



# Experiencing God





**I am the vine; you are the branches.  
Whoever abides in me and I in him,  
he it is that bears much fruit, for  
apart from me you can do nothing.**

**John 15:5**

How does God reveal Himself to  
us today?

God speaks by the Holy Spirit through

the Bible

prayer

circumstances

the church

God speaks by the Holy Spirit  
through the Bible, prayer,  
circumstances, and the church to  
reveal Himself, His purposes and  
His ways.





## 7 Realities of Experiencing God

1. God is always at work.
2. God pursues a love relationship with me.
3. God invites me into His work.
4. God reveals Himself, His purpose, and His ways to me.
5. God's invitation will lead me to a crisis of belief.
6. I must make major adjustments to join God.
7. I will come to know God by experience as I obey him.





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# How God speaks in different times:

The Old Testament

The Gospels

Early Church/Acts

Now



# OT examples of How God Spoke

Visions (see Genesis 15)

Angels (see Genesis 16)

Dreams (see Genesis 28)

Gentle whisper (see 1 Kings 19:12)

Miraculous signs (see Exodus 8:20-25)

Many more

# When God spoke

- 1 the experience was usually unique to that individual.
- 2 the person was sure God was speaking.
- 3 the person knew what God said.
- 4 it was an encounter with God.



# Genesis 15:1-6

After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision: "Fear not, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." <sup>2</sup> But Abram said, "O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" <sup>3</sup> And Abram said, "Behold, you have given me no offspring, and a member of my household will be my heir."

# Genesis 15:1-6

<sup>4</sup> And behold, the word of the LORD came to him: "This man shall not be your heir; your very own son shall be your heir." <sup>5</sup> And he brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them." Then he said to him, "So shall your offspring be." <sup>6</sup> And he believed the LORD, and he counted it to him as righteousness.



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God spoke in the Gospels  
through Jesus



# John 1:14

And the Word (Jesus) became flesh and dwelt among us,  
and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from  
the Father, full of grace and truth.

# John 14:8-10

Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us." <sup>9</sup> Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? <sup>10</sup> Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works.

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# Acts 13:2

While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them."

# Acts 15:28

For it has seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us to lay on you no greater burden than these requirements:



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through the Bible, prayer,  
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# God Speaks by the H.S. through the Bible

“These things I have spoken to you while I am still with you. <sup>26</sup> But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.

John 14:25-26

# God Speaks by the H.S. through the Bible

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, <sup>17</sup> that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

*2 Timothy 3:16-17*

# God Speaks by the H.S. through the Bible

The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. <sup>15</sup>  
The spiritual person judges all things, but is himself to be judged by no one.

1 Corinthians 2:14-15

# An Encounter with God

- 1 I Read God's word- the Bible
- 2 The Spirit of truth takes God's Word and reveals truth
- 3 I adjust my life to God's truth
- 4 I obey God
- 5 God works in and through me to accomplish His purposes



# God Speaks by the H.S. through prayer

Genuine prayer does not lead to an encounter with God. It is an encounter with God.

Henry Blackaby

# God Speaks by the H.S. through prayer

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words.<sup>27</sup> And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

**Romans 8:26-27**

# God Speaks by the H.S. through prayer

“I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. <sup>13</sup> When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come.

John 16:12-13

# God Speaks by the H.S. through prayer

When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. <sup>5</sup> A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers.”

John 10:4-5

# God Speaks by the H.S. through prayer

Whoever belongs to God hears what God says. The reason you do not hear is that you do not belong to God.

John 14:21 (NIV)



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through the Bible, prayer,  
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## Discipleship Cues

1. How much do you desire to hear from God?
2. In what ways have you heard from God through the Bible?  
(today, this last week, year, ever)
3. When have you, in prayer, known God spoke to you?
4. How hard is it for you to pray?





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