

**Twelve Ways God Speaks: #1) Creation**

**Twelve Ways God Speaks: #2) Wisdom**

**Twelve Ways God Speaks: #3) Your Conscience**

**Twelve Ways God Speaks: #4) Other People**

**Twelve Ways God Speaks: #5) The Word of God**

**Twelve Ways God Speaks: #6) The Inner Voice of the Holy Spirit**

**Twelve Ways God Speaks: #7) The Gifts of the Holy Spirit**

**Twelve Ways God Speaks: #8) Dreams**

- All Over the Bible
  - Over 200 times, the Bible talks about people having dreams, visions, or similar experiences with God
  - It's one of the most common ways God speaks
  - God established covenants through dreams (Isaac and Jacob in Gen 26, 28)
  - God saved nations from famines through dreams (Egypt and Israel in Gen 41, 46)
  - God gave blessing, wisdom, wealth, and understanding of the future through dreams (Gen 26, 28, 1 Kings 3, Daniel)
  - God told people where to move, how to escape danger, and where to preach the Gospel through dreams (Matthew 1-2, Acts 16)
- God Promises to Speak Through Dreams
  - Joel 2:28-29 – 28 And afterward, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions. 29 Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days.
  - Job 33:14-15 – 14 For God does speak – now one way, now another – though no one perceives it. 15 In a dream, in a vision of the night, when deep sleep falls on people as they slumber in their beds...
- Seven Things God Does Through Dreams
  - 1) He Reveals Himself to Us
    - Numbers 12:6 – ... When there is a prophet among you, I, the Lord, reveal myself to them in visions, I speak to them in dreams
      - “reveal” = from the Hebrew word yada, which means “to know intimately and experientially”... not just knowledge about someone, but actually knowing them as a person
    - Genesis 28:10-17 – 10 Jacob left Beersheba and set out for Harran. 11 When he reached a certain place, he stopped for the night because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones there, he put it under his head and lay down to sleep. 12 He had a dream in which he saw a stairway resting on the earth, with its top reaching to heaven, and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. 13 There above it stood the Lord, and he said: “I am the Lord, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac. I will give you and your descendants the land on which you are lying. 14 Your descendants will be like the dust of the earth, and you will spread out to the west and to the east, to the north and to the south. All peoples on earth will be blessed through you and your offspring. 15 I am

with you and will watch over you wherever you go, and I will bring you back to this land. I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.” 16 When Jacob awoke from his sleep, he thought, “Surely the Lord is in this place, and I was not aware of it.” 17 He was afraid and said, “How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God; this is the gate of heaven.”

- In the Muslim World...
  - More Muslims have gotten saved in the past few decades than in all the previous 1400 years combined
  - 1/4 to 1/3 of them have had dreams or visions of Jesus
- Dreams are Mysterious
  - Numbers 12:6-8 – ... 6 When there is a prophet among you, I, the Lord, reveal myself to them in visions, I speak to them in dreams. 7 But this is not true of my servant Moses; he is faithful in all my house. 8 With him I speak face to face, clearly and not in riddles; he sees the form of the Lord.
  - But we can understand our dreams because we have the Mind of Christ (1 Corinthians 2:16)
- 2) He Brings Correction
  - Job 33:14-18 – 14 For God does speak – now one way, now another – though no one perceives it. 15 In a dream, in a vision of the night, when deep sleep falls on people as they slumber in their beds, 16 he may speak in their ears and terrify them with warnings, 17 to turn them from wrongdoing and keep them from pride, 18 to preserve them from the pit, their lives from perishing by the sword.
  - In Psalm 17:3, David wrote, “You probe my heart... you examine me at night and test me...”
  - Genesis 32:22-30 – Jacob Wrestled with God
- 3) He Encourages Us
  - Acts 18:9-11 – 9 One night the Lord spoke to Paul in a vision: “Do not be afraid; keep on speaking, do not be silent. 10 For I am with you, and no one is going to attack and harm you, because I have many people in this city.” 11 So Paul stayed in Corinth for a year and a half, teaching them the word of God.
  - “encourage” = English word is from the French... which literally meant “to make courageous”
  - Judges 7:13-15 – 13 Gideon arrived just as a man was telling a friend his dream. “I had a dream,” he was saying. “A round loaf of barley bread came tumbling into the Midianite camp. It struck the tent with such force that the tent overturned and collapsed.” 14 His friend responded, “This can be nothing other than the sword of Gideon son of Joash, the Israelite. God has given the Midianites and the whole camp into his hands.” 15 When Gideon heard the dream and its interpretation, he bowed down and worshiped. He returned to the camp of Israel and called out, “Get up! The Lord has given the Midianite camp into your hands.”
- Joel 2:28-29 – 28 And afterward, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions. 29 Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days.