EXPERIENCING COLUMN COLUMN



Are You Hearing Voices From God?

1 Samuel 3:1-11

"Prayer is an invitation to God to intervene in our lives, to let His will prevail in our affairs." (Abraham Joshua Heschel) "We are made to hear God, the human system simply will not function properly without it." Dallas Willard

God speaks to us through the Holy Spirit through the Bible, prayer, circumstances, and the church to reveal Himself, His purposes, and His ways.

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"The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God."
Romans 8:16

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1. God speaks through the Bible.

a. Read it prayerfully.

"Those who operate on the wrong information are likely never to know the reality of God's presence in the decisions which shape their lives and will miss the constant divine companionship for which their souls were made." Dallas Willard

b. Read the Bible realistically.

c. Allow the Bible to judge you.

2. God speaks through <u>prayer</u>.

3. God speaks through circumstances.

"The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they display knowledge. There is no speech or language where their voice is not heard. Their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world." Psalm 19:1-4

"For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities his eternal power and divine nature - having been clearly see, being understood from what has been made, so that mortals are without excuse." Romans 1:20

4. God speaks through the church.

"my thoughts are not always God's thoughts nor are my ways always God's way." a. God speaks through the <u>local</u> community.

b. God speaks through my spouse.

"God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks to us in our conscience, but shouts in our pains: It is His megaphone to rouse a deaf world." C.S Lewis

c. God speaks through our parents. God speaks to us through the Holy Spirit through the Bible, prayer, circumstances, and the church to reveal Himself, His purposes, and His ways.

"Lord, when we are wrong, make us willing to change, and when we are right, make us easy to live with!"

"I believe that one reason why we fail to hear God speak to us is that we are not attentive. We suffer from what might be called "spiritual mindlessness." John Ortberg