

WHAT WE BELIEVE – God Speaks

Have you ever experienced miscommunication?

- Did you, or did you not, say...?
- Did I, or did I not, hear and understand you correctly?
- Was I not clear, or were you not clear?
- Is it really miscommunication, or is one of us just not listening?

God communicates with us... He Has spoken... He still speaks...

- Do we know what He has said... what He is saying?
- Have we not only heard, but do we also understand what He has said?
- Where there's misunderstanding, is it a God problem or an "us" problem?
- Is there clarity around what God has said, or mystery?
- Have we not heard, or are we just not listening?

GOD SPEAKS... We believe God speaks through His creation (Romans 1:19-20), and even more clearly through His Word – both written (Scripture – 2 Timothy 3:16) and incarnate (Jesus – John 14:10). His self-revelation is sufficient for us to truly know Him, and to live our lives in response to Him.

God speaks in 2 primary ways:

General Revelation

Natural ways

Creation
History
Circumstances/Providence
Wise counsel
Conscience

Special Revelation

Supernatural ways

The Word incarnate (Jesus)
The Word written (Scripture)
Miracles
Prophets
Holy Spirit promptings

General revelation can be defined as "the revelation of God to all people, at all times, and in all places that reveals that God exists and that He is intelligent, powerful, and transcendent." **Psalm 19:1-4** **Romans 1:19-20**

General Revelation can be seen as a universal call for people to acknowledge God's existence. But the reality of a fallen creation leads to the perversion of, & rebellion against, this accessible knowledge! **Romans 1:21-23** **John 3:19**

General revelation, by itself, can only take us so far... It is not enough to lead us to the good news of salvation found in Jesus Christ. **1 Corinthians 1:18**

This is why special revelation is needed... in addition to, & in precedence over!

Special revelation is when God speaks through supernatural means, to not only reveal Himself, but also to reveal our need for, & God's provision of, a Savior!

The work of the Holy Spirit, prophecies, miracles, Scripture, Jesus (in the flesh)... They all speak loudly & cast a big light on God's redemptive plan thru His Son!

Jesus is the final & fullest revelation of God. In Him we see most clearly! **Heb. 1:1-2**

And it is the Bible that testifies to His true identity, & mission in this world!

This is why we claim the inerrancy & sufficiency of Scripture (Scripture Alone)!

The Bible does not tell us everything, but that what it does tell us is true & sufficient... revealing everything we need to know for our salvation in Jesus!

Want to get to know God? Get to know Jesus! Want to get to know Jesus? Read the Bible! You will not only come to know the Father, & the Son truly, you'll also discover God's will for your life more fully! **2 Timothy 3:16-17**

Some will argue that God speaks outside of the Bible... thru dreams, visions, or new prophetic words. Though God certainly has the power to communicate in any way He chooses, the Bible warns us about false prophets and those who claim to speak for God when He has not spoken. Consider **Jeremiah 23:16**

SO WHAT? There will be many voices that speak, some in our own heads, that tell us things about God, ourselves, & about life... but there is only one way to know if it is truly from God... Does it align with the teachings of Scripture?

We must have a rule, a standard, that any perceived or proclaimed message from God is tested by... Jesus & the Bible are the only reliable sources! They alone can assure us of what God has said, & is still saying today, with certainty!

They will keep us from being "tossed back & forth by the waves, & blown here and there by every wind of teaching" (Eph. 4:14).

As the Bereans taught in **Acts 17:10-11**, we must examine everything we believe in light of the Bible... & only what conforms to it should be accepted. What we believe matters... for this life, and the next... God has spoken... are we listening?

WHAT NOW? Be discerning... "See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ" - **Colossians 2:8**.

"Contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to the saints" - **Jude 1:3**.

Galatians 1:8... If any other gospel is preached to you... other than what is revealed in the Scriptures, reject it fully and realign yourself with Scripture!

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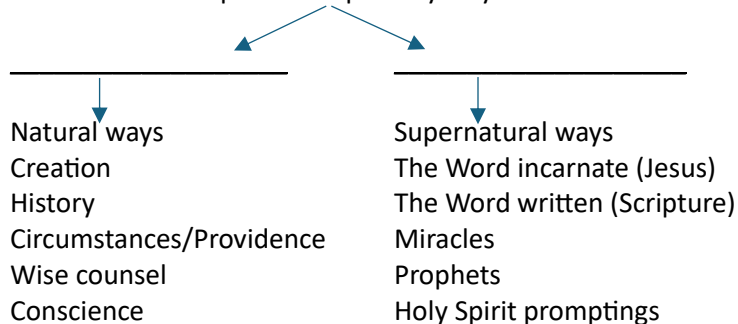
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