

Fourteen Ways God Speaks to Us

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." John 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. The *Devil* can do this also
 - c. 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