



Hearing from God

By Dr. Gregory Wiens

How do you hear God? I know some of you question whether anyone has really heard from God, while others of you hear from him regularly. Some can discern his voice as they do another person, while others only hear him speak from the scriptures. Still others hear him speak through journaling, circumstances; others or in a variety of ways.

This question can stir up great concerns from many parts of Christianity. Those who have said they heard from God have done a lot of damage in the name of God. Terrorists often claim their motive for killing innocent people has been fulfilling the orders of God.

Yet, we all believe that God spoke clearly to the prophets, apostles, or other inspired writers of the scriptures. Most of the leaders in scripture heard God clearly speak to them. The following scriptures illustrate those who heard directly from God:

- Adam and Eve (Genesis 3.9)
- Noah (Genesis 6.13)
- Abraham (Genesis 12.1)...but not Isaac, Jacob or Joseph.
- Moses (Exodus 3.4)
- Joshua (Joshua 1.1)
- Samuel (1 Samuel 3.4)
- David (1 Samuel 23.2)
- Solomon (1 Kings 3.5)
- Isaiah (Isaiah 6.8)
- Jeremiah (Jeremiah 1.4)
- Ezekiel (Ezekiel 2.2)...as did every other Prophet.
- Paul (Acts 9.4)
- John (Revelation 1.11)

But did he stop talking to us after the completion of the NT as some have stated? Christians throughout the centuries have heard him speak, as well as those throughout the history of our movement.

If you read these and other accounts in the Bible, you see God communicating to his leaders through quiet words, loud words, words written on the wall, thundering words from heaven, words in dreams, words spoken through other people, the written words of Scriptures, donkeys, doves, stories, burning bushes, open doors, closed doors. His Prophets communicated God's words through every device conceivable; from dressing up to dressing down naked. God is not limited in the ways he uses to communicate to you. God does speak and He is not silent. The only question that remains is how do you hear him speak?

The reality is that you cannot lead in the church unless you are able to hear from God. The Holy Spirit ensures that his voice is heard. You may not hear his audible voice, but you best know when and what he is speaking to you. It only makes sense that you cannot lead God's church without hearing from him in real time! It is unimaginable to think that he wants you to lead FOR him without hearing FROM him.

God has spoken clearly to me very few times, unlike some of my friends. However, many times he has made it abundantly clear to me what he wants me to do. He often does this without words. In fact, I know that he is doing something significant in my life right now. I am not sure what it is, but over my years of relating to him I have learned to know his ways.

Though I am not sure what it will inevitably lead to, I know he is preparing me for ministry at a different level. DON'T read into this that I am leaving as State Pastor, because I am not! In fact, I know I will remain, but he is doing something different in our midst. This is what is exciting about walking by faith with our God. He is in the business of stretching us to accomplish ever increasing impact for the Kingdom of God. And if you aren't able to hear him or sense his movement in and around your life, you are missing a primary mover in your life. We don't grow in our walk with him to remain the same.

We learn to grow deeper in our love with him, more resilient in our faith in him and stronger in our leadership for him so we can follow him into more significant paths of impact. That is what I love about leading in the Kingdom!

Notice I didn't say "larger" ministry, I said a more significant path of impact. This brings us to the critical issue of how this concept has been misused by wackoids throughout the centuries to validate their own selfish or demented desires. We will deal with that next week.