

John Newlin Ministries, Inc.

- realizing the power of a life in Christ-

HEARING WHAT GOD IS SAYING TO YOU!!!

That's what you want, isn't it? To hear from God? Or maybe for you that is a scary proposition.

Does God really speak to all people? I expect lots of people would answer no, or at least that they have never heard. But he does speak to people, at least some people. It is undeniable in my case. But it's not like you might expect. It changes. There have been periods where in the middle of the night frequently I would get up, go in another room or downstairs, sit quietly or read the Bible, maybe doze off and on, and God would just begin a conversation. A real conversation. And there have been times when after reading the Bible and praying suddenly he would just give instruction, or encouragement, or other words. Many years ago there was a period of about six months that I was driving often for several hours. And he would just talk during those hours. Sometimes quite a few words, sometimes one or two. And then there are times when he just doesn't communicate with words. He uses circumstances. Or he uses what I call teaching miracles, things that couldn't happen without God doing it, just to teach me a point.

Does God want to communicate directly to everyone? I don't know. I do know that on this earth are people he has chosen from before the creation of the world to be with him in his Kingdom. I do know that apparently not all of that group know God yet. And I certainly expect he will communicate to someone in that group earnestly seeking him (**continued on page 2**).

NEW COMPREHENSIVE HEALING SECTION ON WEB SITE!!!

We are happy to announce a new healing page on the web site that consolidates in one place links to all the materials about healing available on the site. While items are still being added to this page, it is ready right now for your use. Simply go to the menu column on the home page and click on "healing resource page." That will take you to a web page which contains:

- A list of all the healing handouts. You can click on each one to see and print out, such as the Healing Scriptures or the Keys to Receiving Healing.
- A list of all our teaching CDs on various aspects of healing. By clicking on any one, you will be taken to a description of that CD where you can also request it from the ministry if you wish.
- A list of all the videos (television programs) we have produced on aspects of God's divine healing. By clicking on any one, you can watch it on your computer screen (pc, laptop, smart phone, ipad, whatever).
- A healing testimony section that contains wonderful accounts of God's healing through our ministry. Reading these should encourage anyone seeking healing as well as build anyone's faith.
- A list of articles on the web site relating to healing. Clicking on one will take you to that article.

(continued from page 1)

This is a horribly difficult world, and it is getting more difficult. In such an environment staying close to God is essential – keeping your eyes on Jesus. Prayer, meaningful prayer, is especially important. And very, very important is receiving anything God says or communicates to you! There couldn't be anything more important, could there? You do not want to miss communications from God to you.

So let's get going. When God does choose to communicate to a person, how does that come about? How do people hear from God? In several ways. Some you may have heard or read about or even experienced, and some you will be surprised by. Below I've listed eight of the ways God has communicated to me; at the end we've included some advice as to how to put yourself in the best possible position to hear God. I should add – God can communicate anytime he wants, of course, regardless of what we do.

1. **A still small voice** – Sometimes a person when praying, or reading the Bible, or listening to wonderful praise music, or even just walking around not necessarily thinking about any specific thing, will suddenly hear inside a very still small voice that says something specific in a way that the person immediately knows, “I don't speak like that – I don't use those words – I don't talk like that.” And then the person realizes, “That was God.” And this still small voice may continue or not. You may even ask questions that the still small voice answers during this time of God's being close to you.
2. **An audible voice** – It is true, although less common, that a person may actually hear an audible voice speaking to him, and clearly that voice is from God. Sometimes it can be a clear bold instruction. I know someone who while walking down the street suddenly received a short sentence telling him to do something specific about an issue he had wondered and prayed about for a long time. He said he looked all around to see who had spoken to him, but there was no one there. This audible voice in no uncertain terms is usually a shock.
3. **Circumstances** – God can speak without words. Suppose a person has been working for years toward some project, perhaps trying to get into some particular business, and then suddenly the right doors open up and everything just works and it all happens. The person realizes, “That couldn't have happened by accident. Someone had to make all that happen. That was God.” Or another example – sometimes God can close doors. A person may have been working toward some objective when all the necessary doors, or opportunities needed, suddenly slam shut and are not open for him. And the person realizes God does not want him to continue on the path he was pursuing.
4. **Through others** – A person may be praying and thinking about some significant subject, and at some point another person says things that mean a great deal on this matter even though the other person may not really be aware of the great meaning of his words. This happened to Cathy and me. We were involved with an organization, and a couple of times I had understood from God we should leave that organization. As we thought and prayed about how best to do that, suddenly an email arrived from a woman. In the email she spoke about things and I suddenly

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saw that a couple sentences she had written specifically applied to our situation. Even though she did not know that, God was sending us a confirming message through her.

5. **Reading a particular Bible verse** – A person in reading a verse of the Bible, maybe one read hundreds of times before, may suddenly find great revelation. It is as if the verse has come alive, and indeed it has spiritually. Right there in front of the person is great wisdom and an application to the person's life that he had never seen before. God is speaking through his word, his quickened word. That's why we call the Bible a living book. It is.
6. **Receiving Scripture verse references** – Sometimes in prayer a Scripture verse reference, like John 3:16 or Acts 1:8, may come to a person's mind – not the words of the verse, just the reference. Maybe even several verse references are received, and when the person looks them up in the Bible he discovers they apply directly to what he had been praying about. God often communicates to Cathy this way. Another close friend hears this way as well. Once a few years ago in prayer Cathy suddenly received six or more verse references. We looked them up. They in the order received gave insight and guidance as to what was going to happen and what we should do as regards the coming return. We were amazed...and thankful!
7. **Dreams and Visions** – Certainly in the Bible and in the lives of people alive today, God does communicate in dreams and in visions. Sometimes it is hard to tell these apart if they happen at night, like having a dream/vision. Here is a good example. One night I had a dream. It seemed to take place in the center of a town. There was a movie marquee in the background with all sorts of lights, and it appeared maybe a movie premiere was happening. People were going this way and that, just a lot of action and confusion. I was seeing all this action and confusion from outside the scene. I really wasn't in it. Suddenly a man in a tuxedo who was holding a microphone stepped forward out of the crowd and put his face right in front of me. He looked directly at me. In a bold voice he said, "When you've done all you know how to do and can't think of anything else to do, get out of the way and let God handle it!" I sat right up in bed wide awake! That was a crystal clear message from God.
8. **A DRAMATIC AND EXTRAORDINARY COMMUNICATION** - We can never put God in a box or limit what he might do. I include this example because it means so much to me and because it shows to what lengths God will go to make sure a person following him gets his message. Recently I received an email from a minister in Nigeria who I did not know and had never known. In the email the minister noted he had been doing some work and suddenly God began speaking to him. What God said to him was a message for me! So the minister obediently recorded all God said and sent me the email. It was full of encouragement and guidance as to what is to come and even contained specific references to things he promised years ago. It was a letter from God!

Why did God choose this method to communicate? Because it made a dramatic, overwhelming impact! Hearing from someone I do not know on the other side of the world with a message for me from God is just overwhelming. It is undeniable the message is from God. And it is obvious he wanted me to get it and to pay attention to it. And the message was not just for me! Two different times it turned specifically to Cathy!

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SO HOW CAN YOU PUT YOURSELF IN THE BEST POSSIBLE POSITION TO HEAR GOD?

Some people like to listen to quiet worship music as they move into a time of prayer and seeking the presence of God. Whether you do or not, I would suggest you sit somewhere you can relax and know you will not be interrupted, and focus on some scriptures you are led to, perhaps your favorite scriptures. Just read and meditate on those, and talk to God as you would a friend – reverently but as you would with a close friend. You might ask the Holy Spirit to fill the room. Ask God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit for guidance as you need it. And just sit quietly, perhaps from time to time reading or praying, always being open to the Lord. Pray in the Spirit, in tongues, if you would like. And if you hear a voice speaking don't be quick to dismiss it as being your own mind. Do what Samuel did as a boy when he heard that voice: say "Speak, Lord," and then listen quietly. One other comment – sometimes God will suddenly start communicating hours or days after you have prayed on a subject.

As always with anything you receive in prayer or from preachers and teachers, always consider whether what you are hearing lines up with the Bible. This is a good check to protect against hearing from unwanted sources! And of course God cannot be limited in ways he communicates. The list above includes eight ways. But God's ways are no doubt limitless. He is God after all.

If you still say God has never spoken to you and you can't hear him, well, think for a moment. He has written you an extensive letter containing all you need to know about life, about him, and about his return. It's called the Bible. How's that for a communication.

SUPPORTING THIS MINISTRY!

As always we thank those who contribute to the support of this ministry! It is by those contributions that we have been able to operate. If you are not yet a contributor, whether one-time or periodically, please pray and consider whether you should become one. Blessings come to those who give to Jesus and the gospel, as Jesus himself said, and giving to this ministry is one way of doing that.

Always remember to stay alert. The Lord really is coming soon.

May you live in the blessings of God always.

John

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