How God Speaks

John 10:27 - My sheep listen to my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.

God has given us multiple channels as to how He speaks to us in the modern day. People think that He only spoke to the disciples and doesn't speak to His children anymore, yet there are multiple statements and examples showing us He still speaks today. Once you are out of sin and focused on Him, these first three should be your main channels seeking His voice.

1. The Word

- o This should be the main channel you're using to seek God's voice.
- We know it to be true and infallible.
- God will point out particular verses via the Holy Spirit that will apply to your life, questions you may have or current circumstances.
- As you meditate on those scriptures, they will be placed into your spirit to recount them and remember God's truth from them.
- 2 Timothy 3:16–17: Every scripture is inspired by God and useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the person dedicated to God may be capable and equipped for every good work.
- <u>1 Thessalonians 2:13</u>: And so we too constantly thank God that when you received God's message that you heard from us, you accepted it not as a human message, but as it truly is, God's message, which is at work among you who believe.

2. Holy Spirit

- John 14:26 But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and will cause you to remember everything I said to you.
- If you're a believer, the Holy Spirit is in you. It will deliver messages to you, but you must spend with God in order to build discernment to recognize whether the message is coming from God, the enemy or your flesh.
- Placed in us by God, its messages will align with the Word every time.
- Whenever I received a message this way, it "stuck" to my spiritman and I wasn't able to forget it.

3. Prayer

- Prayer should be a two way communication between you and God.
- Do not come with a laundry list of what you want, but rather focus on giving thanks for His power and His love.
- This includes praying in your prayer tongue. Praying will not only put you in alignment with God but also give you His discernment to recognize His answers.
- o His answers through prayer will be placed in your spiritman, not an audible voice.

These next ways have examples in the Word, but aren't the *only* ways God can speak. **Pray for discernment**, confirm if the message or act is in alignment to the Word before receiving\acting upon it. As you continue to focus more on God, making more time to read His Word, and praying in your prayer tongue for extended periods, you'll make your spiritman more available to receive messages from God in different ways.

Acts 2:17 (NET): 'And in the last days it will be,' God says, 'that I will pour out my Spirit on all people, and your sons and your daughters will prophesy, and your young men will see visions, and your old men will dream dreams.

4. Visions

- The visions may happen at any time whenever God wants to send it. From my experience, my visions usually occurred during or after prayer in third prayer watch hours(12am-3am).
- Always pray for discernment, but if the vision is from God, it will be clear and stay not just in memory, but in your spiritman.
- You will also remember every part in detail. This is for you to recall the Godly vision to others as a testimony.
- Examples:
 - i. Saul hearing God on the Damascus road and becoming blinded. (Acts 9:1-9)
 - ii. Ananias being directed by God to find Paul in the city to remove his blindness and meet the disciples. (Acts 9:10-19)
 - iii. John's visions on Patmos which would become Revelation.

5. Dreams

- Godly dreams will have a direct message and usually be peaceful(unless He is showing you fighting\having victory over the enemy). A dream that is confusing isn't one from God.
- When awake, ask God for interpretation of the dream if it came from Him.
- If the dream isn't Godly (ie. focused on the flesh, seeing yourself being attacked in some way or fearful), it isn't from God and you should cancel the dream as soon as you wake.
- Examples:
 - The angel telling Joseph of Mary's pregnancy, to escape to Egypt, and to go to Galilee instead of Judea. (<u>Matthew 1:20-25, Matthew 2:13, Matthew 2:22</u>)
 - ii. Pharaoh's dreams that would be interpreted by Joseph (<u>Genesis 41</u>): This allowed Egypt to prepare for the famine but also for Joseph to reunite and forgive his brothers.
 - iii. Peter's dreams of the table from Heaven with the animals (<u>Acts 10:9-48</u>): This was God encouraging him to strengthen the relationship between Jewish Christians and Gentiles Peter would visit Cornelius to give his message.

iv. God visited Solomon in a dream asking him what blessing he would desire. (1 Kings 3:5-15)

6. Through people(Godly counsel)

- Pray for discernment regarding this. Many claim they are prophets\apostles but do not work in the Holy Spirit.
- Before reading\receiving\claiming their message, ask the Holy Spirit for discernment to confirm if what they are saying is in alignment with the Word.
- A word from a legitimate prophet will be strengthening\edification, encouraging and consoling (<u>1 Cor.14:3</u>). However, there have been multiple events in the Word where the prophet came to warn or rebuke someone so they would turn back to God.
- Be wary or full on avoid "prophets" who only speak about receiving physical gifts\assets. God has already promised to give life more abundantly and that is enough, but seeking physical gifts\assets as your main blessings from God is greed\idolatry.
- o Examples:
 - i. Nathan's parable and rebuke of David after David sinned (<u>2 Samuel 12</u>)
 - ii. Jeremiah warning Israel to turn from its spiritual adultery (worshipping other gods)
 - iii. Agebus warned Paul that he would be arrested if he returned to Jerusalem (Acts 21:10-11).

God is able to speak in any way He wants in order for us to receive the message. It is our responsibility to stay on the narrow path, ask for discernment and continue in prayer and worship for us to be available. It may not happen as soon as you get delivered from sin, for example, I just started receiving the messages to teach this past year even though I've been in the group for about 5 years.

Do not listen to any audible voices, that is an enemy tactic to distract you. Your first channel should always be the Word.

References

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