

# God Desires to Speak to Us

Dear Friend,

God desires to speak to us. He wants to lead us. He loves to reveal His desires to His children who seek Him.

As we read the Bible and listen for His voice, we will get excited over how clearly God will show us His desires for our life.

If we are going to hear God's voice and discover His will for our lives it is important that we let Him clean out our spiritual ears. Prior to my last visit to my doctor I was having an increasingly difficult time hearing. I mentioned this to the doctor during the physical. After examining my ears he had one of his aides take me into another examining room and start flushing out my ears. When this procedure was completed I was surprised at how clearly I could hear when the doctor returned and gave me a hearing test.

In order to hear the voice of God and learn what His will is for our lives we must have the Holy Spirit clean out our spiritual ears. Once we recognize that it is sin that plugs up our spiritual ears, be it pride, greed, lust or anything else that keeps us from hearing the voice of God we can then ask Christ to flush those sins from our lives through His redemptive work on the cross. It is the blood of Jesus Christ that cleanses us from all sin.

The next thing we must do if we want to hear the voice of God is to surrender our will to Him. He is then free to speak to us and lead us into His perfect will using a variety of methods. These include:

[1] Closing Various Doors. This closing of doors is explained through the story of Jonah who was swallowed by a whale and then put ashore in Nineveh where he was told to preach the Word of God. A second example is that of Balaam whose donkey refused to move forward and actually spoke to Balaam stopping him from being killed (Numbers 22: 21-31).

[2] God speaks to us through difficult experiences. An example of this is laid out for us in the life of Joseph, which we find in Genesis 37-50. Joseph instead of panicking when he was sold into slavery, prayed. As he trusted God every step of the way Joseph actually ended up as the number two leader in Egypt. When those brothers, who sold him into slavery later met him as the ruler of Egypt, they panicked. In response to their fear Joseph said "*You intended to harm me but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives*" (Genesis 50:20).



[3] God speaks to us through His Word. For me, this involves seeking God through prayer and the reading of the Scriptures. Then, after a certain period of time I will experience an affirmation in my inner spirit that I am to pursue a certain direction. The reason I must first search the scriptures is that God never promised to lead us by inward convictions but only by wisdom and direction based upon the knowledge and obedience of the Scriptures.

I know from personal experience that when I am in close fellowship with God, His Spirit will speak to my Spirit in areas that I need guidance. This involves a peace that passes all understanding. Paul and Silas are an example of this as they sang while being in prison (Acts 16:22-25). Although they were locked up they knew God was going to do a mighty work through their imprisonment. That mighty work involved the jailer and his whole house-hold being saved.

In the Word of God we also get specific direction on how to deal with each and every problem in life. This is given through direct commands and the examples of individuals who obeyed God and those who did not. As Psalm 119:15 and 16 says, "*I meditate on your precepts and consider your ways. I delight in your decrees; I will not neglect your Word.*"

[4] God speaks to us through specific revelation. An example of this is how God led Peter in Acts 10:11-23 to go to the home of Cornelius and share the Gospel. Throughout the Scriptures we see example after example about how God directly spoke to those who sought Him.

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[5] God also leads us to do His work through the cries of the poor and homeless. Instead of listening to these cries for help many try to keep the cries of the hurting out of sight and out of mind. Even in the church many desiring to be blessed don't want someone to stand up in the middle of the worship and cry out, "*I am worn out crying for help; my throat is parched. My eyes fail, looking for God. Those who hate me without reason outnumber the hairs of my head; many are my enemies without cause, those who seek to destroy me. I am forced to restore what I did not steal*" (Psalm 69:3,4) see also Psalm 102:19, 20).

When the poor and elderly cry out, and the special interests of those profiting from the existing system are disturbed, the police are called to arrest the ones who are disturbing the peace. If the cries are too loud, the one who is crying out could even be put in a psych ward, in jail or locked up in some nursing home.

The question is, when are the cries we are hearing coming from those who are suffering and when are they noises made by those who would prey on the good will of the truly compassionate? It is this fear of being taken advantage of that causes many to build the walls of indifference around them. Jesus in Matthew 10:16 says, *“I am sending you out like sheep among wolves. Therefore be as wise as serpents and as harmless as doves.”*

When we are as wise as serpents we will see that the con-artist or hustler will not be interested in addressing the social causes that may be contributing to the need he is expressing. If he is on a street corner saying he wants money for food, and you doubt that, then give him food like a granola bar, a piece of fruit, etc. Ultimately the key is getting to know personally the one who is coming forth with the cry for help. Once you begin to investigate the cases you will be surprised how many people there are who really are in need of help.

If we want to know and do the will of God we must be willing to hear the groans of creation and the cries of the suffering. Proverbs 21:13 says, *“If a man (that includes a woman also) shuts his ears to the cry of the poor, he too will cry out and not be answered.”*

In Jeremiah 22:16 God speaks the following to us. *“He defended the cause of the poor and needy, and so all went well. Is that not what it means to know me?’ Declares the Lord.”*

In the Scriptures the cries of the needy are not ignored. In Amos 5:14-15 we are told, *“Seek good, not evil, that you may live. Then the Lord almighty will be with you, just as He says He is. Hate evil, love good; maintain justice in the courts.”*

God desires to speak to us concerning the issues of injustice. When the cries of the homeless, imprisoned and elderly are no longer heard, God’s will for justice and compassion is not fulfilled. As a result, issues of structural violence and injustice get accepted and legitimized.

God’s response is, *“When you spread out your hands in prayer, I will hide my eyes from you; even if you offer many prayers, I will not listen. Your hands are full of blood; wash and make yourselves clean. Take your evil deeds out of my sight. Stop doing wrong, learn to do right, seek justice, encourage the oppressed. Defend the cause of the fatherless, plead the cause of the widow”* (Is. 1:15-17).

Through the cries of the hurting and homeless and the groaning of creation (Romans 8:22) God desires to speak to us and gives us specific direction from His Word to meet these needs. The question is will we obey what He is telling us to do?

[6] God desires to speak to us through Sanctified Reason based on the Word of God. In Acts 15, the apostles and elders met to decide what to do with the new Gentile believers in regard to their obedience to Jewish laws and traditions. A lengthy discussion took place, and when they finished, James spoke up: *“Brothers, listen to me...”* James then proceeded to make a brief speech and then said, *“It is my judgement... that we should not make it difficult for the Gentiles, who are turning to God. Instead we should write to them, telling them to abstain from food polluted by idols, from sexual immorality, from the meat of strangled animals and from blood”* (Acts 15:19-20).



God desires to speak to us through Sanctified Reason based on the Word of God.

It is important that as we seek God’s will we confirm such direction with the counsel of fellow believers in the light of God’s Word.

[7] God desires to speak to us through the doors of opportunity He opens for us. Open doors as well as closed doors are mentioned in the Scriptures. Paul wrote to the Corinthians, *“... a great door for effective work has opened to me”* (I Cor. 16:9).

As God opens a door to us to serve we must be sure that door has been opened by Him in the light of the scriptures. As He told the church in Philadelphia in Revelations 3:8, *“See, I have placed before you an open door that no one can shut.”*

God desires to speak to us. He does this as described earlier in a variety of ways. In order to hear His voice it is critical that we surrender ourselves to Him daily. For that reason we must pray without ceasing, and listen for His voice as we read the Scriptures.

God so earnestly desired that we would hear His voice and be in fellowship with Him that He sent His son Jesus Christ to die for our sins. It is because Jesus flushed the sin out of our lives through His death and resurrection that the Holy Spirit can now enable us to hear the voice of God. If God went to that extent to speak to us don’t you think it is time we listened and followed Him?

That is why Jesus said in John 10:27, 28, *“My sheep listen to my voice. I know them, and they follow Me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish, no one can snatch them out of my hand.”*

Yours in Christ,

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