

FOURTEEN WAYS THE BIBLE TEACHES THAT GOD SPEAKS TO US

By Steve Meeks

God is a speaking being. He identifies himself as "the Word" (John 1:1). What is a "word?" A word is a means of communication. In this verse, God reveals that part of his basic nature is to communicate. He speaks. In John 10, Jesus said that his sheep "*hear his voice*" and he calls them by name. He tells us in verse four that his "*sheep follow him because they know his voice.*"

God communicates with the people he has created. He intends for us to hear his life-giving voice. The Bible reveals at least 14 ways that God communicates with us as human beings. As you study these, I pray that you will become more aware of his presence and more attuned to his voice.

"My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me." -Jesus (Jn.10:27).

1. Circumstances / providence
 - a. Jonah
 - b. Luke 2:1-7 Joseph and Mary
 - c. Acts 16:7 *They tried to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit did not permit them.*
2. Counsel
 - a. Proverbs 22:19-20
 - b. Acts 15:19, 28-29
3. Conscience
 - a. Rom. 2:14-15
 - b. 1 Tim. 1:19
4. Prayer
 - a. James 1:5
 - b. Jeremiah 33:3
5. People
 - a. Acts 10:19, 33 Peter comes to Cornelius' house
 - b. Prophets
 - c. Ananias (Acts 9:17)
 - d. Personal words (1 Corinthians 14:3)

6. Spiritual encounters / dreams and visions
 - a. Dreams: Solomon, Jacob, Joseph, Peter, Paul
 - b. Gen. 28:12-16 Jacob's ladder
 - c. Acts 10:10-13 Peter's trance in Joppa

7. Thoughts
 - a. Amos 4:13 God makes known his ways to us through our thoughts
 - b. Rom. 2:15
 - c. The *Devil* can speak in our thoughts also (i.e. temptation, deception)
 - d. Not all thoughts are from God and must be discerned

8. Creation and natural manifestations
 - a. Psalm 19:1-6 heavens
 - b. Romans 1:20 nature
 - c. John 12:28-29 thunder

9. Supernatural manifestations
 - a. Burning bush
 - b. Flood of Noah; flood over Egyptian army
 - c. Paul on the road to Damascus, a bright light

10. Bible
 - a. Romans 10:17 "...hearing comes through the Word of God"
 - b. 2 Tim. 3:15-17 the Word of God speaks to us for various purposes

11. Whisper / still small voice
 - a. 1 Kings 19:12-13 Elijah
 - b. Is. 30:21

12. Incarnation
 - a. Heb. 1:1-3 different ways God speaks, best through his Son
 - b. John 12:49 Jesus: *My Father told me what to say*

13. Spiritual gifts
 - a. 1 Cor. 12:8-11 words of knowledge, wisdom, prophecy, etc..
 - b. 1 Peter 4:10-11

14. Spiritual leaders in authority
 - a. Hebrews 13:7, 17
 - b. 1 Thess. 5:12
 - c. 2 Cor. 10:8
 - d. 1 Cor. 16:15-16