

## **God Speaks Series – Part 1**

**Led by the Holy Spirit**

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12.1.19

Good morning, we are starting our new Christmas series today called “God Speaks.” We are excited to take some time over the next few weeks to remind ourselves about the true meaning of Christmas. That Christmas is about God speaking to humanity through his son. God the Father speaking life and hope in the promised Messiah Jesus.

He has spoken through prophecy of the old testament, he speaks through the angel Gabriel who speaks to Zachariah, then through Elizabeth and the miracle of John the Baptist’s birth, Mary and Joseph, through the star and the wise men, through the host of angels to the shepherd and then through the shepherds who tell everyone what they saw. Simeon and Anna in the temple, then through Jesus’ life, teaching, miracles, his death and resurrection. Through the apostles and through the Holy Spirit. Through the writing of the new testament, through missionaries and martyrs, though preachers and teachers, evangelists and authors spreading his messages. Gods is speaking. Just last week in this place three people surrendered their lives to Jesus Christ.

In fact, in the book of Hebrews the bible describes Jesus as the primary means by which God speaks.

### **Hebrews 1:1-3**

**1 In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, <sup>2</sup> but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe. <sup>3</sup> The Son is the radiance of God’s glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven.**

Scripture is clear that God is speaking through Jesus, look to Jesus, look to his life, look to his teaching and you will find God. You will be made right with God and have eternal life.

In John 16:7 Jesus gives some instructions to his disciples. He is about to be crucified and he is preparing the disciples for this event. The disciples are troubled. They don’t understand.

### **John 16:7**

**<sup>7</sup> But very truly I tell you, it is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you**

### **John 16:13**

**<sup>13</sup> But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears,**

You might be asking; I love God so how come I can't hear the voice of the Holy Spirit in my life?

In order to hear or follow the voice of the Holy Spirit, there are a few things that we have to stop doing.

**1. We cannot listen to a culture that does not follow God.**

- Fashion changes
- There are so many voices
  - Talk radio
  - Podcasts
  - YouTube
  - TV
  - Books
- Peter Drucker we cannot manage our lives

**2. We cannot listen to relationships that do not follow God.**

- Show me your friends and I'll show you your future.

**Proverbs 13:20 Walk with the wise and become wise, for a companion of fools suffers harm.**

- Co-workers, classmates

**3. We can't listen to other sources other than God.**

- Horoscopes, tarot cards, palm reading, physics, Ouija boards

### **Deuteronomy 18:10-12**

**<sup>10</sup> Let no one be found among you...who practices divination or sorcery, interprets omens, engages in witchcraft, <sup>11</sup> or casts spells, or who is a medium or spiritist or who consults the dead. <sup>12</sup> Anyone who does these things is detestable to the Lord;**

Throwing the beans, looking at the liver

### **Ezekiel 21:21 New International Version (NIV)**

**<sup>21</sup> For the king of Babylon will stop at the fork in the road, at the junction of the two roads, to seek an omen: He will cast lots with arrows, he will consult his idols, he will examine the liver.**

#### **4. We must stop listening to our circumstances.**

- There are countless stories in the bible where God uses impossible circumstances to show his power in people's lives. You cannot allow your circumstances to be the authority in your life. Abraham, Jonah, Daniel.
- I'm old, I guess. I'm done. I should give up. There's a boat here and I have the money and the room for the boat. It must be God's will.
- Acts 27 is a perfect example of our need to rely on the word of God and not on our circumstances.

#### **Acts 27:10-25**

<sup>10</sup> "Men, I can see that our voyage is going to be disastrous and bring great loss to ship and cargo, and to our own lives also." <sup>11</sup> But the centurion, instead of listening to what Paul said, followed the advice of the pilot and of the owner of the ship...<sup>13</sup> When a gentle south wind began to blow, they saw their opportunity; so they weighed anchor and sailed along the shore of Crete. <sup>14</sup> Before very long, a wind of hurricane force, called the Northeaster, swept down from the island. <sup>15</sup> The ship was caught by the storm and could not head into the wind; so we gave way to it and were driven along.

#### **5. We cannot always listen to our feelings.**

- Jonah was sleeping in the bottom of a boat nice and comfortable completely outside the will of God.

These last five points have been voices we need to stop listening to. I think we need to take an honest moment to genuinely take inventory of our lives.

#### **We must listen to God's word.**

- The will of God is found in the word of God.
- Stop listening for a voice and start looking for a verse.
- God's will will not contradict his word.

#### **Closing**