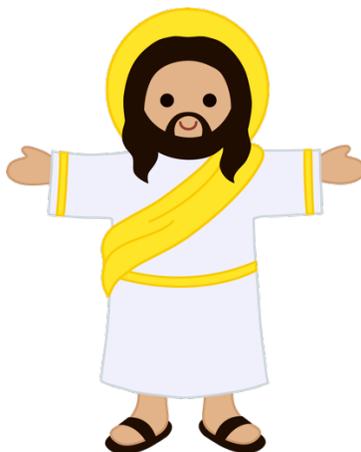


Is God Speaking to Me? How Do I know?¹



God speaks to His people by the Holy Spirit. He can speak in any way He chooses, but the most common ways through which God speaks today include the Bible, prayer, circumstances, and the church. He speaks to reveal Himself, His purposes, and His ways. When what God says through the Bible, prayer, circumstances, and the church line up to the same thing, you can proceed with confidence to follow God's direction.

Through the Bible

- Have you ever been reading the Bible when suddenly you were gripped by a fresh new understanding of God? That was God speaking! When you understand the spiritual meaning and application of a Scripture passage, God's Holy Spirit has been at work. This understanding does not *lead* you to an encounter with God; it *is* the encounter with God.

Through Prayer

- Praying and reading your Bible are inextricably connected. The Spirit of God often uses the Word of God when you pray. God will never lead you to do something that contradicts His written word. If what you sense in prayer runs contrary to Scripture, it is wrong. Watch for God to use the written Word to confirm what you are sensing in prayer.

How to Hear from God and Know His Will

Through Circumstances

- Sometimes, you find yourself in difficult or confusing circumstances. To understand these events, God's perspective is vital. Never determine the truth of your situation by focusing on the circumstances. You cannot know the reality of the situation until you have heard from God.

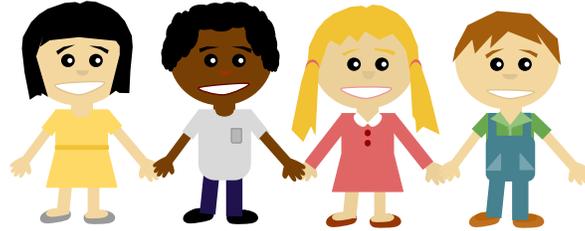
Through the Body

- All members of the body belong to each other, and they need each other. You can and should depend on God to speak through other believers and the church to help you know what assignment you are to carry out in the ministry of the kingdom.

¹ Contents of this handout are taken from chapters 12 to 15 of Henry Blackaby, Richard Blackaby, and Claude King, *Experiencing God: Knowing and Doing the Will of God* (Nashville: B&H Publishing Group, 2008), 165-205.

Ask ourselves:

- What is the Holy Spirit saying to me through God's Word?
- What is He saying to me in prayer?
- Is He confirming through circumstances what He said?
- Is the Holy Spirit verifying what He said through the counsel of other believers?



What to do after God speaks to us?

- Write down the specific verse(s), or message in a notebook, spiritual journal or diary.
- Meditate on the passage or message.
- Study the passage or message to immerse yourself in its meaning. What is God revealing about Himself, His purposes or His ways/
- Identify the adjustments you need to make in your personal life, your family, your church, and your work life in response to God's revelation.
- Write a prayer response to God
- Begin immediately to make the necessary adjustments in your life to God.
- Watch to see how God uses the truth in your life during the coming days.
- Take action! Obey what God told you to do. Enjoy a fresh experience as He works in and through you.



What about silences from God?

- When God is silent, keep praying and reading His Word.
- If there is unconfessed sin, confess it and make it right with God.
- If there is still silence after confession, prepare for a new experience with God. Sometimes God is silent as He prepares you for a deeper understanding of Himself. Whenever silence comes, continue doing the last thing God told you and watch and wait for a fresh encounter with Him.