

Liberty Church Values: 4. God Still Speaks

Jesus said "My sheep hear My voice" and promised us that He would send us another comforter, The Holy Spirit, who would "teach us all things". At liberty church we believe that God, by His Holy Spirit, primarily through His word, His people, His Spiritual gifts to the body and various other ways that He chooses, such as dreams, visions and even through the creation itself, still speaks to mankind. Proverbs declares that His wisdom cries out when we are faced with many paths to take and His still small voice can be heard even in the midst of the storms of life. Therefore we at liberty believe in the necessity of taking and making time to listen for His voice in a spirit of humble submission.

The whole of the Gospel message is about Jesus coming and destroying the power of sin, through which satan has a hold over humanity. This soul corrupting, destroying nature of sin, is what separates and prevents mankind from entering into a real, living, loving and functioning two way relationship with our Heavenly creator.

The original pre creation plan for mankind involved God and man in endless communion together for eternity. It was this plan that Jesus came to restore.

The essence of Christianity and what separates it from any and every other religion is this two way relationship. God and man in constant unending communion. If God did not want to be reconciled to humanity and enter into this two way relationship then there would be no point in Jesus dying for us. But Jesus did die for us so that we could be reconciled to God. Jesus put it like this in **John 14 : 6 "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.**

It would therefore be irrational, illogical and unreasonable to imagine that God would go to such great, humungous and horrendous lengths in the horrific crucifixion of His only begotten Son, and then not want to speak to mankind.

Study sections.

- 1/. Old Testament (Old Covenant) incidences.
- 2/. Teachings of Jesus.
- 3/. Jesus Teaching on the work of the Holy Spirit.
- 4/. New Testament (New Covenant) incidences. Acts. Rev.
- 5/. How God speaks today.
- 6/. Does God want to speak to me?
- 7/. Reasons Why people can't hear is voice.



1/. Old Testament (Old Covenant) incidences.

Original plan and desire of God was to be in constant communion with mankind.

Adam, Eve and God had conversations in the garden. God spoke to them about the trees.

Gen 1:28-29. 28 Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth." 29 And God said, "See, I have given you every herb that yields seed which is on the face of all the earth, and every tree whose fruit yields seed; to you it shall be for food.

- Gods heart to commune with man was broken.

Genesis 3 : 8-9 And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. Then the Lord God called to Adam and said to him, "Where are you?"

God was looking for Adam after Adam fell into sin.

- Gods continued desire to communicate with mankind unfolds.

God continued to speak to people such as Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses, Joshua , David and countless other people, from people like Abram who was originally an idolator, to future leaders and prophets. Too many to list. All the way up to Malachi, last book in old testament.

Exodus 33:11a So the Lord spoke to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend.

Ezekiel 2:1 And He said to me, "Son of man, stand on your feet, and I will speak to you."

Solomon. The Wisdom of God cries out to all of us at every juncture and crossroads of life we face. Wisdom as feminine.

Proverbs 8: 1-4. Does not wisdom cry out,

And understanding lift up her voice? She takes her stand on the top of the high hill, Beside the way, where the paths meet. She cries out by the gates, at the entry of the city, At the entrance of the doors: "To you, O men, I call, And my voice is to the sons of men.

2/. Teachings of Jesus.

Jesus confirmed the existence of and the reality of a two way communication between God and man, being both desired and developed by God,

- The desire.

John 10:27. 27 My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.



- **The development.**

Jesus wants us to not just hear Him but to understand what He is saying.

Luke 8:8 But others fell on good ground, sprang up, and yielded a crop a hundredfold." When He had said these things He cried, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear!"

Cried out. With a loud address. Jesus was declaring His desire for people to hear Him.

Then He strengthened this teaching in vs 18, regarding Gods desire to communicate with people and develop that communication further, so that people not only could hear Him, but also fully understand what He is saying, act upon His words and flourish in the process.

Vs 18 . Therefore take heed how you hear. For whoever has, to him more will be given; and whoever does not have, even what he seems to have will be taken from him."

Question: Did God stop speaking when Jesus left this earth?

3/. Jesus Teaching about the work of the Holy Spirit.

John 14:25- 26. "These things I have spoken to you while being present with you. 26 But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.

4/. New Testament (new covenant) incidences.

Acts 13:2 As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the **Holy Spirit said**, "Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them."

Acts 20:22-23 And see, now I go bound in the spirit to Jerusalem, not knowing the things that will happen to me there, 23 except that the Holy Spirit testifies in every city, **saying** that chains and tribulations await me.

Revelation 1:17 And when I saw Him (The risen, exalted Jesus), I fell at His feet as dead. But He laid His right hand on me, **saying** to me, "**Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last.**"

5/. How God speaks today.

- Firstly and most importantly. Through His word.

Understanding that the Holy Spirit will speak to us through the Word as we think on it, but the Word also speaks to us by the Holy Spirit as we read it.



Testimony. One of my first experiences of hearing the voice of God and not initially understanding that that was what had happened. As a young Christian I didn't know who to pray to, Father, Son or Holy Spirit. Then this inner voice, not audible, I just knew, told me to read **John 14:8-10**. I had no idea what was in the bible. and verse 9 leapt out at me. Bearing in mind that my name is Philip.

John 14:9 Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, 'Show us the Father'?"

- The word in Human form.

John 1:1-3. In the beginning was the Word (**logos**), and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.

John 1:14. And the Word (**logos**) became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

Hebrews 1:1-2. God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, 2 has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds;

- The word in written form.

2 Timothy 3 :16 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for [a]instruction in righteousness,

All scripture is Given by inspiration, or divinely breathed by the Spirit. The Bible, the whole word of God is the logos, something uttered or spoken. God speaks through His word, Spirit to spirit. As we read His word it will speak to our spirit, our inner out being.

Jesus said in **John 6:63** "My words are Spirit ad they are life".

Hebrews 4:12 For the word (**logos**) of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

- Secondly : By the Holy Spirit, through the church, His body.
This needs discernment and maturity.

1 Corinthians 12:1-11. Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I do not want you to be ignorant: 2 You know that you were Gentiles, carried away to these dumb idols (**unable to speak**), however you were led. 3 Therefore I make known to you that no one speaking by the Spirit of God calls Jesus accursed, and no one can say that Jesus is Lord except by the Holy Spirit. 4 There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. 5 There are differences of ministries, but the same



Lord. 6 And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all. 7 But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all: 8 for to one is given **the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit,** 9 to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit, 10 to another the working of miracles, **to another prophecy,** to another discerning of spirits, **to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues.** 11 But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.

The word through His church, will always compliment and agree with the written word.

- Thirdly in various forms. Also needs maturity and wise counsel. There is safety in a multitude of counsellors.

Acts 2:17-18 And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, That I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your young men shall see visions, Your old men shall dream dreams. And on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days; And they shall prophesy.

6/. Does God want to speak to me?

John 10:27. 27 My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.

- Everyone is invited, everyone is included, everyone is involved.

Hebrews 8:10-11 For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put My laws in their mind and write them on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. 11 None of them shall teach his neighbour, and none his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them.

7/. 5 Reasons why people can't hear Gods voice.

- The unsaved.

John 8:43-47 Why do you not understand My speech (**what I am saying**)? Because you are not able to listen to My word. 44 You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it. 45 But because I tell the truth, you do not believe Me. 46 Which of you convicts Me of sin? And if I tell the truth, why do you not believe Me? 47 He who is of God hears God's words; therefore you do not hear, because you are not of God."



1 Corinthians 2:14 But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

- Plain rebellious refusal.

Acts 7:51 "You stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears! You always resist the Holy Spirit; as your fathers did, so do you.

Hebrews 3:7 Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says: "Today, if you will hear His voice, 8 Do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion, In the day of trial in the wilderness,

- Learning to recognise His voice. New birth.
There is a difference between don't hear his voice and can't hear his voice.
Babies can't understand straight away. They have to learn.

1 Corinthians 14 : 29-32 Let two or three prophets speak, and let the others judge. 30 But if anything is revealed to another who sits by, let the first keep silent. 31 For you can all prophesy one by one, that all may learn and all may be encouraged. 32 And the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets.

Philippians 2: 12-13 Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; 13 for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.

- Lack of practice in listening and discerning His voice.
Hebrews 5:9-14 And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him, 10 called by God as High Priest "according to the order of Melchizedek," 11 of whom we have much to say, and hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing. For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food. 13 For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. 14 But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

- Lack of knowledge.
As mentioned earlier, God speaks through His word.
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Jesus said in John 6:63 "My words are Spirit and they are life".

The Holy Spirit works. Remembrance.

John 14:26. But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.

In order to remember something, we first have to have heard it.

The Holy Spirit not only teaches us, but he brings back into our minds what we have heard. As we read God's word we are actually listening to what God has said,

- Too much noise can drown out His voice.

1 Kings 19: 11-13. 11 Then He said, "Go out, and stand on the mountain before the Lord." And behold, the Lord passed by, and a great and strong wind tore into the mountains and broke the rocks in pieces before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake; 12 and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire; and after the fire a still small voice. 13 So it was, when Elijah heard it, that he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood in the entrance of the cave. Suddenly a voice came to him, and said, "What are you doing here, Elijah?"

Elijah was suffering from a depression brought about by a wrong perception of his circumstances (no one is left with me who serves God. Loneliness) and a lack of trust and faith in God's provision and protection (he feared for his life, Jezebel)

Our mind and emotions need to be clear of the noise created by raging and screaming thoughts and feelings of fear and hopelessness or the compelling desires for pleasure, comfort or riches. These all seek to drown out the still, gentle voice of God.

The Need for Finding that quiet place.

Mark 6:27-32 Immediately the king sent an executioner and commanded his head to be brought. And he went and beheaded him in prison, 28 brought his head on a platter, and gave it to the girl; and the girl gave it to her mother. 29 When his disciples heard of it, they came and took away his corpse and laid it in a tomb. Then the apostles gathered to Jesus and told Him all things, both what they had done and what they had taught. 31 And He said to them, "Come aside by yourselves to a deserted place and rest a while." For there were many coming and going, and they did not even have time to eat. 32 So they departed to a deserted place in the boat by themselves.

Conclusion. God has spoken over the years past, still speaks today, wants to speak, will speak, is speaking now and is always speaking.

The question now is not "does God speak", its "ARE WE LISTENING"?

