

QUESTION: How does God speak to us today?

ANSWER: : We are under the New Covenant, we have the complete written word of God, and we are in a different dispensation than the Old Testament prophets, so God speaks to us differently than He did to them. Today, in the dispensation of the CHURCH AGE, God speaks to us through His written word, the Holy Spirit, other Christians, and through circumstances. Sometimes, **under extreme circumstances**, He may speak through His angels (see Acts 27:23-25), but don't get off track by sitting around waiting for God to send you an angel.

1. **THROUGH HIS WORD** - II Timothy 3:16 The word of God is "profitable" or USEFUL to correct us, teach us, and show us the way of righteousness. See also Question #1 above.
2. **THE HOLY SPIRIT** - Rev. 2:17; Rev. 3:6; Acts 21:4 & 11. The Holy Spirit DOES NOT speak to Christians in an AUDIBLE voice from outside. He **impresses on OUR mind or spirit** what He wants us to do, because He is living inside us. Sometimes, the Holy Spirit will speak to unbelievers in an audible voice, when He is working on them to bring them to faith in Jesus. Beware of audible voices, however, because DEMONS can speak to people and mislead them.
3. **OTHER CHRISTIANS** - Psalm 1:1; Proverbs 11:14. **GODLY counsel**, and a multitude of counselors may be used by God to direct us. However, beware of those who come up to you and tell you "God told me to tell you to do such-and-such." Check their "prophecies" against the word, other Christians, and just common sense. Some people are puffed up with PRIDE and their own conceit, feeling very SELF IMPORTANT by giving so-called messages and prophecies to others. Many Christians have had their lives almost ruined by these FALSE PROPHETS.
4. **CIRCUMSTANCES** - Rev. 3:8; I Cor. 16:9. Sometimes we refer to this as looking for the OPEN DOORS and CLOSED DOORS. When you pray for two things, and either one **could be** God's will for you, ask Him to close the doors to whatever He DOESN'T want you to do. You cannot use this method for anything that is ALREADY prohibited in God's word, or where we are ALREADY given instructions on how to handle a certain situation.

How can we know when we've heard from God? Again, be sure what you've heard is CONSISTENT with the word of God. God will give His peace (Colossians 3:15), and He is not the author of confusion (I Cor. 14:33). If you don't have peace, and are still confused, you have not heard from God! Sometimes, we are too busy to hear from God (see Psalm 46:10). Jesus said, "My sheep hear My voice" (John 10:27; Rev. 3:20).