

Did you ever wish you lived during those times when God just spoke to people in audible ways? The Lord walks with Adam and Eve in the garden; the burning bush speaks to Moses; the voice from heaven booms from Mt Sinai out of the fire/cloud/darkness; the donkey rebukes Balaam; an angel appears to Mary, and to Joseph; the father speaks at Jesus' baptism: "This is my son;" the church at Antioch hears the Spirit's call to send missionaries; the resurrected Jesus knocks Paul from his donkey: "Why are you doing this to me?" *What if that could happen to YOU?*

What if you lived in an age when God could speak to you? Every day? About anything?

Good news! **You do live at a time when God still speaks ... to YOU!**

Greetings! I'm Jim Taylor, thanks for joining me & IN Favor Resources in this video series titled **PROPHECY IS FOR YOU! Understanding prophetic words,**

receiving them from others, and **giving them** to others

During these videos, we are going to touch on what "prophecy" means and what it looks like, what prophecy was like in the OT, how the NT *gift* of prophecy is different from that, what you should do after *receiving* a word, guidelines on *giving* words to others, and we'll throw in some other stuff—remarkable examples and experiences we can learn from.

Today we'll begin at the beginning—the foundational idea that **GOD IS A SPEAKING GOD.**

Our God is not silent! He is in constant communication with us, sharing revelation about himself, our world, his will. He is speaking *all the time*: everywhere, every moment, to everyone.

We're not always listening, we sometimes don't hear him, but **he speaks to us in many ways.**

Here are a few:

- First, **God speaks to us in nature:**

Psalms 19:1 The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands.

Notice the terms used here of *conversation* and *communication* between God and us:

² *Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they display knowledge.*

³ *There is no speech or language where their voice is not heard.* ⁴ *Their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world ...*

According to this, written by a man who spent his boyhood watching the sunrise and sunset, *you should look up because God is talking to you!* On the next clear night, don't just watch TV or hurry from one place to another; take a moment and *behold!*

There in the sky is a love note to you from the creator of the universe!

When people first step up and see the Grand Canyon ... stand on the *Maid of the Mist* and hear the thundering of Niagara Falls ... watch the sun rise/set over the ocean ...

crane their necks at the giant redwoods ... see a rainbow emerge after the rains ...

if they listen, they will hear God say, "I did this—all this—to reveal myself to you;

I'm telling you in a thousand ways that I love you." **The heavens** spell it out;

it's like a commercial "message from our sponsor," and it comes in loud and clear.

God is definitely, continually speaking to us in nature.

- Next, **God speaks to us in Scripture:**

2 Timothy 3:16 All Scripture is God-breathed the NIV translates it; the ESV says *All Scripture is breathed out by God*—in other words, *when you open this book, God opens his mouth.*

and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness. (it will help you find the right path, tell you when you're off it, get you back on it, and keep you there)

¹⁷ *so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.*

And Peter agrees: *2 Peter 1:20 Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation of things.* ²¹ *For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.*

Some people mistakenly say, "I don't believe in the Bible, it was just written by mere men."

No, it wasn't! It was penned by men, but they wrote the words they heard **God speaking**.
In these pages are words **spoken by God**, and they were *spoken to you and for you*.
You can hear God's voice every time you read your Bible, there's a message on every page.

When God says to Joshua "I'll never leave or forsake you," *he's saying it to you, too!*
When God declares thru Jeremiah, "I know the plans I have for you, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future," *he's declaring that to us as well!*
When Jesus pleaded with all who are weary & burdened: "Come to me, I will give you rest,"
he is pleading with us, here, right now! Want to hear from God? **OPEN THIS BOOK!**
Because **God speaks to us in Scripture**.

- And **God** also **speaks to us through our circumstances**:

Romans 1:13 I do not want you to be unaware, brothers, that I planned many times to come to you (but have been prevented from doing so until now) in order that I might have a harvest among you, just as I have had among the other Gentiles. "I was ready to come, but God said, Not yet."

Have you ever intended to do something, but were **prevented from doing so** at the time?

A flat tire, an emergency call, a freak accident, an unexpected cancellation, etc.?
Who knows what God was protecting you from, or saving you until a much better time?

We probably don't realize how often God is guiding us **through our circumstances**;
directing us, preventing us from going down the wrong path—or the right path too soon,
steering us to where he wants us to be—and when he wants us to be there.

This isn't very exciting, it doesn't seem "supernatural," *but it is*.

It is God saying, "not this ... but this," and **speaking to us through our circumstances**.

- Another way **God speaks to us** is **in godly advice**:

In *Exodus 18* Moses is *trying* to do God's will, but he's under pressure, overworked, frustrated, and exhausted. And though no one really wants to listen to their in-laws,
¹⁷ *Moses' father-in-law* saw what was happening and *replied, "What you are doing is not good. ¹⁸ You and these people who come to you will only wear yourselves out. The work is too heavy for you; you cannot handle it alone.* Then he says, ¹⁹ *Listen now to me and I will give you some advice, and may God be with you. . .*

Moses listened to that advice, it worked, **God WAS with him**, and blessed his leadership.
Now, not all advice is good, not all of it is godly—don't listen to just anyone, but still ...

*I wonder how many times we miss hearing God's voice because we don't listen to the **godly advice** that comes our way; because we don't like the person, we're not teachable, we're too busy: and we think, "not now, I'm listening for God to speak!"*

And God might say, I tried to talk to you four times today—through your parents, through the bus driver, through your boss, and through the hot-dog street seller.

Let's listen up! **God speaks to us in godly advice**.

- Evangelicals, keep an open mind on this: **God** also **speaks to us in miraculous, supernatural ways**, such as **through dreams, visions, angels, miracles, signs, and wonders**:

We know he did this in Biblical times, such as when *Job* said **33:15** *In a dream, in a vision of the night, when deep sleep falls on men as they slumber in their beds, ¹⁶ he may speak in their ears ...*

But **God is still speaking to us through our dreams**: Some years ago, when I didn't believe any of this, I had a dream that involved some of my closest friends and supporters; they took a hard line against me. I told my wife and said, "That will never happen." But some time later, *it happened exactly like my dream*—the same people, same actions.

God was warning me, preparing me, through a dream. Think of the many other dreams in the Bible—Pharaoh twice, wise men were warned, Pilate's wife, etc. etc.
Don't be too quick to discount your dreams—God may be speaking to you through them.

And through **visions**: *Daniel 10:1 In the third year of Cyrus king of Persia, a revelation was given to Daniel. . . Its message was true and it concerned a great war. The understanding of the message came to him in a vision.* Paul in *2 Corinthians 12:1 I must go on boasting. Although there is nothing to be gained, I will go on to visions and revelations* which came to me *from the Lord.*

And through **angels**: *Revelation 1:1 The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show his servants what must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John,*

The **angel** Gabriel appeared in a **dream** to Mary, and then to Joseph.

(I know several people—not crazy—who believe an angel who assisted them in difficulty.)

Don't limit God in how he might be **speaking to you**—even in miraculous ways.

- Also, **God speaks to us in promptings and impressions, including through our conscience**: *Luke 2:25 Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel. . . .²⁶ It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Christ.²⁷ Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts . . .*

When he saw the family, *he knew* this is what he'd been watching so long for.

After waiting so many years, one day *he was prompted* to go into the temple courts and see.

I read a story by a woman who was learning how to hear from God. One day on her way home from the grocery store, she had a sudden thought about an older lady she knew—someone she hadn't seen/spoken to/thought about for a long time. She dismissed it. *But she wondered, "Did that come from God?"* She decided to stop by and see her. She knocked on the front door, there was no answer, she felt foolish for wasting her time. *Then she caught the unmistakable smell of gas.* She pushed open the front door, found the lady was inside, on the floor, unconscious. She called the ambulance, turned off the stove, opened all the windows. *What if she hadn't listened to this quiet prompting?*

Have you ever had a "random thought" occur, "I should call them," or a sudden desire to pray for someone's safety? You've felt conviction after losing your temper or not-quite-telling-the-truth—"Oh, that was wrong; I need to go back and apologize/make it right."

Those are **promptings** that come to your mind or through your **conscience**.

Take these **impressions** seriously—**God is speaking to you!**

- And, finally, yes this is the last one, **God also speaks to us through prophetic words**: *Acts 2:16 No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:¹⁷ "In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams.* We've looked all these today. *¹⁸ Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy.* Peter said, This is it! *In these last days,* (until the Lord comes) you can expect to receive **prophetic words** in church, from family, just about anywhere and from anyone.

In the next few video teachings, we will explain and amplify this point; please stay tuned! (Next post: **Understanding prophecy in general**; Biblical words, what it means, looks like)

The short list we've just completed contains seven **ways God is still speaking to us**; chances are he spoke *to you, today*, through at least one of them. *Were you listening? Did you hear him? Did you recognize his voice? And how did you respond?*

I'm so glad and grateful to be working with all of you to bring Indiana into her prophetic destiny! You can keep up with us on our website, *infavorresources.com*, our "IN Favor" Facebook page, and our IN Favor Resources channel on YouTube.

Thanks for joining me today; signing off until next time, hope to see you then.



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