

How God **Speaks** to Us



- Have you ever questioned whether God speaks today?

You've seen the commercial, "Can you hear me now? Good!" Paul Marcarelli of New York City, 34-year-old, travels 100,000 miles a year to test the reliability of a cellular network. But now the statement, "Can you hear me now?" has become a popular one in our culture. As we look at Psalm 19, it is a phrase that God could ask us—"Do you hear Me now?" God is not silent! God speaks today. He usually does so in subtle ways.

Psalm 19 can be divided into two parts: (1.) God's revelation in the SKY, and (2.) God's revelation in SCRIPTURE.

Central Lesson:

God is not silent, He still speaks today in many subtle ways.

1. God's Revelation in the **SKY**—Creation - Psalm 19:1-6

"1 The heavens proclaim the glory of God. The skies display his craftsmanship. 2 Day after day they continue to speak; night after night they make him known. 3 They speak without a sound or word; their voice is never heard. 4 Yet their message has gone throughout the earth, and their words to all the world." NLT

How does God speak through creation? What does God say through creation? Philosopher Francis Schaeffer wrote that creation, "...speaks loudly and clearly of what God is in four different areas." Schaeffer explained that...

- a. The external world speaks of existence itself which points to the existence of a Creator.
- b. Secondly, the universe has order rather than chaos, which points to God as a being of order and reason.
- c. Third, since the original creation was good, God the creator is good.
- d. Forth, since God did not stop at creating a lifeless material world, but created humans, this speaks of God as a personal being who is relational, who communicates, and who loves.

Schaeffer concludes: "The universe, therefore, speaks of Being existing. It speaks of order and reason. It speaks of a good and reasonable God, and it speaks of a personal God... the things that God has made are a testimony to his being, to his goodness and to his personality." *Genesis in Space & Time* (Downers Grove, Illinois: InterVarsity Press, 1972), pp. 60-63.

Bible teacher, Warren Wiersbe, writes, "The existence of creation implied the existence of a Creator, and the nature of the creation implied that he was wise enough to plan it and powerful enough to execute his plan and maintain what he had made. So complex a universe demands a Creator who can do anything, who knows everything, and who is present everywhere." *The Transformation Study Bible*, p. 892.

2. God's Revelation in **SCRIPTURE** - Psalm 19:7-14

"7 The instructions of the Lord are perfect, reviving the soul. The decrees of the Lord are trustworthy, making wise the simple. 8 The commandments of the

Lord are right, bringing joy to the heart. The commands of the Lord are clear, giving insight for living." NLT

Both the testimony of the Biblical authors and the evidence of apologetics (evidence for the claims & defense of Christianity) support the assertion that the Bible is God's revelation (even more, His love letter) to humanity. (The testimony of the Biblical authors: 2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Pet. 1:20-21; Gal. 1:11-12; Heb. 1:1-2, etc. The evidence of apologetics—fulfilled prophecy; scientific accuracy of the Bible; the unique unity; the unique power to transform lives, etc.).

What did the psalmist say about the Bible? The *Life Application Study Bible* comments, "When we think of the law, we often think of something that keeps us from having fun. But here we see the opposite: God's laws revive us, make us wise, bring joy to the heart, give insight, warn us, and reward us. God's laws are guidelines and lights for our path, rather than chains on our hands and feet. They point at danger to warn us, then point at success to guide us." Psalm 19:7-11.

3. The **SPIRIT** - Romans 8:16; Acts 5:32; 8:29; 9:31; 10:19; 13:2; 20:23; 21:11

"16 For his Spirit joins with our spirit to affirm [NIV - testifies] that we are God's children." Rom. 8:16 NLT *"29 The Holy Spirit said to Philip, 'Go over and walk along beside the carriage.'" Acts 8:29 NLT*

Over Biblical history, the Holy Spirit has spoken in different ways—audible speech, dreams, revelations, etc. Although God can speak any way He chooses at any period of time, today it seems that God usually makes impressions upon an individual's heart. We could call it the Spirit's "whispers."

The Holy Spirit speaks to our heart giving us a feeling of peace or a grieved feeling when directing us in His will. We must be careful, however, that we do not manufacture a witness in our heart as a result of wishful thinking, emotionalism, or an attempt to deceive ourselves into thinking what we really desire is the will of God. The witness of the Spirit will be steadfast and unavoidable. It will also be consistent with the Bible.

4. **CIRCUMSTANCES** - Acts 16:6-7; 19:21; Romans 8:14

"6 Next Paul and Silas traveled through the area of Phrygia and Galatia, because the Holy Spirit had prevented them from preaching the word in the province of Asia at that time. 7 Then coming to the borders of Mysia, they headed north for the province of Bithynia, but again the Spirit of Jesus did not allow them to go there." Acts 16:6-7 NLT

We are not told in Acts how the Spirit "prevented" and "did not allow" Paul and his companions to enter certain territories. All we know is that it was God's Spirit closing the door in some way. God also opens and closes doors for us. This is a way of God communicating His will and direction for our lives.

5. **COUNSEL** of Other Spirit-controlled Believers - Acts 4:8, 25

"8 Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, 'Rulers and elders of our people,'" Acts 4:8 NLT

God can witness to other believers and use their experiences and insights to advise us. We ought to discuss with other believers what we feel the Lord is leading us to do.

Central Lesson:

God is not silent, He still speaks today in many subtle ways.

- ▶ Accept Christ as your Savior. ▶ As a Christian, dedicate your life to Christ.
- ▶ Invite someone to next Sunday's study. ▶ Attend a small group. ▶ Read the Bible this week & journal meaningful verses. ▶ Pray for friends that need Jesus.