

The Always God: Always Speaking Part 2

Special Revelation

1. Christ John 1:1, 14 - Jesus is the final and full revelation of God. He's speaking and he's saying, *I'm right here!* How can we recognize the voice of God? *Get to know the voice of Jesus!* He told his disciples in John 14, if you have seen me, you have seen the Father...if you hear from Jesus, you are hearing from God!
2. Canon of Scripture - God speaks through the Bible. Canon means "standard" or "measuring stick." The "measuring stick" of divine revelation or God speaking to us is set and established in this Bible we hold in our hands. It is closed, meaning nothing will be added to it and it is authoritative in nature. Where the Bible speaks, God speaks, Jesus speaks. Isaiah 40:8; Matthew 24:35; Hebrews 4:12; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; 1 Peter 1:21
3. Counsel of the Holy Spirit - The Holy Spirit's role is to glorify Jesus by taking what he has said and enable us to understand and obey it. Therefore, He is called the "Spirit of truth" in the Bible. He is called our "Counselor." John 16:13-14 God speaks to us by the Holy Spirit and (THIS is important), what He is speaking by His Holy Spirit will NEVER contradict His word. The Holy Spirit and the Holy Word will act in accord...they will line up.
4. The Church - "Church" means "gathered ones or gathered saints." If you noticed in the Bible, God speaks through His people, the saints—the church. It is through the church that the Word of God is taught and proclaimed. Romans 10:14-15, 17 It is the Church that proclaims the word of God and in the proclamation of his word we can declare that He is speaking. Since the church is God's saints gathered to hear and proclaim the Word, she then is the place where we are nurtured in the faith. God is your Father, Jesus is your brother, but the church is your mother. Therefore, there is wisdom in not skipping out on church. God speaks through His church! Together – IN the word of God – FILLED with the Spirit of God, we can discern rightly the voice of God. In the gray areas of life, God uses the Word, the Holy Spirit and the church to help us.

Not everyone hears the voice of God. Why?

1. Not Everyone Knows God (Christ) 1 Corinthians 2:14; 2 Corinthians 4:4 Until God removes the scales that are blinding the unbeliever from seeing Christ as their Savior, they will never hear from God.
2. Sin – Sin prevents believers from hearing from God. Therefore, you need to keep short accounts with the Lord and live a life of confession and repentance. Amos 8:11-12; Isaiah 59:2
3. Stubbornness and Pride – Hebrews 3:7-8, 13 When you hear God speak, but you are stubborn and prideful, not obeying what He is saying to you, you cannot hear Him speaking to you. Not surrendering makes you deaf. It took 40 years for God to soften Moses's heart.
4. Self - We are too busy listening to ourselves...we're too busy wrapped up in ourselves...we're too busy living for ourselves. And as a result, we don't hear God speaking. When God speaks, "self" and all aspects of "self" are crucified. God speaks the language of getting out of our comfort zone and more often than not that is a danger to "self" ...to self's reputation.
5. Silence - What do we do when God seems silent? We wait. Psalm 130 Moses waited for 40 years, doing his everyday tasks before God encountered him in the burning bush. It changed His life.

If you are in a period of time where God seems silent...keep doing what you are doing.

- Keep waking up and reading the Bible.
 - Keep coming to church and getting wise counsel.
 - Keep walking in truth.
 - Keep surrendering to what God spoke to your heart the last time you heard from Him. Keep doing what you are doing and God will come through...He will speak.
- If we listen closely enough, we can hear him saying, "I'm still speaking...I STILL AM."