

What is a Normal Christian?

- A "Normal Christian" is a Christian who conforms to the Norm or Standard of a Christian... which would be Jesus
- John 14:12 – ... whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father.
- 1 John 2:6 – Whoever claims to live in him must live as Jesus did.
 - ESV = ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.

Jesus Communicated with the Father

- John 8:28 – When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am he and that I do nothing on my own... but speak just what the Father has taught me.
- John 12:49 – For I did not speak on my own, but the Father who sent me commanded me to say all that I have spoken.
- John 5:19 – ... Very truly I tell you, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does.
- John 11:42 – ... I know that You always hear Me...
- "communication" = from Latin "to impart"... which itself is from the Latin meaning "to share"
 - An old word for communication is "intercourse"
- John 12:27-30 – "27 Now my soul is troubled, and what shall I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour. 28 Father, glorify your name!"
 - Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and will glorify it again." 29 The crowd that was there and heard it said it had thundered; others said an angel had spoken to him.
 - 30 Jesus said, "This voice was for your benefit, not mine."

The People Who Know Their God

- Daniel 11:32 – the people who know their God shall be strong, and carry out great exploits
 - "know" = *yada* = deep, intimate knowing
- John 17:3 – Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.
- James 4:8 – Come near to God and he will come near to you.
 - "near" = the Greek word is from a word meaning "to squeeze"

This Should Not Be Unusual...

- Old Testament
 - God spoke to Adam and Eve and told them to be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth, and leave that one tree alone
 - God spoke to Noah and told him to build a boat
 - God spoke to Abraham and told him to go to a new land, where his descendants would one day outnumber the stars
 - God spoke to Moses through the burning bush, on Mount Sinai, and many other times
 - God spoke to Joshua to take the land
 - God spoke to Gideon and the Judges to rise up and set the people free
 - God spoke to Samuel to anoint the new king
 - God spoke to David and told him to attack certain enemies, store up supplies to build a Temple, and repent for fooling around with Bathsheba
 - God spoke to Solomon and granted him his heart's desire, wisdom to rule well
 - God spoke to Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and all the prophets
- New Testament

- God spoke to Zechariah and Elizabeth that they would bear a son, who became known as John the Baptist
- He spoke to Mary through an angel announcing that she would bear the Messiah
- He spoke through angels to the shepherds at night, telling them where to find the Jesus, the New King of Israel
- He spoke through angels and through dreams to Joseph... warning him to flee Israel with Mary and Jesus, and then to return
- He spoke to Peter, telling him that Gentiles could enter the Kingdom of God, just like the Jews
- He spoke to Phillip, telling him to go for a walk outside of Jerusalem and then find a man there, an official from Ethiopia, who needed to hear about Jesus
- He spoke to Ananias, telling him to enter a certain home on a certain street, and there he would find a man named Saul who used to persecute the church but would soon change his name to Paul and become one of its greatest founders
- He spoke to Paul on the road to Damascus, convincing him that Jesus really was the Messiah, so stop persecuting My people
- When you step back and survey the entirety of Scripture, it becomes clear that God is always speaking to people
- John 10:27 – My sheep listen to my voice, I know them, and they follow me.
- John 15:15 – I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.
- Proverbs 3:32 - ... the Lord detests the perverse but takes the upright into his confidence.
 - “confidence” = sod = a circle of close friends you discuss your plans with, get advice from, trust with all your random thoughts

The Most Important Key to Recognizing God’s Voice

- Spend time with Him

What Does His Voice Sound Like?

- 1 Kings 19:11-13 – 11 The Lord said, “Go out and stand on the mountain in the presence of the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by.” Then a great and powerful wind tore the mountains apart and shattered the rocks before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind... After the wind there was an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake... 12 After the earthquake came a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire... And after the fire came a gentle whisper. 13 When Elijah heard it, he pulled his cloak over his face and went out and stood at the mouth of the cave.
- 1 Corinthians 2:16 – “Who has known the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?” ... But we have the mind of Christ.

How to Distinguish God’s Voice

- 3 Sources: God, the Enemy, yourself (Flesh)
 - Your job is to distinguish which one you just heard, and then deal with it appropriately
- If it’s from God... you grab ahold of it
- If it’s from the Enemy... you stomp it out
- If it’s from yourself / Flesh... you judge what the right, Biblical response is