

HOW GOD SPEAKS TO US

Scripture – the written language of God: God revealed His nature and character to us in the Bible. (Ps. 19; 119:18; 2 Tim. 3:16; 2 Pet. 1:21)

Quickening portions of Scripture: The Holy Spirit may quicken portion of Scripture to us by making it come suddenly alive and giving us an understanding of what it means. There are times when the Bible does not deal with a particular situation, but the Holy Spirit gives us certain scriptures to apply to our situation to help guide us. (Heb. 4:12)

Internal Promptings – the gut language of God: Sometimes we strongly feel we should or should not do something. Usually we can't explain why we feel that way, but it may be God who has dropped that feeling in our spirit. (Neh. 7:5; Mark 2:6-8; Luke 5:22; Acts 14:9)

Dreams – the sleep language of God: The dream may be literal, but most of the time it is symbolic. He may or may not give us an immediate understanding of what the dream means. Take your dreams back to God and ask Him about them. (Gen. 40-41; Num. 12:6; Jer. 23:28; Joel 2:28; Matt. 2:13, 19)

Visions – the picture language of God: Visions are similar to dreams. They normally occur while we are awake. It is a supernatural picture of certain scenery or circumstances to the mind of a person. (Gen. 15:3-5; Isa. 6:1-8; Ezek. 40:3; Dan. 10:5-6; Acts 10:9-14)

Everyday Life: God will sometimes speak to us from our everyday life experiences to give us an understanding of spiritual reality. For instance, God may speak to us about His love for us as we are loving our children. (Jer. 18:1-6 – potter, Prov. 24:30-34 – field, 1 Sam. 15:27-28 – torn robe)

Nature – the earthly language of God: “All nature seems to speak. As for me, I cannot understand why everybody does not see it or feel it, nature of God does it for everyone who has eyes and ears and a heart to understand.” – Van Gogh. (Job 38:8-11; Ps. 8:3-4; Isa. 40:12; Matt. 6:26, 28; Rom. 1:20)

Inner Voice/Audible Voice: The voice of the Lord comes to Christians in two forms: inward and audible. Audible is with your natural ears. Inward is an inner sense or permission that you receive in your spirit. (Gen. 22:1-2; Num. 12:6-8; John 16:13; Acts 9:3-5; 2 Pet. 1:17-18; 2 John 10:16)

Books, Movies, Songs, Art – the creative language of God: God can quicken things to us as we read a book, watch a movie, listen to a song, or see a piece of art. The parables of Jesus are stories; the Psalms are songs!

Angels – messengers of God's language: Angels may appear in their glory or in human form. (Ps. 34:11; Matt. 2:13; Luke 1:30; Heb. 1:14)

Repetition – the language of God's echo: Repetition is where God brings the same thing at you over and over again until you “get it”

Sentence Fragments – the short language of God: Sometimes God may only speak a single word. While the word may be clear, the interpretation may not be. Our glory is to search out meaning. (Prov. 25:2; Isa. 8:1)

Physical Manifestations in Our Bodies – the body language of God: We use our bodies to communicate love and do many other things. God also will use your body to tell you things. Ex: you may feel a chill when the presence of God is strong. Jesus felt healing power leave His body. (Luke 8:45-46)

Other People: God sometimes speaks to us through other people and then gives us a 'yes' deep in our own spirit. (2 Sam. 12)