

## Does God Speak Today?

From beginning to end, Scripture makes it clear that God spoke in times past. Film makers portraying Biblical characters help us imagine God speaking then, but the question for us today is ... does He speak now? Not only does God still speak today, He speaks to each one of His children as we listen and, even more thrilling, He speaks through us to bless others.

### God Speaks

Creation begins with, "And God said ..."<sup>1</sup> We exist because God spoke and we continue to live through His established work in creation. God's Word set the laws of nature in motion; cell division, DNA replication, the life cycle, seasons and even the entire universe are all sustained and perpetuated by His Word. The book of John confirms that all things were made through Jesus, the Word, who was with God in the beginning.<sup>2</sup> The apostle Paul, by the Holy Spirit's unction, explains Jesus' authority: "The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word."<sup>3</sup> The Bible encourages us with God's prophetic word: "Blessed is the one who reads the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it, because the time is near."<sup>4</sup>

History has a way of distinguishing those greatly used by God, but all were merely humble servants. They simply heard God speak, believed His word and obeyed His instructions. As David Mainse often explains, hearing God's voice is not reserved for the spiritually elite, but for all of us as God's children, since we are all "just dumb sheep." As God has spoken throughout history, He speaks to each of us today. But, are we listening?

### God Speaks To Us

God speaks to us in many ways, including through His written Word, through His actions and directly to our hearts. The Holy Spirit makes the Word powerful and applicable to our lives, working out all circumstances for our good. God writes His eternal love, purpose and direction on our hearts and minds.

While hosting a ladies' Bible study, I learned how to hear God's voice. In those days, I exercised my faith in God in the same way that I followed a recipe. I did what I thought was the daily requirement for a Christian of Bible reading and prayer. I talked to God, outlining to Him my needs and wants, and even prayed for others. The Bible study leader shared my simple faith, but she seemed to know God more

intimately. One day, she told me that her “word from the Lord” that day was ... Word from the Lord? I asked what she meant by a word from the Lord. She explained that every morning she would simply and humbly ask God to speak to her and then all day long she would meditate on what He had said. She taught me that God would speak to her through His Word, or directly to her heart. I had heard God speak to my heart a few times before, but it was only for specific reasons. I never thought of communing with Him like that every day. I decided to ask God to speak to me, and I was eager to hear what He had to say. Since then I have learned He has much to say, and volumes of journals later I am still learning to hear from Him.

As we continue to hear God speak and see what He does, we learn to distinguish His voice and character from our own thoughts, feelings and actions by filtering everything through the truth of God’s Word. God’s written Word will answer the question: could this be God? When God reveals Himself to us we also become awakened to our spiritual condition. We see the stark contrast between His holiness and our sinful human nature. God then reveals His ability to help us to become more like Him.

God always speaks to us, but we are not always listening. Sometimes our own thoughts, others’ voices, or our daily activities dull our ability to hear God’s voice. We must stop all of our distracting activities and, like Mary sitting at Jesus’ feet, start to listen.

## God Speaks Through Us

God speaks through us to bless others with hopeful encouragement, gentle correction and exciting promise. God also speaks through songs, dreams and visions, as the fulfillment of Joel’s prophesy. “And afterward, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions (Joel 2:28).” Listening to God and obeying what He says tunes our character to validate our words and prepares us for His purposes. Dubbed King of Dreams by animation film company DreamWorks, the secret of Joseph’s success was acknowledging God alone as the source of wisdom. Through rejection and even imprisonment, Joseph learned patience, faithfulness and humility in hearing from God and speaking for Him.

The Gospels quote Isaiah’s prophesy about John the Baptist, “a voice of one calling in the desert, ‘Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.’”<sup>5</sup> We are on the brink of the greatest days in Church history, the Second Coming of our Messiah. As recent converts to Christianity testify of visions about Jesus, God is prophetically confirming His Word. Even so, as God speaks to us, we need to proclaim His Word in our generation.

Rev. David Wilkerson, author of the best-selling book, “The Cross and the Switchblade” explains, “What matters—what’s vitally important—is that you get to know the voice of God. He is still speaking. He made it clear, “My sheep know my voice.” There are many voices in the world today—loud, demanding voices. But there is that still, small voice of the Lord that can be known and heard by all who trust what Jesus said.” God continually speaks His words of truth and hope to His

children. God not only speaks, He cries, laughs, sings and shouts, passionately expressing His loving heart toward us. We can respond in humility and reveal His truth to others. Listen to what He says: "All these blessings will come down on you and spread out beyond you because you have responded to the Voice of God, your God (Deuteronomy 28:2)." It's that simple. Praise Him!

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Through music and teaching, Marianne Novoselac passionately shares how praise brings breakthrough, a message of hope and healing for victorious living. Her CD "Presence," recorded at Gaither Studios, and book, *Praise: The Gateway to Miracles*, help believers experience God's manifest presence in their everyday lives. Marianne is also a regular contributing author to the Evangelical Christian, Canada's largest circulation Christian magazine. To learn more about Miracle Praise Ministries, visit [www.miraclepraise.com](http://www.miraclepraise.com).

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<sup>1</sup> Genesis 1:3.

<sup>2</sup> John 1:3.

<sup>3</sup> Hebrews 1:3.

<sup>4</sup> Revelation 1:3.

<sup>5</sup> Isaiah 40:3.