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**Saturday, 1 July 2000**

## **HOW DO I KNOW THAT IT IS GOD SPEAKING TO ME?**

- *And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left [Isaiah 30:21]*
- *Behold I stand by the door, and knock: if any man hear My voice, and open the door, I will come in to him and sup with him and he with Me [Rev. 3:20]*
- *As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate Me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them [Acts 13:2]*

### **1. Why do we need to hear from God?**

- (a) We walk by faith and not by sight [2 Cor. 5:7]; faith comes by hearing the word of God [Rom. 10:17]; without faith, it is impossible to please God [Heb. 11:6]
- (b) To know Him [Deut. 29:29; Dan. 11:32] and how to obey Him [1 Sam. 15:22-23]
- (c) To know His will [Num. 12:6] and His future plans for us [ Gen. 37:5-10; 2 Sam. 1-16; John 21:18-19; Acts 9:15]
- (d) To encourage [Judges 7:13-15] and instruct us [Matt. 1:20]
- (e) To show us the way to salvation [Jn 3:3-5; Jn 14: 5-7; 2 Tim. 3:15]

### **2. Ways by which God speaks to us**

- (a) Through the written word, **the Bible** (Logos) [Josh. 1:8; Heb. 4:12] or specifically ministered to us as a church or individuals (Rhema) [ Jer. 1:5; Jer. 16:2; Acts 9:15; Acts 10:13-15]
- (b) By His voice. Examples:
  - Adam [Gen. 3:9-10], Moses [Ex. 19:19], Samuel [1 Sam. 3:1-14], Elijah [1 Kgs 19:12-13], Isaiah [Is. 6:8-10], Ezekiel [Ezek. 2:1]
  - Christ [Mk 1:11], Peter, James & John [Matt. 17:1,5], Paul [Acts 9:4,7; Acts 18:9-10], John [Rev. 1:10-15]
- (c) By the voice of an angel. Examples:
  - Abraham [Gen. 18:2-15], Jacob [Gen. 28:10-12], Moses [Ex. 3:1-2], Balaam [Num. 22:31-35], Joshua [Josh. 5:13-15], Gideon [Judges 6:11-24], David [2 Sam. 24:16]
  - Zecharias [Lk 1:11-20], the Virgin Mary [Lk 1:26-38], Joseph [Matt. 1:20-25], shepherds [Lk 2:8-15], Peter [Acts 5: 19-20], Philip [Acts 8:26], Cornelius [Acts 10:3-6], Paul [Acts 27:23-24], John [Rev. 1:1], the seven churches [Rev. 1:20]
- (d) By sudden awareness [Neh. 7:5; Neh. 13:10; Acts 18:4-5] or the still small voice [1 Kgs 19:12-13]

Transmission Channels [Joel 2:28-32; Num. 12:6-8]

Dreams [Thoughts visualized in sleep]

Examples

- Abimelech [Gen. 20:3], Jacob [Gen. 28:10,12], Laban [Gen. 31:24], Joseph [Gen. 37:5], Pharaoh [Gen. 41:1-13], Solomon [1 Kgs 3:5-10], Job [Job 7:14], Nebuchadnezzar [Dan. 2:1-13]
- Joseph [Matt. 1:19-20], Pilate's wife [Matt. 27:13, 19]

Visions [Divine revelations while awake]

Examples

- Jacob [Gen. 46:2-4], Isaiah [Is. 6:1-5], Daniel [Dan. 9:23-27; 10:7-9], Ezekiel [Ezek. 1:1-3]
- Stephen [Acts 8:55], Peter [Acts 10:9-14], John [Rev. 4: 1-11]

**3. Lord, is that really You?**

- (a) Test if the *messenger* (the spirit) is from God [1 Jn 4:1-3]
- (b) Test the *message* [Deut. 18:21-22; Deut. 13:1-3]
- (c) Pray for the spirit of *discernment* [1 Kgs 22:5-8; Acts 16:16-18]

**4. Watch and Pray**

- (a) *A false messenger can deliver a true message!*

Examples:

- The medium who conjured up the spirit of Samuel for King Saul [1 Sam. 28:3-20]
- The evil spirit from the Throne of God who wanted Ahab killed in battle in fulfilment of God's word [1 Kgs 22:19-22]
- The damsel with the spirit of divination who acknowledged Paul as a true disciple of Jesus [Acts 16:17]

- (b) *It does not take righteousness to prophesy!* [1 Sam. 19: 18-24; Matt. 7:22-23]

- (c) *Nevertheless, beware of false testimonies!*

Examples

- Satan's vision of the kingdoms of this world shown to Jesus during His temptations [Lk 4:5]
- Simon the sorcerer [Acts 8:9-21]
- The 7 sons of Sceva [Acts 19:11-16]
- Bar-jesus, the false prophet [Acts 13: 6-11]

- (d) *To hear from God as clearly as possible:*

1. *become born again* [Jn 3:3-5]
2. *renew your mind* [Romans 12:2]
3. *have the mind of Christ* [1 Cor. 2:16; Phil. 2:5-11]
4. *let your mind remain stayed on God* [Isaiah 26:3]