



THE WORD
The Preaching Ministry of
Ashley River Baptist Church

Alive

EXPERIENCING GOD: KNOWING AND DOING THE WILL OF GOD
**REALITY 4: GOD SPEAKS BY THE HOLY SPIRIT THROUGH THE BIBLE,
PRAYER, CIRCUMSTANCES, AND THE CHURCH TO REVEAL HIMSELF,
HIS PURPOSES, AND HIS WAYS.**

A critical point to understanding & experiencing God is knowing when God is speaking.

God Spoke in the Old Testament: Angels / Visions / Dreams / Urim and Thummim / Symbolic Acts / A Gentle Whisper. *That* God spoke is more important than *How*.

4 Factors Present when God Spoke: 1 – Usually unique to that individual! 2 – The person was sure God was speaking. (Exodus 3:14; Judges 6:22) 3 – The person knew what God said. 4 – When God spoke that WAS the encounter!

When God speaks to you, you will know it is God and you will know what He is saying.
When He speaks, that is an encounter with God.

God Spoke in the Gospels: God spoke through His Son Jesus. 1 John 1:1; John 14:8-10

God spoke from Acts to the Present

God spoke / speaks through the Holy Spirit: To encounter the Holy Spirit *IS* an encounter with God. 1 Corinthians 3:16

How Do I know When God Speaks. : You will know when God is speaking and what He is saying. John 10:3-14 You cannot allow yourself to be guided by...Experience alone / Tradition/ Method/ Formula.

WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT: The Holy Spirit, (called the Spirit of Truth) has the assignment of revealing spiritual truth to believers. An encounter with the Holy Spirit *IS* an encounter with God for you. **IMMEDIATELY RESPOND:** The next thing you do after an encounter with God is CRUCIAL!

God speaks with a Purpose / God Speaks at the Right Time / God Develops Character to Match the Assignment Matthew 25:21 / **God Gives Specific Directions** Isaiah 55:8

GOD SPEAKS THROUGH THE BIBLE: THE BIBLE IS GOD'S WORD: When God speaks to you through the Bible that *is* the encounter with God. The Spirit uses the Word to reveal God and His purposes. *Ephesians 6:17*

The Sequence: You read the Word of God: The Bible / The Spirit takes the Word of God and reveals truth / You Adjust your life to the truth of God / You obey Him / God works in and through you to accomplish His purposes

When do we encounter God? If God has revealed spiritual truth to you through a passage of Scripture, you *HAVE* encountered God Himself working in you!

RESPONDING TO TRUTH: A RESPONSE PATTERN

1 – Write down the passage of Scripture 2 – Meditate on it. 3 – Study it to immerse yourself in the meaning of that passage. What is God revealing about Himself, His purpose or His ways? 4 – Identify the adjustments you need to make so God can work that way with you. 5 – Write a prayer response to God. 6 – Agree with God and then adjust your life to the truth and thus to God and take any actions necessary to allow God to work in the way He has revealed. 7 - Alert yourself to watch for ways God may use that truth in your life during the day!

You do not adjust your life to a concept or a philosophy but to a Person. Truth is a person – Jesus. (John 14:6). God is introducing you to Himself and alerting you that He is wanting to apply this truth to your life right now. The Spirit of God uses the Word to make that known to you.

GOD SPEAKS THROUGH PRAYER: PRAYER IS A RELATIONSHIP: a two-way fellowship and communication with God. You speak to God and He speaks to you...it includes listening as well.

What God says in prayer is far more important than what you say. Prayer is a relationship, not just a religious activity. It is an encounter with God.

The Prayer Process: God takes the initiative by causing you to want to pray...The Holy Spirit, through the Word of God, reveals to you the will of God...In the Spirit you pray in agreement with the will of God...You adjust your life to the truth (to God)...You look and listen for confirmation or further directions from the Bible, circumstances, and the church (other believers)...You obey...God works in you and through you to accomplish His purposes....You experience Him just as the Spirit revealed as you prayed.

Prayer and Scripture: Spirit of God often uses the Word of God when you pray. As you pray about a particular matter, the Spirit of God takes the Word of God and applies it to your heart and mind.

PRAYING IN THE SPIRIT: We are weak and do not know how we ought to pray. (*Romans 8:26-27*)

The Holy Spirit knows what God has in store for us. It is already there. The Holy Spirit's task is to get you to conform to God's will, asking *according to His will*. You must reach the point where you have no will of your own.

God never will lead you in opposition to His written Word.

If what you sense in prayer runs contrary to Scriptures, it is wrong.

God always has far more to give you than you can even ask or think. (Eph. 3:20-21)

It should never cross your mind that God is not going to answer.

Expect God to answer your prayers!

THE SILENCES OF GOD : Sometimes God is silent as He prepares to bring you into a deeper understanding of Himself. Whenever a silence comes, continue doing the last thing God told you and watch and wait for a fresh encounter with Him.

God speaks by the Holy Spirit through the Bible, prayer, circumstances, and the church to reveal Himself, His purposes, and His ways. God desires to speak to you but only on His terms. You must seek out and employ in your life those methods through which He is speaking to hear Him. Will you?