

**The Bible**  
**God Speaking To Us**  
by Hendrik Joubert

Although the **Bible** is readily referred to as **the word of God**, its contents are not considered restrictive instructions to be carefully followed by sinners seeking to be pardoned. (**Matthew 15:1-9; 2John 1:9**) Many suggest that God speaks to them directly, yet very few, if any, receive the same instructions as was the case during New Testament times. The *idea that all speak the same thing* is a strange concept and the *suggestion that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment* (**1Corinthians 1:10**) an impossibility as each grants the other the *freedom to interpret* God's words.

It is suggested that God confirms these contradictory opinions and doctrines by means of subjective feelings and dreams declared to be the *testimony* of the Holy Spirit of God. Rejecting this is considered resisting the Holy Spirit. What is the average person to make of this? Should one graciously grant each his own opinion lest you be considered to *judge another*? Who then are the *deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ* just as *Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light*? (**2Corinthians 11:13-14**) Why do we find so many warnings against false teachers, preachers, prophets, apostles and even christ? (**Mark 13:22**) How does God speak to us and how are we to know what comes from Him, and what not, so that we may not be among the many who will be lost? (**Matthew 7:13-23**)

Jesus Christ and Him crucified is the substance of, not only the gospel, but the whole Bible. (**Colossians 2:11-23**) Jesus fulfilled the Law by perfectly keeping it and the prophets by doing exactly as God announced through them many years before. It is therefore not surprising that God informs us through the Hebrew writer: *God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, <sup>2</sup> has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds;...* (**Hebrews 1:1-2 NKJV**)

Consider the phrase: ...*in these last days*. Many who busy themselves with predicting (formally or informally) the coming of the Lord will speak as if we, and not those of the first century, live *in the last days*. It was first century Christians who heard that they were *in these last days* where God was speaking His *final* communication through His Son; after this comes the judgment. (**John 12:47-48; 2John 1:9**)

Jesus has ALL the authority in heaven and on the earth (**Matthew 28:18**), and is therefore God's sole spokesperson. *Through whom also He made the worlds* is the first of a number of reasons given in **Hebrews 1:2-14** for the prominence of Jesus Christ. After declaring the Son to be the sole spokesperson and stating His *credentials* we read: *Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away. <sup>2</sup> For if the word spoken through angels proved steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just reward, <sup>3</sup> how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard Him, <sup>4</sup> God also bearing witness both with signs and wonders, with various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to His own will?* (**Hebrews 2:1-4 NKJV**)

The fact that God accomplished and communicated this covenant of redemption through His Son serves as grounds for the serious warning not to *drift away* from it. *Drifting* is a subtle process which goes undetected; unless you keep your eye on the *beacon*, in this case the words of Christ. (**2John 1:9; Matthew 15:1-9**) The warning is followed by an outline of the process by which the *new* and final *covenant* securing salvation through the blood of Christ was delivered.

It *at the first began to be spoken by the Lord*. (**Hebrews 2:3**) Jesus did not merely elaborate upon the Law, which was *added 430 years after the promise* of salvation in Christ was made to Abraham in order to teach the Jews that they were sinners. (**Galatians 3:15-29; Romans 3:20; 7:7**) Jesus announced the new covenant to take effect after His death upon the cross – not one iota or title would pass from the law until all was fulfilled. (**Matthew 5:18; John 19:30; Colossians 2:13:17**)

Jesus selected 12 individuals to become witnesses of His resurrection. (**Matthew 10:2-4; Acts 1:21-22; 4:33**) These therefore had to be with Him *beginning from the baptism of John to that day when He was taken up from* them. They were qualified witnesses who knew Him well. He carefully trained them before He gave them the great

commission to go out and preach the gospel to all nations, resulting in the called-out body of people (church) who has the responsibility to make known this *manifold wisdom of God* to the world. (**Ephesians 3:10**)

The question may remain in the minds of some as to how the Lord communicates with *you* and *me*, *here* and *now*. While He was with them Jesus explained: *“These things I have spoken to you while being present 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 things that I said to you.*** (John 14:25-26 NKJV)

Jesus was never with you and me to speak to us personally. It is therefore obvious that He is talking to those who were to be witnesses of His resurrection; they would not only be reminded of all He taught them, they would be guided into *all truth*. Soon afterwards the Lord reassures them with these words: *“I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now.”*<sup>13</sup> ***However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.*** (John 16:12-13 NKJV)

Next we see that God confirmed what they said *both with signs and wonders, with various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to His own will?* (**Hebrews 2:4** NKJV) The apostles, as well as others who received the gifts of the Spirit through the laying on of their hands (**Acts 8:18**), recorded the words of Jesus. Jude warns Christians *to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.* (**Jude 1:3**) Notice that this exhortation was motivated by the fact that some have *crept in unnoticed* and are making changes. (**Jude 1:4**)

Peter points out that Paul wrote all his letters with *the wisdom given him* (**2Peter 3:15-16**) – *by inspiration of God.* (**2Timothy 3:16-17**) We have in the Bible the complete manual to direct us in our desire to please God. *All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,*<sup>17</sup> ***that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.*** (2 Timothy 3:16-17 NKJV)