

# Key to Biblical Doctrine

“He that comes to me I will not reject for any reason whatsoever”

-Jesus (John 6:37)

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God Told Me...

September 16, 2016

## God Told Me...

What are you likely to think if somebody says to you, “God told me...” I know what I think. “Crazy. Deluded. Arrogant. Vain. Proud.” But if you believe there really is a God, and especially if you believe that there is a personal God who communicates with us as individuals, then you must allow for the possibility that God really did talk to that person. Unless...

It is important for Christians to know if God speaks to people individually, and how to determine if that is a legitimate claim. Simply dismissing or denying the claim that God speaks to us individually is robbing yourself of very a powerful, spiritual resource.

Let’s get something out of the way, first. God will never deny himself or Jesus or his written word. If the person who says “God told me...” contradicts the Bible, then you may discount what he says. Ignore him. He’s a charlatan. Delusional.

Well, I might as well set another standard while I’m at it. God is not a chatterbox. If you hear a voice carrying on a running conversation with you, then I suggest it’s time to get professional help. Really. Seriously. That is not something to toy around with or kid yourself about. Hearing voices like that is an important symptom of something going wrong. See your medical doctor. Tell him what you hear.

And now, let’s get to the spiritual power of communicating with God as a two-way street. Scripture refers to God talking to people several times and in several ways. This is not the Spirit talking through people, such as speaking in tongues. This is when God talks to you and you know it’s true.

### Scripture References

John 16:16

But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> This and all scripture references are taken from *New American Standard Bible: 1995 update*. (1995). LaHabra, CA: The Lockman Foundation.

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That scripture obviously refers to more than just what is in the Bible. Here is one of the ways it worked out:

Acts 11:28

One of them [a church member] named Agabus stood up and *began* to indicate by the Spirit that there would certainly be a great famine all over the world. And this took place in the *reign* of Claudius [Caesar].

Agabus couldn't find any place in the Bible that said there was going to be a world-wide famine (that is, throughout the Roman world). But the Spirit of God told him and he told the congregation. That is called prophecy.

Another reference is

John 16:14

He [the Spirit] will glorify Me, for He will take of Mine and will disclose *it* to you.

Christians walking in the Spirit, following Jesus Christ, will receive instructions from the Spirit of God.

John 14:26

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 said to you.

This is interesting because Jesus said the Spirit will “remind you.” How can the Spirit “remind” us if we were not present when Jesus spoke the words? It can only be that the Spirit, Who *did* hear the words, will “remind” us thousands of years later, or tell us, what Jesus said.

Can that be true? Could Jesus really be talking about us as well as about his disciples when he said, “the Spirit will remind you”? Indeed, he could be, because at that same time and in that same setting (the last hours before his crucifixion) Jesus said,

John 17:20-21

I do not ask on behalf of these [disciples] alone, but for those also who believe in Me through their word [that is, you and I]; that they may all be one; even as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us, so that the world may believe that You sent Me

Jesus gave us the same position he gave the apostles and disciples.

## How God Talks to Us

Therefore, how does God talk to us?

In a dream.

Numbers 12:6

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If there is a prophet among you,  
I, the LORD, shall make Myself known to him in a vision.  
I shall speak with him in a dream.

The apostle Peter had such a vision,

Acts 10:9-11

Peter went up on the housetop about the sixth hour to pray. But he became hungry and was desiring to eat; but while they were making preparations, he fell into a trance; and he saw the sky opened up, and an object like a great sheet coming down, lowered by four corners to the ground...

God also gave us warning on how to spot a charlatan:

Deuteronomy 18:22

When a prophet speaks in the name of the LORD, if the thing does not come about or come true, that is the thing which the LORD has not spoken. The prophet has spoken it presumptuously; you shall not be afraid of him.

Deuteronomy 13:1-4

If a prophet or a dreamer of dreams arises among you and gives you a sign or a wonder, and the sign or the wonder comes true, concerning which he spoke to you, saying, 'Let us go after other gods (whom you have not known) and let us serve them,' you shall not listen to the words of that prophet or that dreamer of dreams; for the LORD your God is testing you to find out if you love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul. "You shall follow the LORD your God and fear Him; and you shall keep His commandments, listen to His voice, serve Him, and cling to Him.

In the first scripture above, God tells us that if the prophecy does not come true, the “prophet” is a charlatan. In the second scripture, God says that if the prophecy does come true but the prophet is leading us away from the word of God already given to us, he is a charlatan.

The Bible, the word of God, trumps prophecy that comes true. Anybody who contradicts the Bible and leads you another way is not from God.

## How We Know It's from God

Jesus said,

John 10:27

My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me;

Your spirit hears the voice of the Spirit. Your own spirit knows it is from God. God verifies himself in your spirit. You can't prove it to anyone else. It's an internal knowing, “This is from God.”

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## Examples of God Speaking

I, and a few people I know, have experienced God talking. I'm telling you how it happened so that you can know what to expect.

### An Internal Voice

Sometimes the voice of God comes as an internal voice. It is spoken out loud but strictly in your brain and only you hear it. It's surprising how loud it sounds. At first you may mistake it for something coming outside of you, until you think about it and realize it was inside you.

Once my friend Ron was helping build a shed. He was holding up a 2x4 board against a corrugated metal sheet for the wall. The man on the inside of the shed was shooting a nail gun through the metal sheet into the wood. He could not see Ron or the wood, and Ron could not see him or the gun. That routine had gone on for several minutes but unexpectedly Ron heard a loud voice, "Duck!" Ron looked around, thinking "Where?" He wanted to see the duck. It spoke again, saying, "Duck!" Ron ducked just as the nail fired through the metal sheet, missing the board and flying over his head.

Once I was contemplating a scripture verse, Matthew 22:36-50, that says,

And [Jesus] said to him,

'You shall love the LORD your god with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.'

This is the great and foremost commandment. The second is like it,

'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'

On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets.

I was the passenger in a car heading toward Austin, Texas, in 1976. I had pondered on that scripture many times, and that day it was the same. I was asking myself, "Is that true? Does God really mean exactly that and nothing more?" Suddenly The Voice came into my mind and said out loud, "Yes. I mean exactly that." It changed my life. From then on I had no doubt about it.

My aunt Lily, years before I was born, had agonized for months over whether she should join the Salvation Army. She continuously batted back and forth the pros and cons. "Does God want me to join the Army? Should I stay home and help here?" One day The Voice came out loud and said (in her mind), "Lily, join the Salvation Army." She joined, never doubted the leading of the Spirit, and lived in the Army for over sixty years. She served many people, writing Bible studies and teaching classes.

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As I said above, God is not a chatterbox. Some Christians have never yet heard that Voice. That doesn't mean they are not spirit-led. It means that God speaks to them at the right time with the right words and perhaps in another way, such as through the influence of another person.

Another thing to remember is, God is not a puppet. You don't pull the strings and he has to respond. You may not demand God speak to you. God is god over you, and not the other way around. He leads; you follow.

## The Still, Small Voice

The voice I hear most often is the Still, Small Voice.

1 Kings 19:11-13

And behold, the LORD was passing by! And a great and strong wind was rending the mountains and breaking in pieces the rocks before the LORD; but the LORD was not in the wind. And after the wind an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire; and after the fire a sound of a still, small voice<sup>2</sup>... a voice came to him and said, “What are you doing here, Elijah?”

I think the Still, Small Voice is the one most Christians hear. But if you're in an earthquake or battling a fire or withstanding the wind, you might not hear it at all.

The Still, Small Voice sounds almost like thinking, but It tells you things you never knew or imagined. When you spend a quiet time with God and inwardly pray, you will sometimes hear another voice responding to you and your petition.

Other spirits speak to you as well. They lead you astray. They sound good, like an Angel of Light speaking (2 Corinthians 11:14). But your own spirit knows it is not from God. Rather, you might be left thinking, “What that just me thinking, or did a spirit speak to me?”

How do you separate your spirit from another spirit, one that is not from God? The Bible says,

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<sup>2</sup> “still, small voice” is the King James version rendering of the words **דְּמַמָּה דְקוּקָה**. Other Bible versions say the same thing. Unfortunately, the NASB (otherwise quoted) says, “gentle blowing.” The Hebrew words mean “delicate whisper.” It doesn't mean like someone blowing in your ear. It is like someone softly whispering to you.

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Acts 4:12

For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

Your soul is you. You are a spirit. The soul is a spirit that inhabits a body. When an alien spirit speaks to your soul, you have the Bible, the word of God, to separate yourself from it. It “pierces as far as the division of soul and spirit.” If any spirit contradicts the Bible, it is not from God. You must not listen to it but strongly reject it.

## How Not to Hear The Voice

The way to judge The Voice, whether it is from God or not, is by comparing it with the Bible. If it contradicts the Bible, it is not the voice from God. But if you never or seldom read the Bible, what hope do you have? What else do you have that will spiritually protect you from the wiles of Satan and his demons?

If you care so little about God and his Message that you ignore reading his word the Bible, then why should God waste his time on you? If you are seeking God, his way and his instruction for your life, then your number one reading priority would be the Bible. If you don't listen to the Bible, then you won't listen to The Voice, either.

I suspect that Christians who have never heard the voice of God speaking to them are the Christians who seldom or never read the Bible.