

Oct 4, 2026

2026_10_04 A Communicating God





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The Scriptures

Continue in what you have learned and firmly believed. You know those who taught you, and you know that from infancy you have known the sacred Scriptures, which are able to give you wisdom for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is inspired by God and is profitable for teaching, for rebuking, for correcting, for training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

2 Timothy 3v14-17 (CSB)

Above all, you know this: No prophecy of Scripture comes from the prophet's own interpretation, because no prophecy ever came by the will of man; instead, men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

2 Peter 1v20-21 (CSB)

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Personal, Direct Revelation

Creation: Psalm 19, Romans 1

God speaks directly to people: Genesis 3v8-9, 12v1-3

A phenomenon + a voice: Burning bush (Ex 3v1-6), a talking donkey (Numbers 22v22-41), fire, wind, clouds (Exodus 19v16-20), and angels (Genesis 16, 19, Judges 2,6, 2 Kings 1, 1 Chronicles 21, Zechariah 1, 3, Matthew 1, 2, 4, Luke 1, Acts 10,12, Rev 2, 17)

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Dreams and Visions

“The mystery was then revealed to Daniel in a vision at night...”
Daniel 2v19 (CSB)

A few other instances: Isaiah 1v1, Matthew 1v20, 2v13-19, Acts 16v9

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Divine Initiative (through circumstances)

Judges 6v33-40 Gideon and the fleece

“open and closed doors” Revelation 3v7

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Audible voice

1 Kings 19v11-12

As he traveled and was nearing Damascus, a light from heaven suddenly flashed around him. Falling to the ground, he heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?" "Who are you, Lord?" Saul said. "I am Jesus, the one you are persecuting," he replied. "But get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do."

Acts 9v3-6 (CSB)

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Human Voice

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors by the prophets at different times and in different ways.

Hebrews 1v1 (CSB)

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Jesus

In these last days, he has spoken to us by his Son. God has appointed him heir of all things and made the universe through him. The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact expression of his nature, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high.

Hebrews 1v2-3 (CSB)

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Holy Spirit

And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever. He is the Spirit of truth. The world is unable to receive him because it doesn't see him or know him. But you do know him, because he remains with you and will be in you.

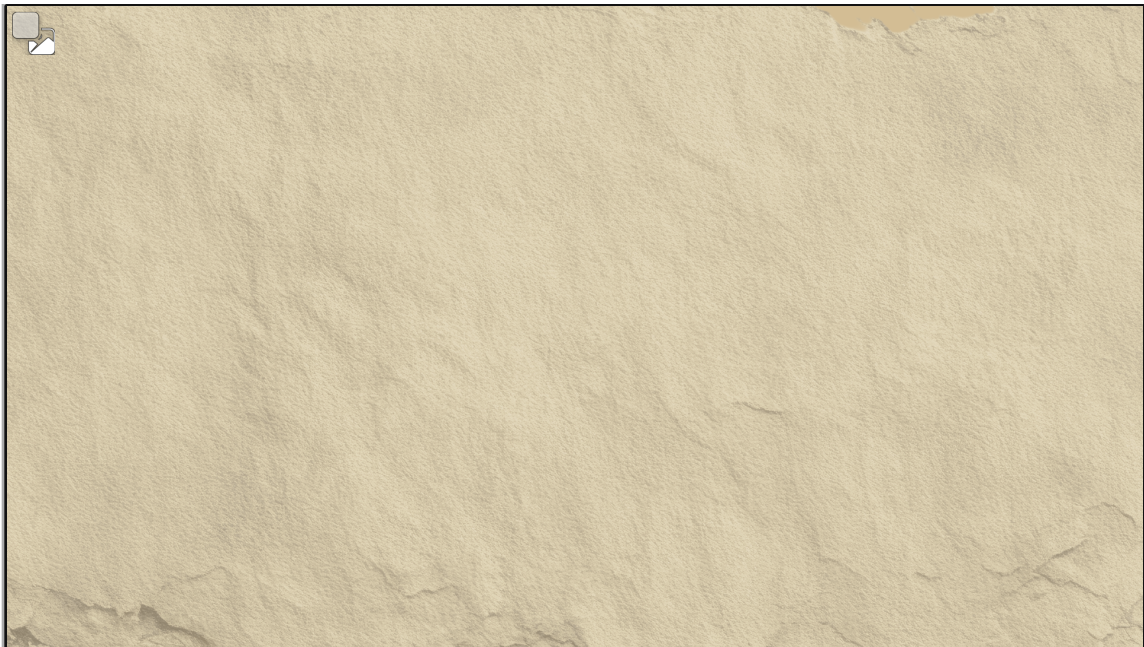
John 14v16-17 (CSB)

I still have many things to tell you, but you can't bear them now. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth. For he will not speak on his own, but he will speak whatever he hears. He will also declare to you what is to come.

John 16v12-13 (CSB)

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We trust a communicating God. It is who he is.

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Scripture must remain our anchor and authority.

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The danger we must avoid is deciding ahead of time how God is allowed to speak.

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We live with an open Bible, open ears, and an open heart.

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Two of the most significant ways God speaks to us today is through the Scriptures and the Holy Spirit.

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“The Bible is not only a book which was once spoken, but a book which is now speaking...If you would follow on to know the Lord, come at once to the open Bible expecting it to speak to you. Do not come with the notion that it is a thing which you can push around at your convenience.”

A.W. Tozer

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“Speaking theologically...the Holy Spirit is not simply an idea, concept, or abstract theoretical notion. Rather, he is a very real, personal, divine entity—the third person of the Trinity—who can be interacted with in a real, interpersonal, phenomenal, existentially-impactful (life-story shaping) manner.”

Dr. Gary Tyra

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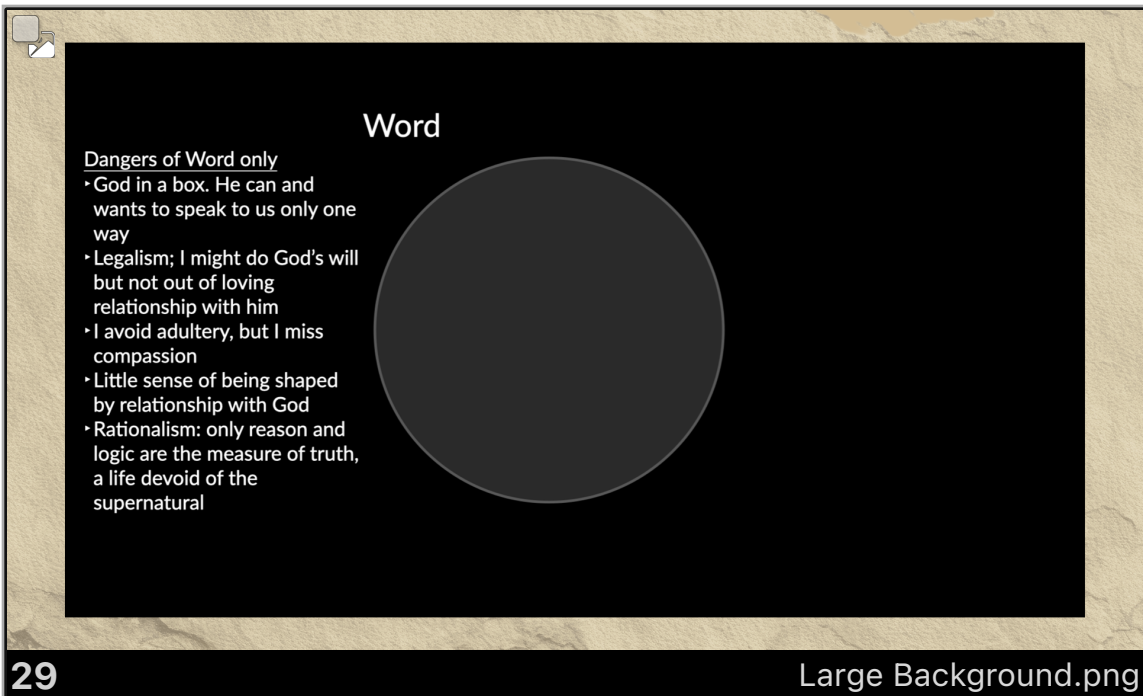
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Now we have not received the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who comes from God, so that we may understand what has been freely given to us by God.

1 Corinthians 2v12 (CSB)

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Word

Dangers of Word only

- God in a box. He can and wants to speak to us only one way
- Legalism; I might do God's will but not out of loving relationship with him
- I avoid adultery, but I miss compassion
- Little sense of being shaped by relationship with God
- Rationalism: only reason and logic are the measure of truth, a life devoid of the supernatural

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Holy Spirit

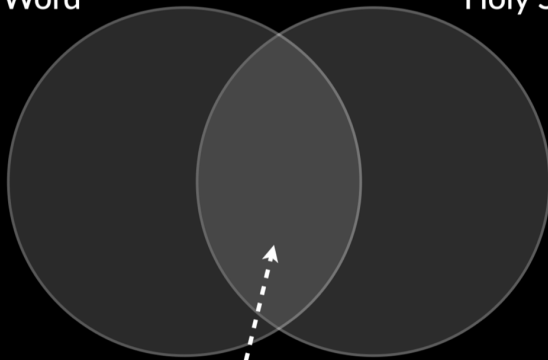


Dangers of Holy Spirit only

- My thoughts and intuitions are as authoritative as God's written words
- God does my will and bends to my desires
- Feelings rule my life, opening the door to lust and self-will
- Confusion between your will and God's will
- Romanticism: Intuition and feeling are the measure of truth

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Word



Holy Spirit

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Word & Holy Spirit

Permeating my life with God's Word gives the Spirit a vocabulary to make his words personal and applicable to me. Daily listening to the voice of the Spirit is a life of walking-in-the Spirit.

This results in an integrated life of hearing God's voice through a grounded, deep relationship.

Dangers of Holy Spirit only

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God also speaks to us today through:
the body of Christ (Acts 15v1-29)
divine initiative (Revelation 3v7)
the “inner voice” (1 Corinthians 2v6-16)

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“Ought we not to look upon our own history as being at least as full of God, as full of His goodness and of His truth, as much a proof of His faithfulness and veracity, as the lives of any of the saints who have gone before? We do our Lord an injustice when we suppose that He wrought all His mighty acts, and showed Himself strong for those in the early time, but doth not perform wonders or lay bare His arm for the saints who are now upon the earth. Let us review our own lives. Surely in these we may discover some happy incidents, refreshing to ourselves and glorifying to our God. Have you had no deliverances? Have you passed through no rivers, supported by the divine presence? Have you walked through no fires unharmed? Have you had no manifestations? Have you had no choice favours? ... Surely the goodness of God has been the same to us as to the saints of old.”

C.H. Spurgeon

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God still speaks and disciples can learn to recognize his voice.

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