

How Does God Speak?

By: Justin Witt

We can see that in times past, God walked among men, and verbally spoke to Adam and Eve (Genesis 3:8-9). However, after they sinned, they were removed from the garden of Eden, and were separated from God. We can also see that at times, God spoke through angels (or messengers), Genesis 22:11,15-18. In a similar manner, God also spoke through people, prophets such as Moses in Exodus 3:15ff. But we no longer have God speaking directly to us, nor are there people walking on the earth that God is speaking through. So how does He teach us today?

Hebrews 1:1-2 states very clearly that God has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, Jesus. At the time that this was written, Jesus had already died and been raised. With some exceptions (Acts 9:3-16 for instance), He no longer physically spoke directly to men. So how does God speak to us through Jesus today?

We can certainly recognize that, while Jesus walked the earth, He spoke to many people. If we simply thumb through Matthew through John in most Bibles we will see most of those pages covered with red ink, showing the words of Jesus. Matthew 5:1, for instance, mentions a multitude that was gathered to Jesus and he spoke to them. In those days, Jesus taught the 12 apostles as well as others that had been with Him since the beginning as Acts 1:21-22 gives reference to. We can see that not only did Jesus come to the earth to live a sinless life, to fulfill prophecy, to teach the gospel to the multitudes, to die on the cross, and to be raised, but He also came to the earth to prepare His followers to continue the good work that He started even after He had been raised. We can see at least two occasions in which He sent men out to teach and to preach, Mark 6:7-13,30 and Luke 10:1-20. Even while He walked on the earth His words reached more people than Jesus came in contact with because He prepared them to teach and sent them out to do just that. And when He was about to be raised we see Him send them again in Matthew 28:18-20 to make disciples of every nation, baptizing them and teaching them to observe all that I have commanded.

We can see also, that not only did Jesus prepare them to go out into the world while He was alive, but He promised to send another that would continue to bring to remembrance all the things that they had learned John 14:16-17,25-26, 15:26-27, 16:7-14. The purpose of sending the Holy Spirit to them was not simply to ensure their salvation, but so they can bear witness of Him to others John 15:27. Of this we see fulfillment in Acts 2:4 and in the signs and teachings that follow throughout the scriptures. And we can read throughout the book of Acts, especially, to see all that they did as a result of the knowledge they had been given. They taught. In fact the apostles mentioned in Acts 6:4 that they would give themselves continually to prayer and to ministry of the word. This was their life. But none of them are still alive to speak to us and to answer our questions and to guide us today. So the question still remains, how does God speak to us?

Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ, explains in Ephesians 3:1-7 that He received his knowledge by revelation directly from God, and this he wrote down so that his words could be both read and understood. The fact that we have the scriptures at all shows that Paul was not the only one that recorded his knowledge. This is how God speaks to us through His Son today. Through the scriptures He reveals His nature to us and He reveals His will for us.

Paul states in 2 Timothy 3:16-17 that all scripture is given by inspiration and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, so that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

And Jesus states in John 12:46-50 that each of us has that which will judge us. The word that Jesus has spoken will judge us all at that day.

Let us not neglect the word that will be our judge. As Paul said in 2 Timothy 2:15, we must all study to show ourselves approved unto God, workmen that need not be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.