

God Is Speaking - cont.

speaks to us through the Holy Spirit (John 16:14;). The Holy Spirit speaks to us through Jesus' Apostles (John 14:16-17,25-26; 16:12-15;). And, the apostles speak to us through the written word (Ephesians 3:3-5)

What does God's written word in the New Testament do for all of us today? God's written word provides faith (Romans 10:17). God's written word makes us spiritually complete (2 Timothy 3:17). God's written word saves us from sin (James 1:21).

Does God speak to you and to me today? Absolutely! God does not speak directly to us apart from his written word. He speaks to us indirectly through the written words of his Son recorded on the pages of the New Testament. God's word is powerful (Romans 1:16), working (1 Thessalonians 2:13), living and active (Hebrews 4:13).

Knowing that God speaks to us through his written word, what do we need to do? We need to listen. God is speaking to you through the words of Jesus (Matthew 17:5; Acts 3:23). Please do not refuse God when he speaks to you through his written word (Hebrews 2:3; 12:15)! - *Chris Reeves*

Sentence Sermons

- A Jesus not worth sharing is a Jesus not worth keeping.
- Why hold on to things you can't take with you when you die?
- In a conversation, the first thought is more important than the last word.
- God wants to make us creatures of character not creatures of comfort.
- God's promises are greater than our problems.

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THE WARFIELD BULLETIN

July 7, 2019



For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.
- 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 -

Listen, God Is Speaking To You!

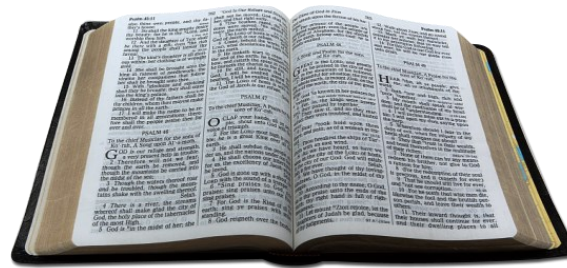
“God, having of old time spoken unto the fathers in the prophets by divers portions and in divers manners, hath at the end of these days spoken unto us in his Son”
- Hebrews 1:1-2 -

Many people today claim that God speaks directly to them to reveal his will. Some say he speaks to them in dreams, visions, voices, etc. Other people claim that God has spoken to them to start a new religion (Mohammed, Joseph Smith, Mary Baker Eddy, etc.) Some have claimed that God speaks directly to them to tell them what to do in life (“God called me to...”). Some have claimed direct revelation from God which has led to outrageous claims and terrible acts (false Messiahs, suicide, murder, terrorist bombings, etc.)

The Bible is clear that God speaks to all of us. The issue is not: Does God speak to us today? Of course he does. The issue is: How does God speak to us today? There are three options in answer to this question. First, God speaks directly to us. Second, God speaks indirectly to us. Third, God speaks both directly and indirectly to us. When we examine the New Testament we find that the second option is

the truth. God speaks indirectly to us today through the scriptures (using the agency of the scriptures).

Read Hebrews 1:1 referenced at the beginning of this article and note the following words and phrases. The author of Hebrews wrote that God spoke in “old time”. This time refers to the time of the Old Testament period of history from Genesis to Malachi. God spoke to the “fathers”. This refers to the Old Testament Patriarchs and Israelite ancestors.



God spoke in “the prophets” meaning that he spoke to these ancestors through the words of the Old Testament prophets. He used the agency of the prophets to speak to others. Finally, God spoke by “divers portions and divers manners”. This means that God spoke at different times and he used different methods to reveal his word.

What were some of the different times and different methods that God used? God first spoke to the patriarchs (from Adam

to Moses), then later to the nation of Israel (from Moses to Malachi). God spoke using types and shadows, feasts and sacrifices, prophecies, etc. God also used different methods to reveal his word. He spoke through the burning bush, visions, dreams, a donkey, angels, prophets, etc. God also spoke directly himself. At this time, God spoke both directly and indirectly to people.

Now consider Hebrews 1:2. The author goes on to say that God has also spoken at the “end of these days”. These words refer to the time beginning with Jesus (1 Peter 1:20) and the establishment of the church on Pentecost (Isaiah 2:2; Acts 2:16-17). From the time of Jesus and the New Testament church (Matthew through Revelation), God has been speaking through the words of his Son, Jesus. Jesus is God’s last spokesman to mankind.

Consider some things said about Jesus. Peter said Jesus had the words of eternal life (John 6:68). Others said never a man like Jesus spoke like this (John 7:45). Jesus taught with all authority (Matthew 7:28-29; 28:18).

Today, God speaks to us through the Son (John 12:48-49;). The Son