

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
- 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.
- 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
 - 2) He Brings Correction
 - In Psalm 17:3, David wrote, “You probe my heart... you examine me at night and test me...”
 - 3) He Encourages Us
 - 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.”
 - 4) He Leads and Directs Us
 - Bible Examples
 - God told Laban not to mess with Jacob (Genesis 31)... and Abimelech not to mess with Sarah, Abraham's wife (Genesis 20)
 - God showed Jacob how to increase his flocks (Genesis 31)... and later how to survive the famine by going to Egypt (Genesis 46)
 - Before Saul attacks the Philistines, he expects God to send him a dream with the plan (1 Samuel 28)
 - In the NT, God told the Wise Men not to return to Herod or he would kill them (Matthew 2)

- He tells Joseph to go ahead and take Mary as his wife... to escape to Egypt with Jesus... to go back to Israel to live... and to live in Nazareth and not his hometown of Judea... all through dreams (Matthew 1-2)
- During Jesus' trial, God sent Pilate's wife a dream that led her to tell Pilate to leave Jesus alone (Matthew 27)
- 5) He Shows Us Glimpses of the Future
 - Genesis 15:12-16 – 12 As the sun was setting, Abram fell into a deep sleep, and a thick and dreadful darkness came over him. 13 Then the Lord said to him, “Know for certain that for four hundred years your descendants will be strangers in a country not their own and that they will be enslaved and mistreated there. 14 But I will punish the nation they serve as slaves, and afterward they will come out with great possessions. 15 You, however, will go to your ancestors in peace and be buried at a good old age. 16 In the fourth generation your descendants will come back here, for the sin of the Amorites has not yet reached its full measure.”
 - Joseph and Dreams
 - When he was a kid, he had dreams that he would rule over his parents and brothers (Gen 37)... and it happens when he becomes second-in-command over Egypt
 - When he was in prison on trumped up charges, he accurately interpreted the dreams of the Cupbearer and Baker... The Cupbearer is released and the Baker is executed, just as the dreams showed (Gen 40)
 - Pharaoh's Dreams (Gen 41)
 - Dream 1: 7 good and fat cows came out of the Nile River... Then 7 ugly, skinny cows came out... The ugly cows ate up the fat cows
 - Dream 2: 7 healthy, good heads of grain grew on a stalk... Then 7 thin, dried-out heads grew... The thin heads of grain swallowed the healthy ones
 - Joseph told Pharaoh that the dreams meant that they would have 7 years of abundant harvest... followed by 7 years of famine... so they should store grain during the good years to have enough during the famine
- 6) He Breaks New Ground for the Gospel
 - Acts 16:6-10 – 8 So they passed by Mysia and went down to Troas. 9 During the night Paul had a vision of a man of Macedonia standing and begging him, “Come over to Macedonia and help us.” 10 After Paul had seen the vision, we got ready at once to leave for Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.
- 7) He Trains Us for War
 - Psalm 16:7 – I will praise the Lord, who counsels me; even at night my heart instructs me.
 - In Psalm 144:1, David says that God “trains my hands for war, my fingers for battle”
 - Three Types of Training Dreams
 - 1) Ministry Practice – This is when God gives you dreams where you are doing ministry, as practice and preparation to do that ministry
 - 2) Biblical Clarification – This is when God gives you a dream that clarifies or illustrates something in the Bible, to help you understand it better or deeper
 - 3) Spiritual Warfare Engagement – This is not so much God speaking to you in a dream, but God allowing you, through a dream, to experience the war going on around you in the spiritual realm, to train you to fight