



Lesson 34 – God Talking

How does God communicate with us? This is the question we are going to search out today. We will use the Bible to help us answer this question. We will discover that the Lord uses many avenues through which to communicate with us. There are dreams and visions, signs, and a word. Jesus tells us that God has sent the Holy Spirit to guide us. John 16: 13 states *“However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.”* He also sends angels and prophets. And He even gives you thoughts sometimes.

I realize the idea of The Lord putting thoughts in your head might seem far-fetched to some but from Job 4:12-17

“Now a word was secretly brought to me, and my ear received a whisper of it. In disquieting thoughts form the visions of the night, when deep sleep falls on men, fear came upon me, and trembling, which made all my bones shake. Then a spirit passed before my face; the hair on my body stood up, it stood still but I could not discern its appearance, A form was before my eyes; there was silence; then I heard a voice sayings; can a mortal be more righteous than God? “Can a man be more pure than his Maker? What was the phrase above “disquieting thoughts for the visions of the night?” This passage is actually very interesting because I believe it involves several of the avenues of communication (namely thoughts and a word possibly from an angel).

However, do we need to worry, could some of these communications be coming from the enemy? How do we know whether the dream, vision, thought or whatever is received from God? Does the enemy use these same avenues? Well, we have learned to compare spiritual to spiritual as a means of testing what we have received. 1 Corinthians 2:13 states: *Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God. These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual things.* (This is why keeping a journal is important; so that we can compare what we have received to the Bible and also to other words we have received previously). But you should know the Lord would not have us be in the dark. He wants to teach and guide us. (To learn more about How the Holy Spirit teaches see: <http://www.takehisheart.com/holyspiritspiritualthings.htm> from the THH website).

Now with the question as to whether or not the enemy could use the same avenues I believe we must be aware of the enemy. He will use many of the same avenues like dreams, visions, thoughts and even words to confuse and distract you from the true path. The Lord tells us to be careful, however, to test what we receive. 1 John 4: 1-3 states:

Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world. By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God, and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the spirit of the Antichrist, which you have heard was

coming, and is now already in the world. Therefore, the Lord wants us to test the spirit to ensure it is of Him. Also from the THH website:

The devil is very powerful (especially with thoughts), it goes on in this same article to state: The enemy was using thoughts he knew I would most likely accept. He was giving me thoughts of, "You're losing your mind. Lying, deceiving saying things like, "God doesn't do this any more, it's of the devil." Who do you think you are to think God would speak to you? (haughty) These things are of the devil because confusion is of the devil. You better find someone who knows something about all this, etc. (religious)!" I could go on and on here.

Anyway, I was **unaware** that these thoughts were coming directly from the enemy of mankind. I was **unaware** that Satan was on the scene! I was **unaware** that we are in a battle for our own minds. So you can see that all you receive may not be coming from the Lord. There are many spirits at work therefore testing and comparing is very important. One spirit that is rampant in today's church is the python spirit. To learn more about this spirit visit <http://www.takehisheart.com/pdf/pythonsection.pdf>

And one final note before we look at some communication examples from the Bible; Jesus tells us in John 10: 3-5, 27 *"..the sheep hear his voice; and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. And when he brings out his own sheep, he goes before them; and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. Yet they will by no means follow a stranger; but will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers."* *"My sheep hear My voice, and I know them and they follow Me."* We know his voice; yes, the closer the relationship you have with the Lord, the easier it is to recognize his voice. Elijah knew the sound of the Lord speaking to him. He described it as a still, small voice (1 Kings 19:12). The Lord doesn't change. He will speak to you just like He spoke to Elijah. You may not actually hear the voice of the Lord; he may speak to you in a still, small voice, a spontaneous thought, or a dream but I believe he does speak to us all.

Now for some of those examples from the Bible:

A Word

Adam and Eve – Genesis 3:8-11

And they heard the sound of The Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. Then the Lord God called to Adam and said to him, "Where are you?" So he said, "I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself." And He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you that you should not eat?"

God spoke to Adam and Eve. He held a conversation with them using words. I believe this occurred in the same way we have a conversation between ourselves and another individual(s). In other words I believe they heard The Lord speak. I believe we likewise can hear an audible voice.

A Dream

Joseph's Dream – Genesis 37:5-7

Now Joseph had a dream, and he told it to his brothers; and they hated him even more. So he said to them, "Please hear this dream which I have dreamed: "There we were, binding sheaves in the field.

Then behold, my sheaf arose and also stood upright; and indeed your sheaves stood all around and bowed down to my sheaf.”

The Lord was using this dream to tell Joseph what was going to happen in the future. Our dreams can also be from the Lord. We have found that if we are awakened from a sleep and remember our dream fairly vividly then it is probably from the Lord. It is a good idea to have a pen and paper by your bedside so you can record any dreams you might have.

A Vision

Daniel – Daniel 7:2,3 9, 13-14

Daniel spoke saying, “I saw in my vision by night, and behold, the four winds of heaven were stirring up the Great Sea. And four beasts came up from the sea, each different from the other. I watched till thrones were put in place, and the Ancient of Days was seated; His garment was white as snow and the hair of His head was like pure wool. His throne was a fiery flame. Its wheels a burning Fire...I was watching in the night visions, and behold, One like the Son of Man, coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days, and they brought Him near before Him. Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and His kingdom shall not be destroyed.

To me visions are kind of like seeing a dream but you are awake although I don't really know if that is a good explanation or not.

A Messenger (Angels)

Christ's Birth Announced to Mary – Luke 1:26-33

Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And having come in, the angel said to her, “Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women!” But when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and considered what manner of greeting this was. Then the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end.”

There are a lot of angel stories on the internet. Are they all true? I don't know. However, I do believe in angels.... Remember the Lord said to be careful when you entertain strangers because you may be entertaining an angel.

Prophets

Prophets are rather like a public address system. The Lord chooses people to teach and deliver His message to His children. The messages they deliver are always of an important nature. He has used prophets through the ages. The Lord tells us in Amos 3:7 *Surely the Lord God does nothing, Unless He reveals His secret to His servants the prophets.* I don't know about you all but the use of that word

secret sounds pretty important to me. I'm glad the Lord has chosen to reveal his secrets to us. How awesome is that. It is important to understand that God decides who is going to be a prophet. It is not something you can decide to become yourself. God will reveal Himself to the person He has chosen to be a prophet. Again, the prophet is a key means of communication the Lord has used throughout the ages. He is a sent one. It is not to be dismissed lightly. People who hold the office of a prophet know God because God counsels them. God will speak to them. A prophet tries to bring people to God and he tries to bring attention to God and what God is doing. The main function of the office of the prophet is for correction. It is also important to understand that the functions of the office of a prophet have not changed. The Lord uses prophets today just as He used them in the past. Remember, Amos 3:7 *Surely the Lord God does nothing, Unless He reveals His secret to His servants the prophets.*

You can see there are many ways the Lord communicates with us. Whether through a word, thought, dream, or vision, angels, prophets or even demonstrations (like the our tithing demonstration) the Lord hasn't changed. He is the same. He wants to have a personal relationship with you. Listen to him and remember this:

Acts 2: 17-21

“And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, that I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your young men shall see visions, your old men shall dream dreams and on My menservants and on my maidservants I will pour out my Spirit in those days; and they shall prophesy. I will show wonders in heaven above and signs in the earth beneath: blood and fire and vapor of smoke. The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the coming of the great and awesome day of the Lord. And it shall come to pass that whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

And from the book of Habakkuk 2:2

Then the Lord answered me and said: “Write the vision and make it plain on tablets, that he may run who reads it. For the vision is yet for an appointed time; but at the end it will speak, and it will not lie. Though it tarries, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry.

Every word from the Lord is important. Write it down. After all it is from the King of the Universe.

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