matthew 1:20 John-Book of Revelation)
6. Thoughts (Paul, Jacob, Joseph)
7. Natural manifestations (1st Kings 19; many others) – thunder, wind, flood, etc.
8. Supernatural manifestations (Balaam’s donkey, Numbers 21 & 22; Philip, Acts 8:26-40, John 20)
9. Scripture (Romans 10:17)
10. Whisper (Elijah, 1st Kings 19)

10 ways our God speaks still

He's ever present. He's available. He's good.

- Scripture (*Partner with Holy Spirit*)
- Holy Spirit
 - Audibly
 - Nudge
 - Knowing
 - Peace
 - Discerning
- Physical senses
 - Sight
 - Sound
 - Smell
 - Taste
 - Touch
- Dreams, visions, trances
- Thoughts unbidden
- People
 - Spouse
 - Family
 - Friend
 - Teacher / preacher / presenter
 - Prophecy
 - Word of knowledge, word of wisdom
- Signs and semiotics
- Circumstances
- Patterns
- Creation: Nature, art, music, design

Source: self, satan or Spirit?

Is it me? Is it false prophecy? Is it authentic prophecy?

1. Test the thought's origin
 - *Did it come from self or other? Chain, train, tangential? Or spontaneous?*
 - *If other (spontaneous): Did it bubble up or boil up?*
2. Test against baselines and plumb lines
 - *Compare to scripture, biblical principles, Kingdom dynamics*
 - *Compare to biblical names of God and character of God*
3. What's the fruit and fuel within? *What was birthed, what was fed?*
 - *Faith? Love? Peace? Joy? Humility? Vitality? Vigor?*
 - *Confusion? Anxiety? Fear? Doubt? Ego/self-promotion? Ugh? Retreat?*
4. Test with spiritual counselors or trustworthy others

Calls to Action

THIS week

- Devote one solid hour dedicated to solitude and silence
- Intentionally notice and log at least 3 occasions when God speaks to you
- Act on them (thank, praise, pray, say, get ready, do, prophesy, etc.)

Are you led to dive deeper? Here are some really good books:

1. *The Power of a Whisper: Hearing God, Having the Guts to Respond*
~ Bill Hybels
2. *Hearing God: Developing a Conversational Relationship with God*
~ Dallas Willard
3. *How To Hear God's Voice* ~ Mark Virkler