

Dwell

How can I hear God speak? (PART 1)



Think of an effective speaker (politician / celebrity / actor / etc) - what is it that makes them effective?

God has spoken

God is light (1 John 1:5; Jn. 1:4-9; 3:15-21; 8:12-18; 9:39; 2 Pet. 1:19)

*"Just as it is the nature of light to shine, so it is the nature of God to reveal himself."
(John Stott, I Believe in Preaching)*

God has acted (Ps. 19:1; Isa. 6:3; Rom. 1:19-20; 1 John 4:10)

... in creation

... in redemption

God has spoken

By his speech, God ACTS (Gen.1; Mk.4:39; Jn.11:43)

By his speech, God RELATES (Gen.3; Gen.12)

"God has so identified with his words that whatever someone does to God's word (whether it is to obey or to disobey) they do directly to God himself."

(Timothy Ward, *Words of Life*)

By his speech, God EXPLAINS (Abraham / Moses / Israel / Jesus)



= God's Word written

2 Timothy 3:15-16; Hebrews 1:1-3

"God put his Word into human minds and human mouths in such a way that the thoughts they conceived and the words they spoke were simultaneously and completely theirs as well as his."

(John Stott, *I Believe in Preaching*)

What about now?

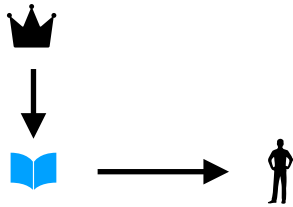
God speaks _____ through what he said in the _____.

"It is written" = "it/he says"

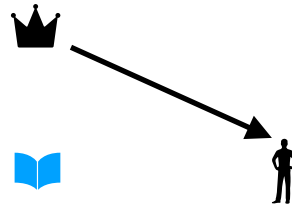
* Galatians 4:21-22, 27, 30

* Hebrews 1:6; 2:12; 3:7; cf. 4:12; 12:5

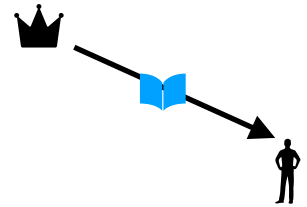
1 Samuel 3:21!



"God no longer speaks." **X**



"God speaks separately
from Scripture." **X**



God speaks today
through Scripture. 

"The Bible is God preaching." (Jim Packer)

So, let's read our Bibles!

*** IT'S CLEAR**

2 Corinthians 4:3-6

- God truly communicates through Scripture (2 Cor.4:3-6)
- All that we need for salvation is crystal clear (2 Tim.3:15)
- Problem is our hearing (2 Cor.4:6; Lk.8:18; Matt.11:25-26)
- Doesn't mean everything is easy to understand (2 Pet.3:16; 2 Tim.2:7)

* IT'S SUPREMELY AUTHORITATIVE

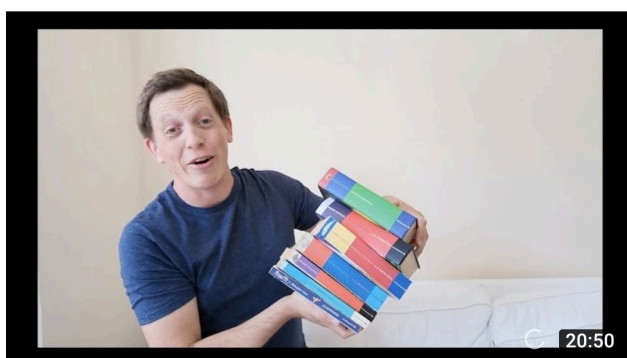
- It's GOD revealing himself! (1 Sam.3:21)
- So pay attention! (Heb.2:1; Jas.1:19-22)
 - *[Yes, this is a circular argument...]*

* IT'S SUFFICIENT

2 Peter 1:3-21

- All we need for life & godliness (2 Pet.1:3-4)
- Keep remembering it (2 Pet.1:12-15; cf. 2 Tim.3:14;4:2)
- Mustn't add / subtract (Rev.22:18-19)

Further resources:



How can you take the Bible seriously?
Christ Church Balham · 374 views · 1 year ago



Dwell - Guidance & Decisions
Christ Church Balham · 51 views · 9 months ago

