

Episode 002

God Communicates (Part 2)

Introduction

God really wants to share His heart and His purposes with us. Therefore, each of us can be trained to be more receptive towards God when He communicates with us

God communicates with us through a variety of ways as recorded in the Bible. Let's learn to tune in. The following are some means of God's communication.

Variety of Ways God Communicates

The written Word of God (The Bible)

A scripture pops into your mind, when reading the verse highlights/speaks to you personally. Good to get God's Word into us on a daily basis.

Psalms 119:105 (NIV)

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.

Habakkuk's experience

Habakkuk 2:1-2 (NIV)

1 I will stand at my watch and station myself on the ramparts; I will look to see what he will say to me, and what answer I am to give to this complaint. 2 Then the LORD replied: "Write down the revelation and make it plain on tablets so that a herald may run with it.



Prophetic words

Spoken through prophets or other believers.

2 Kings 20:1-6 (ESV)

1 In those days Hezekiah became sick and was at the point of death. And Isaiah the prophet the son of Amoz came to him and said to him, “Thus says the LORD, ‘Set your house in order, for you shall die; you shall not recover.’”

2 Then Hezekiah turned his face to the wall and prayed to the LORD, saying,

3 “Now, O LORD, please remember how I have walked before you in faithfulness and with a whole heart, and have done what is good in your sight.” And Hezekiah wept bitterly.

4 And before Isaiah had gone out of the middle court, the word of the LORD came to him:

5 “Turn back, and say to Hezekiah the leader of my people, Thus says the LORD, the God of David your father: I have heard your prayer; I have seen your tears. Behold, I will heal you. On the third day you shall go up to the house of the LORD,

6 and I will add fifteen years to your life. I will deliver you and this city out of the hand of the king of Assyria, and I will defend this city for my own sake and for my servant David’s sake.”

An audible voice / inner voice

Likened to the still small voice of God. Becomes more in tune when we journey closer with the Lord. God speaks to us from within our spirit.

1 Kings 19:11-13 (NIV)

11 The LORD said, “Go out and stand on the mountain in the presence of the LORD, for the LORD is about to pass by.” Then a great and powerful wind tore the mountains apart and shattered the rocks before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake. 12 After the earthquake came a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire. And after the fire came a gentle whisper. 13 When Elijah heard it, he pulled his cloak over his face and went out and stood at the mouth of the cave. Then a voice said to him, “What are you doing here, Elijah?”



1 Samuel 3:1-10 (ESV)

Samuel had not heard the voice of God but he had an encounter where God called him 3 times, Samuel thought it was Eli calling for him. Then Samuel responded to the Lord on his 4th call 10 And the LORD came and stood, calling as at other times, “Samuel! Samuel!” And Samuel said, “Speak, for your servant hears.” God is patient with us and desires us to know Him showing up. So be alert.

John 10:27 (ESV)

My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.

Dreams

Virtual reality dream occurs while we sleep and remains in our mind after waking. Reality dream is a real experience we have while sleeping that we remember after waking, like an encounter with God.

Genesis 20:6-7 (ESV)

6 Then God said to him in the dream, “Yes, I know that you have done this in the integrity of your heart, and it was I who kept you from sinning against me. Therefore I did not let you touch her. 7 Now then, return the man's wife, for he is a prophet, so that he will pray for you, and you shall live. But if you do not return her, know that you shall surely die, you and all who are yours.”

Matthew 2:13 (ESV)

13 Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.”

Extra: Daniel 2:31-35 (ESV)**Pictures and visions**

Snapshots or images, minds eye vision (the Lord projecting images and pictures onto the screens of our minds), open vision (image that you see with your natural eyes), movie. Ask God for the message behind the revelation.



Acts 16:9-11 (NIV)

9 During the night Paul had a vision of a man of Macedonia standing and begging him, “Come over to Macedonia and help us.” 10 After Paul had seen the vision, we got ready at once to leave for Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them. 11 From Troas we put out to sea and sailed straight for Samothrace, and the next day on to Neapolis.

Genesis 15:1 (ESV)

1 After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision: “Fear not, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.”

The extraordinary**Numbers 22:22-35 (ESV)**

22 But God’s anger was kindled because he went, and the angel of the LORD took his stand in the way as his adversary. Now he was riding on the donkey, and his two servants were with him.

23 And the donkey saw the angel of the LORD standing in the road, with a drawn sword in his hand. And the donkey turned aside out of the road and went into the field. And Balaam struck the donkey, to turn her into the road.

24 Then the angel of the LORD stood in a narrow path between the vineyards, with a wall on either side.

25 And when the donkey saw the angel of the LORD, she pushed against the wall and pressed Balaam’s foot against the wall. So he struck her again.

26 Then the angel of the LORD went ahead and stood in a narrow place, where there was no way to turn either to the right or to the left.

27 When the donkey saw the angel of the LORD, she lay down under Balaam. And Balaam’s anger was kindled, and he struck the donkey with his staff.

28 Then the LORD opened the mouth of the donkey, and she said to Balaam, “What have I done to you, that you have struck me these three times?”

29 And Balaam said to the donkey, “Because you have made a fool of me. I wish I had a sword in my hand, for then I would kill you.”

30 And the donkey said to Balaam, “Am I not your donkey, on which you have ridden all your life long to this day? Is it my habit to treat you this way?” And he said, “No.”



31 Then the LORD opened the eyes of Balaam, and he saw the angel of the LORD standing in the way, with his drawn sword in his hand. And he bowed down and fell on his face.

32 And the angel of the LORD said to him, “Why have you struck your donkey these three times? Behold, I have come out to oppose you because your way is perverse before me.

33 The donkey saw me and turned aside before me these three times. If she had not turned aside from me, surely just now I would have killed you and let her live.”

34 Then Balaam said to the angel of the LORD, “I have sinned, for I did not know that you stood in the road against me. Now therefore, if it is evil in your sight, I will turn back.”

35 And the angel of the LORD said to Balaam, “Go with the men, but speak only the word that I tell you.” So Balaam went on with the princes of Balak.

Jesus

Hebrews 1:1-2 (NIV)

1 In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, 2 but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe.

Impressions

A sense in your heart, inner knowing.

Quickened word of God

That which is spoken, which is uttered in speech or writing. The reference to individual scriptures or messages which the Spirit impresses upon us and brings to our memory. Hence it is so important for us to regularly renew our minds with the Bible.



Nature/Creation

Rom 1:20 God's creation tells us about who God is.

20 For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse.

Circumstances

God can speak to us and direct us through the circumstances of our lives.

Prophetic arts (songs, dances, painting etc)

Colossians 3:16 (NIV)

16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God.

Conclusion

God speaks differently to different individuals. The key is to discern between the human soul and the Holy Spirit. We will be able to discern more as we grow in maturity with God's help.

All that you hear, see or perceive must not contradict God's written Word. The Bible is your sure safeguard.



Discussion Questions

1. How has God been speaking to you thus far? Share a testimony.
2. How much have you relied upon God's Word to be your benchmark/check and balance in hearing God?
3. Have you got others (peers or people of greater maturity) whom you can count on to pray and confirm what you believe God has spoken to you?
4. Are there any other areas of God's communication which you would desire to experience more in your personal relationship with God?



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