

Ways God Speaks Today

1. Listening to God through the Bible.

- A. God's foremost way today at communicating with us.
- B. The complete revelation of God.
 - 1. Matt. 5:17 – Jesus came for our life's example to live out God's plan for us.
- C. Old Testament – We have God's Law and Commands. We have examples about the:
 - 1. Nature of God
 - 2. Nature of People
 - 3. Nature of relationship God desires with His people
- D. New Testament – God gave His Son and Holy Spirit
 - 1. To live out God's plan for us
 - 2. Becoming our role model, mentor and Savior
 - 3. Holy Spirit enables us to live a life fully pleasing to God
 - 4. A life that goes beyond law because it is based on the Spirit of God's Law not the letter of the law. Grace up's the standard of righteousness
 - a) Matt. 5:21 – act of murder/ unjust anger
 - b) Matt.5:27 – act of adultery/ looking – lusting
 - c) Matt.12:31 & Lev. 24:16 – Blasphemy of Holy Spirit
- E. Ask boldly for God to speak to you through His Word and give you wisdom. James 1:5-6
 - 1. Lord may direct your mind to a particular scripture or word – Nave's Topical Bible
 - 2. God may lead step by step through information that will lead to new spiritual insight.
 - 3. Eventually, you will come to the scripture, a passage or even a single verse or word that is directly related to our concern.
 - a) In specific experience
 - b) Principle
 - c) Concept
 - 4. The single word, verse or verses will stand out on Bold headlines.
 - a) Can't shake it from memory
 - b) Comes repeatedly to your mind.
- F. DO NOT limit your search of God's Word to times of crisis or need.
 - 1. Preventative spiritual **health care** – Word of the Day!
 - 2. Daily reading, God refines us bit by bit transforming our thought

3. When we “store” God’s Word in our memory, the Holy Spirit can bring it to remembrance.

G. When we face a difficult situation or problem for which we have no answer, go to God’s Word first. Matt. 7:7, Josh. 1:7-8

2. **Listening to the Holy Spirit**

A. The Bible teaches us that the Holy Spirit reminds us of what God has said to us and done for us. (John 15:26-27). Jesus said the Holy Spirit would testify of Him.

1. Ask the Holy Spirit to remind you continually about what Jesus would be, say and do. Col.2:1-3

B. The Holy Spirit gives us words to say.

1. We can trust God to provide words for us just as surely as we can trust God to meet our other needs. Luke 12:11-12

C. The Holy Spirit gives us direction about where to go.

1. We can trust the Holy Spirit to point us in the right direction. Acts 16:6-7

D. The Holy Spirit guides our prayers.

1. Romans 8:26-27 – When we don’t know how.

2. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide our prayers.

a) Wait in silence – Slow down

b) May be surprised at the things He prompts us to pray.

3 **Listening to the Word through other Believers**

A. God will use people to speak to us.

1. Words of comfort – counsel – admonition

2. Through strangers, friends, family, pastors, teachers, etc.

B. As you open yourself up to hear God’s Word from other people make certain of 4 items.

1. The word given to you is in total alignment with God’s written Word.

2. The person has no ulterior personal motive.

a) Isn’t trying to manipulate you for their purpose and gives all praise and thanksgiving to the Lord and not themselves.

3. The word does not include something that might harm another person.

a) Any advice that will damage or destroy another person’s reputation, property, relationships, or spiritual growth is ungodly counsel.

4. The word is for our ultimate and eternal good, at times this may not be seen

at first.

- a) God does not deal in short-term gains with long-term disasters. His Word is always consistent over time.
- b) Any advice that seems to bring a great immediate blessing but carries the risk of long-range detriment – REFUSE IT, It is not Godly counsel. If we do not have “ears to hear” discerning this is impossible.

C. Listening for two or more witnesses to confirm His Word.

- 1. He may direct you to two or more passages of the Bible that convey the same meaning.
- 2. He may cause you to hear a sermon or Bible lesson right in line with what He has said to us. In His Word or convicting us in our Spirit.
- 3. He may bring a total stranger across our path to speak a word that’s amazingly on target, even a single line or word from a movie or program.
- 4. He may us a friend to speak to us directly or with a verse of scripture.

These multiple messages are God’s assurance plan that He is the One who is speaking and desires we get the message without question.

If you have ever stuck your head out of a car window going 60mph, you know you can’t even hear what the person sitting beside you is saying. If you choose not to slow yourself down in order “to hear”: Don’t complain about where you are!