

SEVEN REALITIES OF EXPERIENCING GOD

Reality #1: God pursues a continuing love relationship with you that is real and personal.

Reality #2: God is always at work around me.

Reality #3: God invites you to join Him in what He is doing.

One critical point to understanding and experiencing God is *knowing clearly when God is speaking*. If you do not know when God is speaking, you are in trouble at the heart of your Christian life! One truth that is evident throughout the Bible is that God speaks to His people.

Reality #4: God speaks to you by the Holy Spirit through the Bible, prayer, circumstances, and the church to reveal Himself, His purposes, and His ways.

How God spoke in the Old Testament is not the most important factor. The fact *that* He spoke is the critical point.

1. God has always spoken to His people.

Hebrews 1:1-2

Four Important Factors

Moses — Exodus 3

- A. When God spoke, it was usually unique to the individual.
- B. When God spoke, the person was sure God was speaking.
- C. When God spoke, the person knew what God was saying.
- D. When God spoke, that was the encounter with God.

2. God spoke by His Son.

Hebrews 1:2, John 1:1-3, 14

In the Gospels, God spoke through His Son — Jesus. To hear from Jesus was to hear from God.

3. God speaks by the Holy Spirit.

When we move from the Gospels to Acts and to the present, we quite often change our whole mind-set. We live as if God quit speaking personally to His people. God clearly spoke to the people in Acts. He clearly speaks to us today.

4. An encounter with the Holy Spirit is an encounter with God. John 16:12-14

Now that the Holy Spirit is given, He is the one who guides you into all truth and teaches you all things. You understand spiritual truth, because the Holy Spirit is working in your life. You cannot understand the Word of God unless the Spirit of God teaches you.

5. God's revelations are designed to bring you into a love relationship with Him.

God speaks to His people. When He speaks, what does He reveal?

A. God reveals Himself.

When God speaks by the Holy Spirit to you, He often reveals to you something about Himself. He reveals His name, which is a reflection of His nature, and His character. He reveals Himself in order to help you respond in faith.

B. God reveals His purposes.

God reveals His purposes so you will know what He plans to do. If you are to join Him, you need to know what God is about to do.

C. God reveal His ways.

Isaiah 55:8-9; 53:6

God reveals His ways to us, because they are the only way to accomplish His purposes. Our ways may seem good to us. We may accomplish some moderate success. When we try to do the work of God in our ways, however, we will never see the mighty power of God in what we do.

Four Primary Methods of God's Speaking

God speaks uniquely to individuals, and He can do it in any way He pleases. God speaks through a variety of means, but these four are the primary ones He employs today. Often, they work in concert with each other.

1. God speaks through the Bible.

I Corinthians 2:14-15

The Bible is God's Word. God speaks to you through the Bible. You cannot understand spiritual truth unless the Spirit of God reveals it (John 14:17). When the Holy Spirit reveals a spiritual truth from the Word of God, He is personally relating to your life. This is an encounter with God.

2. God speaks through prayer.

I Corinthians 2:10-12

Prayer is a relationship, not just a spiritual activity. It's a two-way fellowship and communication with God. You speak to God, and He speaks to you.

3. God speaks through circumstances.

John 5:17, 19-20

Jesus did not have to guess what to do. Jesus did not have to dream up what He could do for the Father. He watched to see what the Father was doing around His life, and Jesus put His life there.

4. God speaks through the Church.

Ephesians 4:15-16

God has put us together, and we need each other. He speaks to us and guides us as His body.