

GOD SPEAKS TO YOU TO REVEAL HIS PURPOSE

*"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."*

Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV)

❖ When God Speaks:

*"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob. He will teach us his ways, so that we may walk in his paths."*

Micah 4:2 (NIV)

1. When God speaks He reveals His CHARACTER to you.

*The Lord said to Moses, <sup>2</sup>"Speak to the entire assembly of Israel and say to them: 'Be holy because I, the Lord your God, am holy.'"*

Leviticus 19:1-2 (NIV)

2. When God speaks He reveals His PURPOSE in you.

*Who has saved us and called us to a holy life--not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time.*

2 Timothy 1:9 (NIV)

3. When God speaks He reveals His WAYS for you.

*"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the Lord.*

Isaiah 55:8 (NIV)

❖ A Man Named Saul:

*And Saul was there, giving approval to (Stephen's) death.*

Acts 8:1a (NIV)

1. God is always at WORK to carry out His PURPOSE.

*On that day a great persecution broke out against the church at Jerusalem, and all except the apostles were scattered throughout Judea and Samaria.*

Acts 8:1b (NIV)

2. God pursues a LOVE RELATIONSHIP with you that is real and personal.

*As Paul neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. <sup>4</sup>Saul fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?"*

Acts 9:3-4 (NIV)

3. God invites you to JOIN HIM in His work.

*"Who are you, Lord?" Saul asked. "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting," He replied. <sup>6</sup>"Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do."*

4. God speaks to you to REVEAL His PURPOSE.

*Saul got up from the ground, but when he opened his eyes he could see nothing. So they led him by the hand into Damascus. <sup>9</sup>For three days he was blind, and did not eat or drink anything. <sup>10</sup>In Damascus there was a disciple named Ananias. The Lord called to him in a vision, "Ananias!" "Yes, Lord," he answered. <sup>11</sup>The Lord told him, "Go to the house of Judas on Straight Street and ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying. <sup>12</sup>In a vision he has seen a man named Ananias come and place his hands on him to restore his sight." <sup>13</sup>"Lord," Ananias answered, "I have heard many reports about this man and all the harm he has done to your saints in Jerusalem. <sup>14</sup>And he has come here with authority from the chief priests to arrest all who call on your name." <sup>15</sup>But the Lord said to Ananias, "Go! This man is my chosen instrument to carry my name before the Gentiles and their kings and before the people of Israel. <sup>16</sup>I will show him how much he must suffer for my name." <sup>17</sup>Then Ananias went to the house and entered it. Placing his hands on Saul, he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord--Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here--has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit."*

Acts 9:8-17 (NIV)

5. God's invitation always leads to a CRISIS of BELIEF.

*Immediately, something like scales fell from Saul's eyes, and he could see again. He got up and was baptized, <sup>19</sup>and after taking some food, he regained his strength. Saul spent several days with the disciples in Damascus.*

Acts 9:18-19 (NIV)

6. God's invitation demands that you make MAJOR ADJUSTMENTS to join Him.

*At once he began to preach in the synagogues that Jesus is the Son of God. <sup>21</sup>All those who heard him were astonished and asked, "Isn't he the man who raised havoc in Jerusalem among those who call on this name? And hasn't he come here to take them as prisoners to the chief priests?"*

Acts 9:20-21 (NIV)

7. You will EXPERIENCE GOD as you obey Him and He works through you.

*Yet Saul grew more and more powerful and baffled the Jews living in Damascus by proving that Jesus is the Christ.*

Acts 9:22 (NIV)

❖ How God Speaks:

*In the past God spoke to our forefathers 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 he made the universe.*

Hebrews 1:1-2 (NIV)

1. God speaks through His Word, the BIBLE.

*All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, <sup>17</sup>so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.*

2. God speaks through PRAYER.

*In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express.*

*<sup>27</sup>And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God's will.*

Romans 8:26-27 (NIV)

*"No prayer, no power... Little prayer, little power... Much prayer, much power."*

3. God speaks through His CHURCH.

*Speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ. <sup>16</sup>From him the whole body,(the Church) joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.*

Ephesians 4:15-16 (NIV)

4. God speaks through your CIRCUMSTANCES.

*Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. <sup>6</sup>Seek his will in all you do, and he will direct your paths.*

Proverbs 3:5-6 (NLT)