

Reconnecting

Anyone who has ever had a pet understands the difficulty of breaking through the communication barrier that exists between man and animals. While we can break through, it takes work and patience. In a similar way, there is also a communication barrier that exists between God and man that we must learn to break through. Before sin entered the world, man was able to talk to God face to face, but when man sinned, this sin broke the barrier of communication that existed between God and man (Isa. 59:2). This was not because God wanted it to be this way, but because we chose sin. While many wonder why God is silent, or why God is not there, the problem isn't that God is not there or that God is silent, but rather that we have built up a wall between ourselves and God called sin which is blocking God's voice. Sin builds a wall between man and God. When we repent and ask for God forgiveness, and begin to seek God's will, this begins to break down the walls of doubt, anger, and skepticism within us and re-opens the door of communication between God and man. Still, even when we repent, sin still exists in us, so God cannot yet communicate with us face to face. As a result, we must learn a new way of communicating. We must learn how to hear God's voice.

Scriptures Speak

With the spread of sin, people grew more sinful and defiant, so God could not openly communicate with man. As a result, He chose certain people who were faithful to communicate through. He appointed these people as prophets. He would then talk to the prophets, who would both speak and write God's words and His will to the others. The writings of these prophets are recorded in the Bible. When writing the Bible, "holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit" of God to write the words that God wanted to communicate to man (2 Pet. 1:21). While God may not communicate with us directly, He has told us what He wants in the Bible. This book was "given by inspiration of

God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness" (2 Tim. 3:16). Since God says, "I do not change" (Mal. 3:6), the words of the Bible are still the main way for us to know the will of God today, showing us what God considers sinful. Once we start to walk away from sin, we begin to hear God's voice in other ways as well, so those who want to hear God's voice must begin here. The Bible is the clearest way for God to talk with people. He says that "faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God," which is the Bible (Rom. 10:17).

Thoughts Speak

There are many ways God speaks to us in our mind. While many say they cannot hear God's voice, the truth is, God has spoken to each of us through the conscience, "their conscience also bearing witness, and between themselves their thoughts accusing or else excusing them" (Rom. 2:15). The Bible says the prick of the conscience is God trying to guide us. Unfortunately, many people damage their conscience by ignoring it (1 Tim. 4:2). God also speaks to us in His silences. Anyone who has been in a relationship knows that if their spouse is giving them "the silent treatment," they are actually telling them something through their silence. God does the same thing. He is often silent because He knows that if He talks, we won't even obey Him, so He waits for us to be ready to listen. At other times, God puts thoughts in our minds. You may be depressed when a thought of inspiration comes to mind, giving you hope. God often puts thoughts in our minds. Often God speaks to us through that little voice inside our mind. He says, "Your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, 'This is the way, walk in it'" (Isa. 30:21). Again, all thoughts must be tested by the Bible, but when we may be surprised to find that God has actually been talking to us for a long time without us even realizing it.

People Speak

We are often so distracted by sin, sorrow, or other cares that we drown out the voice of God. As a result, God must use other methods to reach us. One of these methods is people. We may go to pastors and Bible teachers for biblical advice. God often uses such to communicate His will to us. When we go to church, we are purposely putting ourselves in a place where God can speak to us. If we pray and ask God to talk, and then listen to hear what God is trying to tell us in the sermon, we may be amazed to find God speaking to our soul. Outside of this, God also at times use our parents, friends, or random people to communicate with us. The person may not even know that God is using them to communicate to you, but because we are often so blinded by personal feelings in a situation, God often inspires others to give us godly advice. When people encourage, inspire, warn, or give good advice, we should ask ourselves if God is trying to speak to us through these people. God often speaks through people when they don't realize they are being used by God. Of course, so does the devil. For this reason, it is important to take the words of people and test them with the Bible. If they agree with the words of the Bible, then we can trust that God had His hand in their advice (Isa 8:20).

Nature Speaks

When we look at the creative works of God, we find his fingerprints all through nature. This is another one of the primary ways God speaks to us. Nature has been called God's second book. It is among His greatest methods of communicating with humanity. David says, "The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows His handiwork" (Ps. 19:1). Many who even deny God's existence cannot help but admit that our world seems to have been guided by a divine hand. In it, God's "invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made" (Rom. 1:20). Since God created the world and everything in it, His fingerprints are in every article of nature. The Bible says, "ask the beasts,

and they will teach you; ask the birds of the air, and they will tell you; or speak to the earth, and it will teach you” (Job 12:7, 8)? While sin has damaged God’s creation, nature is still full of lessons about God. Jesus illustrated this when He was on earth, drawing many valuable lessons about God through nature. He used flowers, seeds, wheat, trees, water, fields, and more to illustrate things about God, heaven, and eternal life. Nature is full of lessons from God and His voice can be clearly heard if we learn to listen and look for the lessons He is trying to show us in His creation.

Providence Speaks

When I became a Christian and looked back on my life I could clearly see how God orchestrated the circumstances of my life to get me here. That is called providence. One way that God speaks to us is through providential circumstances. He lets things happen. For example, He may let you to get a broken leg because you were going to get in a car accident the next day. Little things happen all the time that change the course of our lives. Whether good or bad, we must learn to trust that God has things in control (Rom. 8:28). Some know the famous saying, “When God closes a door, He opens a window.” That means, circumstances may arise that prevent you from doing what you want to do, but God will give you a better path, even if it does not seem better at the time. This idea of God communicating to us through providential leading, by opening and closing doors in our lives, is spoken of in the Bible. In his travels Paul said “a door was opened to me by the Lord” (2 Cor. 2:12). While others may not recognize God in providence, Paul had learned to hear God’s voice and see Him moving all around him. Like Paul, we too can pray for God to guide us, and listen for the sounds of His providential footsteps leading us. You’ll be amazed at what God is doing in your life when you really start to listen.

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