

Can You Hear Me Now?

Message Two How God Talks to Us

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Because God is God, he can communicate any way he wants. Many of the ways God spoke in the Bible are quite spectacular. Some of them are pretty bizarre. Some seem very ordinary.

The key thought guiding this message is found in Job 33:14, *God speaks in different ways, but we don't always recognize his voice.* (CEV) Today, I want to look at five ways God speaks to us.

GOD SPEAKS THROUGH THE BIBLE.

The Bible doesn't simply "contain" the Word of God; it **is** the Word of God.

2 Timothy 2:16, Everything in the Scriptures is God's Word. All of it is useful for teaching and helping people and for correcting them and showing them how to live. (CEV)

Think of the Bible as a **flashlight** for your life.

Psalm 119:105 By your words I can see where I'm going; they throw a beam of light on my dark path. (Msg)

GOD SPEAKS THROUGH OTHER PEOPLE.

God has graciously given us gifted **teachers**.

Ephesians 4:11-12, *Christ chose some of us to be apostles, prophets, missionaries, pastors, and teachers, so that his people would learn to serve and his body would grow strong.* (CEV)

God speaks to us through **godly friends and family**.

Proverbs 12:26, *The godly give good advice to their friends.*

Proverbs 12:15, *Stupid people always think they are right. Wise people listen to the advise of others.* (TEV)

GOD SPEAKS THROUGH IMPRESSIONS FROM THE HOLY SPIRIT.

The Holy Spirit is a **life coach**.

John 14:26, *The Holy Spirit...will be your teacher and will bring to your mind all I have said to you.* (Ph)

Romans 8:16, *For his Holy Spirit speaks to us deep in our hearts and tells us that we are God's children.* (NLT)

We must learn how to handle the tension between **skepticism** and **mysticism**.

GOD SPEAKS THROUGH SUPERNATURAL EXPRESSIONS.

God speaks through **divinely inspired** speech.

Acts 13:2, *One day as these men were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Dedicate Barnabas and Saul for the special work I have for them."* (NLT)

1 Corinthians 14:3, *One who prophesies is helping others grow in the Lord, encouraging and comforting them.* (NLT)

We are commanded to **closely examine** these expressions.

1 John 4:1, *Dear friends, do not believe everyone who claims to speak by the Spirit. You must test them to see if the spirit they have comes from God. For there are many false prophets in the world.* (NLT)

GOD SPEAKS THROUGH SILENCE.

Sometimes God speaks by saying **nothing**.

When God is silent, remember **he is in control**.

Job 34:29, *If God is silent, what's that to you? If he turns his face away, what can you do about it? But whether silent or hidden, he's there, ruling.* (Msg)

When God is silent, **wait in hope**.

Romans 8:25-26, *If we hope for what we don't see, we wait for it with patience...The Spirit also comes to help us...For we do not know how we ought to pray; the Spirit pleads with God for us in groans we cannot express.*

Hebrews 10:37-38, *For in a very little while, the Coming One will come and He will not delay. But the just shall live by faith.* (AMP)