

# God Speaks Through Scripture

The number one question that Christians ask is: “How do I know when God is speaking to me?”

Well...the answer to that question is not so simple. It's not so easy to explain in a few short sentences. Because like many other things in life, it requires experience over time before you start to feel confident that you are hearing the Lord.

On top of that, there is not just one way to hear God speaking. In this series “God Speaks”, we're going to look at 7 things that God speaks through. 7 things we all have access to. 7 things we can all experience. And instead of them just being things we have or experience...I want to show you how we can hear God through them.

In John chapter 10, Jesus said “My sheep **hear** My voice” and “they **know** My voice. If you are one of His sheep, you can hear Him and you can know that it's Him!

This morning we're going to look at how God speaks through scripture. This is the primary way we hear His voice! It's the easiest way to hear His voice. It's available to us whenever we want!

## **John 1:1 (NKJV)**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

What is the Word? Jesus! How do we know that...you have to keep reading John chapter 1! The Word became flesh and dwelt among us...the only Son of the Father. (Jesus)

Jesus was in the beginning. What's the beginning? The beginning of this universe. He was there. He was there with God. And He was God.

How did this universe get created? Genesis 1 tells us that God spoke. When you speak, your word goes forth. God said let there be light, His Word went forth....so Jesus went forth.

Think I'm crazy?

## **John 1:3 (NKJV)**

All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.

Jesus is the Word. When the Word of God goes forth, something happens. Things are changed.

The scriptures are the Word of God. Is this book Jesus? No! But it's the Word. Jesus is the Word. This is the truth. Jesus is the way, the TRUTH, and the life.

I'm laying some groundwork for hearing God through the scriptures...hang with me.

## **Personal, interactive, alive**

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us.” So Jesus came from heaven...became personal and interactive...alive in bodily form. And likewise this written Word becomes personal, interactive and alive in our hearts!

### **Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV)**

For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

**Soul and spirit** - Your soul is your mind, will, and emotions. This is the part of you that is still being saved, it's a process called sanctification. Your spirit, if you are in Christ has been reborn, made new, it's perfectly in the image of Jesus. The Spirit is working on the soul. Both of these are “in a man” and both are not visible to the eye. Yet the Word of God can separate the two.

**Joints and marrow** - joints are the point of connection on the outside of the bone that joins it to another bone. Marrow is the very core of the bone. So what's in between joints and marrow? Bone, but even inside the bone there is this membrane that is a very hard but very thin substance. It would take something extremely sharp to divide between it and the bone or marrow. The Word of God can pierce through and divide them.

**Thoughts and intents** - What you are thinking and the purpose of the thought. These are seemingly intertwined and who can know both our thoughts and the intent of the thought? Half of the time I don't know why I'm thinking what I'm thinking. But the Word of God discerns or judges your thoughts and the purpose of those thoughts!

So the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, it's interactive, it's alive...here's where it becomes personal...we've got to read the follow up verse.

### **Hebrews 4:13 (NKJV)**

And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.

You are judged by the Word of God today and will one day stand before Jesus to be judged for eternity. The Word holds you accountable to the one to whom we must one day give account.

Church this is so important...To read the Word of God and to let it come alive in our lives and personally speak to us.

## Revelation

The Word, Jesus was sent by God to reveal God to us. Jesus is the image of the invisible God. He shows us the nature and character of God. That's called revelation.

Just as your spoken word is the physical manifestation of your thoughts and personality, Jesus is the "Word", the physical manifestation of the invisible God to His creation.

### **Colossians 1:15 (NKJV)**

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.

Jesus shows us who God is. Likewise the Word of God shows us who God is. It gives us revelation.

**Example** - Do you want to truly know what love is? If you read the Word, you will see what love is. As God is love and is perfect in all His ways.

Love is not all roses and chocolates or date nights. And love certainly isn't Netflix and chill unless you're married!

Love is TRUTH. Love is GRACE. Love is ACCOUNTABILITY. Love is FAITHFULNESS. Love is HOLINESS.

You know how I know these things? I see them in the Word of God.

It's not what you THINK that is true, what God SAYS is true!

When you open up the Word and read it, you make way for the Holy Spirit to reveal the heart of God to you!

### **2 Timothy 3:16-17 (NKJV)**

All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

About 40 people wrote these 66 books and every word in here was given to them by the inspiration of God. That means the Holy Spirit gave them the words to write. And if He can give them the words to write this over 1500 years and it all works together without error or contradiction...I've got to believe that the same Spirit can reveal what it means to you and me!

*"If we don't' rightly divide the Word of God, we divide the body of Christ."*

~ **Mark Batterson**

So I want to give you 4 things here out of 2 Timothy that the Holy Spirit will speak to us as we read the Word of God.

## **Teaches**

This is instruction to learn...what should we do? What is the truth? What is our faith founded on?

### **Romans 10:17 (NKJV)**

So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

## **Convicts**

This shows us when we have wrong behavior or wrong beliefs that don't line up with Jesus. The Holy Spirit rebukes us and says "that's not right". This is exposure of our sin...TO US. He already knows but reveals it to us to give us an opportunity to confess and repent!

### **Psalms 119:116 (NKJV)**

Uphold me according to Your word, that I may live;  
And do not let me be ashamed of my hope.

## **Corrects**

Don't think of correcting as in telling you what you did wrong, that's conviction. Correction here is restoration. It's taking you, when you stumble, and putting you back on the path of godliness, back to your proper position in Christ.

### **John 17:17 (NKJV)**

Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.

## **Trains**

This is where the Holy Spirit shows you the disciplines of a life devoted to Jesus. It's training for godly living. It's developing your life on the path that God has called you to!

### **Psalms 119:105 (NKJV)**

Your word is a lamp to my feet  
And a light to my path.

These are the ways that God speaks through scripture. Praise Jesus...we NEED teaching, conviction, correction, and training!

If you're someone who doesn't read the Word...this is a good time to ask yourself why.

- Is it because you don't want to hear from God?
- Is it because you are afraid of how it will teach, convict, correct, and train you? You don't want to change?

- Is it because you don't believe it?
- Is it because you are too busy?

You wouldn't believe the spiritual resistance to reading the Word. The enemy hates when you read the Word... so he will distract you, cause doubt or worry, make you busy...anything to prevent you from hearing from God...

It's so important to just be faithful to open the scriptures. That's a starting point. And if you read them:

**Isaiah 55:11 (NKJV)**

So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth;  
It shall not return to Me void,  
But it shall accomplish what I please,  
And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.

If we read it, He will speak and what He speaks will accomplish what He wills. Just trust Him.

*"The scriptures are not given for our information but for our transformation."*  
~ **D.L. Moody**

Maybe you're someone who already reads the Word faithfully but you seem to have difficulty really hearing what God is speaking to you. I've got 2 very, very important keys for you.

**1. Look for Jesus on every page.**

We can get so caught up in playing bible roulette, you know where you open a page and point and read it and decide that's what God is speaking to you? (ex. Judas betrays Jesus, Go and do likewise)

You don't invite Jesus into your story, He invites you into His story. Start with you focus on Jesus. How does this point to Him? Remember, revelation of who He is...because He is the author and finisher of our faith...He's the standard we must measure all things by...

**2. The Holy Spirit unpacks the truth**

Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal the truth, illuminate it, the Holy Spirit highlighter

What do I need to see in this passage? Will you show me? Actually pray!

No one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God. (1 Corinthians 2)

Eph 1:18