

God wants to communicate Himself

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- God has never been silent
- There was communication between the three persons in the Godhead before creation
- He speaks in the universe, Psalm 19
- He speaks through creation
- He reveals Himself through the Word, in the Bible. The Word, the 2nd person of the Godhead, expresses the mind of God.

God also wants to share His good ideas with man/us

- God took the initiative to communicate with man.
- He desires us to speak with Him
- Do we want a relationship with Him? Then>>>we need to know about the ways He expresses Himself.
- God speaks in many ways,
- Elihu in Job 33:14 "God may speak in one way, or in another, yet man does not perceive it....."
- Jesus: "My sheep listen to my voice", in John 10:27

Hearing God's voice

- Can we hear His voice?
- Can we understand His messages

And

- Can we discern between His voice and the voice of the enemy?
- Because we are involved in a spiritual battle 24/7 we need to be able to hear His voice, and to recognize His voice.

Ways God communicates

- 1a- With an audible voice. Adam-Eve, Cain, Noah, Abraham, Jacob, Moses, Joshua, Samuel, David. the true prophets, Saul (Paul), John
 - Also in our time it happened
 - 1b.-With a voice in visions, Ezekiel, Daniel, John on Patmos, Peter.
 - With a voice in dreams, Salomon, Joseph the carpenter
- Jesus is the Word
- God spoke through the mouth of, true, prophets.
 - Jesus is the Word, John 1:1,2

•-Jesus speaks in the Old Testament, see Isaiah 49, Psalm 22

• Jesus WAS the voice of God the disciples could hear.

•-In analogies, parables Jesus taught about spiritual truths. He bridged the seen with the unseen.

The Bible is God's self-revelation

•-Rom 16:26: *'...the preaching of Jesus Christ,... now is made manifest, and by the scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, made known to all nations for the obedience of faith...'*

•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 is the purpose of the Word of God. It is the ultimate source of insight and truth.

God can give us messages in other ways

•-Job 33:14, 15 : *'For God does speak, now one way, now another though man may not perceive it .. In a dream, in a vision of the night, when deep sleep falls upon men, as they slumber upon the bed;*

•-He can give a dream, without a voice. *E.g. Joseph, the son of Jacob;*

•The pagan Farao and the pagan Nebuchadnezzar.

•Numbers 12: 6-8 : *'If there be a prophet among you, I the LORD will make myself known unto him in a vision, and will speak unto him in a dream. 7 My servant Moses is not so, who is faithful in all mine house. 8 With him will I speak mouth to mouth, even apparently, and not in dark speeches;'*

The Holy Spirit urges us

•God urges us through the Holy Spirit See John. 16: 8,13-15

•and Ezek. 26:27: *And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them.*

•-2Peter 1:21: 21 The prophets did not think these things up on their own, but they were guided by the Spirit of God.

•1 Cor. 12: 7-11:

•-God can speak to us through the Holy Spirit in other people

God's guidance in situations the Bible did not touch upon

Man: -spirit

-soul

-body

God can speak into our spirit ("still small voice")

•With His voice, an image,

•His peace : Col. 3:16 . Brabeuo: the Holy Spirit leads as an arbiter: He gives peace on an issue or takes away the peace of the Lord.

Our mind and will as instruments for hearing God

•God can use our mind—Phil. 4:8 to make the right decisions; 2 Tim.3:14.

•God can use our will, Exodus 25! "everyone whose heart prompts him ...".

- Psalm 27:8 My heart says of you "seek his face", Your face lord I will seek.
- Phil. 2:13 "God is working in you to make you willing and able to obey him".

Our emotions/feelings as instruments to hear God

- God can use our feelings and emotions: anger about unrighteousness.
- we can feel heaviness, oppression in a city, nation, a family, also in a church
- We can also feel an absence of the Holy Spirit in a church, or idolatry
- We can feel uncleanness, or bondages

A word of knowledge through our body

- Our body gives a kind of message:
- pain somewhere in our body without having a complaint there>>>>who has this pain?
- Our heart starts to race, or
- something else happens in our body which the Lord uses to speak to us ourselves

Other ways God uses for His messages

- Angels, Hebr. 1:14; Daniel 9:21-23
- Arts. Divinely inspired crafts Bezaleel, Ex. 35:31
- Symbols; the tabernacle, the Blood, the sacraments, the cross!
- Drama: Jer. 19: 1,2,10-13; Ezek. 4, 12:7-12 as an oracle
- Circumstances. Discernment is necessary, can be deceptive.

Taking part in the spiritual battle

- When we are Living out of our belonging to God and rejecting the darkness,
- When we discern between good and evil, and reject the evil, we are taking part in the spiritual battle that still goes on.

Spiritual warfare

- Eph. 6:10-13
- With the world, James 4:4; 1John 2:15-17
- you love the world, you cannot love the Father. 15 Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 Our foolish pride comes from this world, and so do our selfish desires and our desire to have everything we see. None of this comes from the Father. 16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world

Why we need to hear God's voice

- When we do not hear God's voice we cannot withstand the lies the voice of the enemy tells us.
- In the name of Jesus we command the enemy to be silent and to stop his lies.

- The enemy influences the spirit if/when that is dead unto God
- speaks lies into our mind
- stirs/weakens our will in rebellion
- defiles our emotions, feelings

Discerning the good from the evil

When we grow in discerning we can recognize evil when we meet it:

- unrighteousness, sin, lies, injustice, evil, foolishness, wickedness, cruelty, irresponsibility, heresy.

- this applies to the personal, but also to the corporate level.

We learn to pray

- When we learn to know more about Gods plans, his character, his righteousness, his desire to save, and

- when we learn to discern between good-evil

- we also learn how to pray.

- We need to learn to make our choices.

We are involved, whether we want it or not

- The Holy Spirit who has been given to us will teach us. He will guide us into all truth, but we must know what God has already revealed to us in the Scriptures.

- There is still a battle, for the peoples, for the souls of people,

- for your soul

- **Beware: the enemy does not take holidays**