

HEARING GOD'S VOICE



CHRIST ACROSS NATIONS

**AUGUST 2020
EDITION**

"The voice of the Lord is over the waters; the God of glory thunders, the Lord thunders over the mighty waters. The voice of the Lord is powerful; the voice of the Lord is majestic. The voice of the Lord breaks the cedars; the Lord breaks in pieces the cedars of Lebanon. He makes Lebanon leap like a calf, Sirion like a young wild ox. The voice of the Lord strikes with flashes of lightning. The voice of the Lord shakes the desert; the Lord shakes the Desert of Kadesh. The voice of the Lord twists the oaks and strips the forests bare. And in his temple all cry, 'Glory!'"

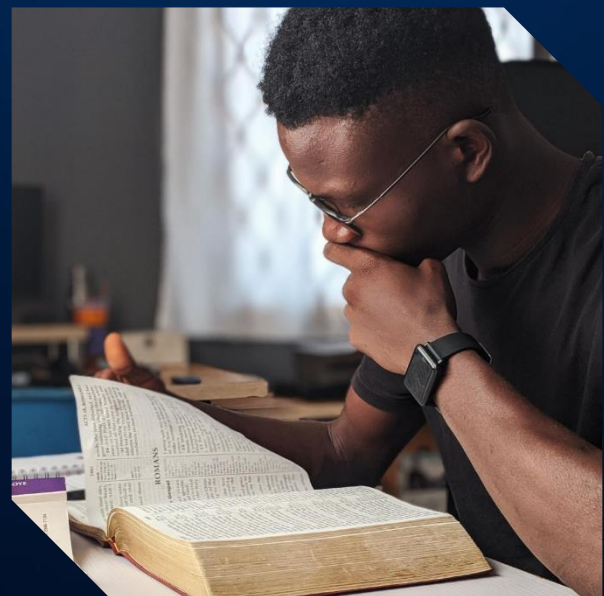
- Psalm 29:3-9 -

GOD SPEAKS TO US THROUGH HIS WORD

"I will worship toward Your holy temple, And praise Your name For Your lovingkindness and Your truth; For You have magnified Your word above all Your name."

- Psalm 139:2 (NKJV) -

One of the ways God speaks to us is through His Word. If we consider the above scripture from Psalm 139:2 we find that God placed His own word above Himself. And therefore, we can be absolutely sure that if the Bible says something, then we can absolutely believe it and stand on that Word with complete faith. God will always honour His Word. And for believers, our most direct source of God's voice comes from His Word. He speaks to us through His Word, and everything we hear God say through His Word we can take and implement in our lives. Therefore, if you wish to hear the voice of God, go to the Bible. Seek God in that way, because the moment you read the Bible, God is starting to speak to you. I encourage to make everything you read in God's Word your own. Take it for yourself, make it applicable to yourself. And know that it is God speaking to you. If I may share with you from my own experience, I can confidently say today that the Bible is the way in which I hear mostly from God. In fact, even if God would speak to me in another way, I would always go to the Bible and ask God to confirm what I heard, and He has always responded with an answer. I can name many occasions where a word or sentence would drop in my spirit, sometimes the most random word or sentence and when I would open my Bible, there it was. That exact word or sentence. Some time ago I was seeking God for an answer on what I should do. For some reason, even though I was studying an English Bible throughout that time, I grabbed my Afrikaans Bible and asked God to give me a direct answer. A word from His mouth that tells me whether I should or shouldn't. I opened my Bible and put my finger on the Bible with my eyes closed. I received the following words from Psalm 55:20 "antwoord; ja". Which in English means "answer; yes". That's what I got. Interestingly, when I looked for that scripture in the English translation, there was nothing like a "answer; yes" to be found in that scripture. Which again made me realize God wanted to give me a direct answer, He wanted me to hear from Him, and He directed me not only to the specific scripture which would give my answer, but He also directed me towards the right translation. That's how precise and specific God can speak to us through His Word. I marked this moment in my Bible which occurred at roughly 05:45 on 17 October 2018. And I did exactly what God said Yes about and the testimonies of what followed was incredible. Now, I can testify of many such instances where I received clear direction from God and He spoke so directly and precisely, it sometimes would scare me. That's why when people ask that I pray with them about something, I never ask to know what it's about because I know God will speak and He will give an answer.





GOD SPEAKS INTO OUR HEARTS

"And after the earthquake there was a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire. And after the fire there was the sound of a gentle whisper."
- 1 Kings 19:12 -

We often look for a great sign or this magnificent utterance of God's voice. But apart from speaking through His Word, God also speaks into our hearts. And the way in which He does so can come with the sound of a gentle whisper. That if you weren't paying attention you may miss that gentle whisper spoken into your heart. You may be asking how can God speak into our hearts. Remember that Christ lives inside us, therefore we are already filled with His presence on the inside. We are born again and we have the in-dwelling of the Holy Spirit. That means God lives inside you and I. So if God wants to speak to you in a way other than through His Word for example, He will speak from His position inside you. Because that is where He lives. That is how God through Holy Spirit will minister to us and speak to us.



Have you ever encountered a sudden thought appear out of nowhere, or something just drops inside your heart that isn't necessarily something you thought or talked about? Have you found yourself feel a burn inside your heart, a conviction all of a sudden about something? Have you experienced peace inside your heart over something that has been troubling you? You may have received a revelation about God, something you may have read in the Bible but didn't understand, yet suddenly that revelation and truth set in your heart. Perhaps I can take you back to that moment where you heard the Gospel, you heard about Jesus and something stirred in your heart. You felt your heart moved by that message and you decided to give your heart to the Lord Jesus. In that moment where you were still having this fight on the inside of should you take that step to receive Jesus as your Lord and Saviour or shouldn't you. Yet your heart was saying: Yes, go! In all these instances it was the Holy Spirit ministering to you, where Holy Spirit was moving your heart leading you to give your life to Christ. And afterwards where things started to happen. You received truth and revelation, someone's name popped up in your heart and mind, you felt peace, you were convicted about something. All these instances clearly reveal to us that God is speaking to us. He is speaking into our hearts in so many ways. Yet, we need to recognize these instances as God speaking to us. And realize He wants to connect with us through His voice that is speaking into our hearts.

I encourage and urge you at the same time to not discard that still, small, gentle voice speaking into your heart. If you want to grow in your spiritual sensitivity to the voice of God speaking into your heart, you need to exercise this part and you will see grow. Think of it as building muscles, in which case you need to exercise and put in the work. Test the voice of God spoken into your heart. Recognise it as God speaking. Ask God to confirm that voice through His Word, asking God to give you a scripture to confirm it. Pray about it. Speak to someone about it that can help pray and seek God's confirmation about what you received when God spoke into your heart. Don't just let that message pass you by but test it and grow in it. And you will see as you become more switched on for the voice of God speaking into your heart, this will become part of your everyday life. And it will bless you amazingly, because you will feel like you are in constant communication with God every minute of the day. And that it's not just a one-way communication, but a true dialogue between yourself and our all-conquering powerful and loving God.

CONNECT WITH US TO PRAY WITH YOU ABOUT SOMETHING

Please feel encouraged to connect with **Christ Across Nations** here: <https://bit.ly/2YOR8D3>
Simply complete your details in short and we would love to reach out and connect with you.

You are welcome to send us your **Personal Prayer Requests** here: <https://christacrossnations.org/prayer-request/>
We would love to pray with you regarding a specific request in your life.



GOD SPEAKS THROUGH MUSIC

"Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts."

- Colossians 3:16 -

Do you also find that when you listen to Christian music, it just absolutely does something which cannot even put into word. Well, truth be told, you can listen to any music and you will find it stirs up something or gets you energized or feeling happy or even sad since it makes you think of something attached to that song from your past. Regardless, God can use music to speak to. Believe me, if God needs to get something across to you, He won't just wait until you can get to your Bible in time. If you are busy driving and listening to music, He will easily use that source to convey His message.

I can remember countless times where a song just stirred up something in my heart, where I had been praying about something specific or studied the Word of God around a topic and then all of a sudden while listening to a particular song which I sometimes had been listening to many times before, suddenly a line from that song just jumped out. I suddenly, without even thinking about what I prayed about or read in the Bible, it just completely brought an answer to what I prayed about, or what I studied in the Bible. In fact, you don't even have to listen to music and suddenly a particular song comes up in your thoughts and you find yourself singing it to yourself and something just happens and you can just sense how God is ministering to you or bringing a message across to you. I remember preparing for a sermon which I entitled "the sound of Grace". I was even chatting to my wife about it. Yet I myself wasn't hundred percent sure how I wanted to put everything together to make it understandable when I would preach on it. I remember she walked into another part of the house and suddenly the song "Amazing grace" came up in my spirit. I remember singing it to myself and suddenly the lyrics "Amazing grace, how sweet the sound" made sense to me. I cannot explain or put it into words, but it was just a wow moment for me. I realized I had something I can use in my sermon by either referring to or bringing the Amazing grace song into the service. I was just blown away by how God spoke in that way. Yet even other times where I was feeling down and where I got completely soaked in a song I was listening to, and it just blessed me so much. I mention these examples to you, because I again wish to encourage you about how God does speak through music. Any music. In fact, for many people God speaks to them through music more than through another source. If that is you, embrace it. It doesn't mean that because God isn't speaking to you as much through another method like His Word or through visions and dreams, that it means you are "less spiritual" or someone else is closer to God than you. Absolutely not. God just knows what will perhaps get your attention more because He knows you better than you even know yourself. And He will use ways that resonates with you which may be completely different to someone else. I can tell you; God speaks to me through His Word way more than anything else. Yet I too don't get dreams or visions as much as other people. And that's completely okay. If music is God's way of speaking to you, it's His special way of telling you that He'd like to have a dialogue with you through music. And that's awesome.



GOD SPEAKS THROUGH SIGNS AND FINE DETAIL

"Then the disciples went out and preached everywhere, and the Lord worked with them and confirmed his word by the signs that accompanied it."

- Mark 16:20 -

God still uses signs to speak to us, to confirm His Word and if we are attentive to such signs, we will notice how often they occur. Indeed, I have witnessed how God can use signs and even the finest of detail to speak to me. God has spoken to me through my children's movies, a road sign, the guy's ringtone in the queue in front of me at the bank. I remember praying about rain and God spoke to while driving through heavy mist the next morning. Even Gideon asked God for a very specific sign and God met His request with that sign. God is constantly speaking to us and through signs and the finest details. Often, we will see God use things part of our daily routine to speak to us and convey a message to us. See, It's not about seeking those spectacular signs or wonders and consider that as the greatest form of God speaking to us. Because God can use a stranger's telephone and turn it into a microphone to bring His message across.



GOD SPEAKS THROUGH VISIONS AND DREAMS

"In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams."

- Acts 2:17 -

God speaks to us through visions and dreams. In the case of some people, they see visions and dream often and hence God speaks to them frequently in this manner. But in other cases, many people do not have that many visions or dreams.

Indeed one can always ask God to meet with you and to speak to you through visions and dreams, since this is a promised that He had given us. Similarly to receiving the baptism of the Holy Spirit, God will give you visions and dreams if you ask him to and receive it by faith. There is something spectacular about seeing visions and dreaming dreams and even more so when you see that vision and dream come to pass. I remember preaching at a camp a few years ago and at the end of one of the sessions, I kept seeing different visions about those in the audience. And as I was delivering the visions one after another you could see how that hit home with people. And that is what visions and dreams are for. Not to boast in and be rejoiceful about getting visions and dreams. But we should rejoice in the fact that God is speaking to us and wants to convey a message and impact lives. That is the real purpose behind visions and dreams. And never forget that. As I mentioned earlier in this article, if God speaks to you in a certain way then be glad in it, because He knows you will respond to that kind of medium and see His message delivered and having the desired outcome. Hence if visions and dreams are not something you have often, then it's not something to feel bad about. Of course, if you ask God to speak to you more through visions and dreams, He certainly will.

Yet, if He does speak to you through another means, then I can assure you God is very much aware of why He chose to speak to you through that manner.



GOD DOES SPEAK AUDIBLY

"Then the LORD called Samuel. Samuel answered, 'Here I am'."

- 1 Kings 3:4 -

To begin, you may have heard people describe God's voice in different ways or at least how they have heard from God was in different ways. In fact, some have said that they have heard His voice audibly. Allow me to share an experience I had on this very subject.

I remember one evening relaxing on the couch, watching TV. My wife was somewhere in the house, I cannot recall exactly where. Nevertheless, as I was still lying on the couch I heard "Cornel". I heard my name as clear as one would hear someone speak to you. I listened, and there it was again "Cornel". Nothing more, nothing less. I immediately remember knowing in my spirit that this was God. I cannot explain exactly how you know this. But I'd describe it as if you and your husband or wife can be in total opposite areas of the house, not knowing where the other person is. But if they should shout or call out to you, without having to see them, you would know it's that person. This was exactly how I experienced this. When I heard my name out loud, I knew it was the voice of God. In fact, what struck me most about the sound of God's voice is the authority in it. By just calling out my name, I sensed God's power and authority in one word. That voice made me sit up straight. I cannot remember exactly what I said to God, but I will never ever forget that moment and experience I had when I heard the voice of God audibly. Now, you may never have experienced this, and that's completely fine. That was a complete once off for me also. But I have heard God speak before and after that in many other ways, particularly through His Word. But know for certain that the same God that spoke audibly to Samuel and many others, is still the same God today. And if He wants to simply call out your name audibly then God will do so.





GOD NEVER STOPS SPEAKING

"Today, if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts as you did in the rebellion."

- Hebrews 3:15 -

To conclude, I wish to encourage and motivate you by the fact that God never stops speaking to us. I know sometimes it may be difficult to hear His voice. You may be going through a storm in your life, going through something that is wearing you down a bit. And sometimes we feel that when we are in those difficult moments in our lives, that God has stopped speaking. But He hasn't. Sometimes we are so overwhelmed by many things going on in our lives that we simply do not become quiet enough to hear God speak. We need to often pause and come to a standstill and just zoom in on God a bit more. In fact, I find this to be true in my own life, that because we are so rushed by the many things happening in our lives and the many balls we need to juggle, that unless we quiet down we simply won't hear God speak. Indeed, God had spoken to me on many occasions about slowing down and when I did I found His Grace flood me in the most awesome way. And suddenly His voice came forth stronger and more clearer than it was during that past season in my life. And that certainly makes this journey with Jesus so wonderful, because He is always there, speaking to us. Sometimes it's not about God not speaking, but more so because we stop listening. The saddest part is that children of God get comfortable when they don't hear God speak. It's as if it doesn't bother them at all. And I really don't want that for you. Because I want you to look at the different ways, and there are so many other ways perhaps not even covered in this article, by which God speaks to us. My prayer for you is that you will cherish the voice of God no matter that way in which He speaks to you.

If God has spoken to you in any way or manner, record what He said. Write it down somewhere, make notes of each moment He has spoken to you. One day you will go through every testimony of God speaking to you and realize He truly has never left nor forsaken you. Indeed, it's probably in those moments where we really need God, that we come across these previous testimonies and that encourages and blesses us to carry on. It gives us that power and drive to keep going.

I trust this article blessed you and made you see that God is speaking to us in many different ways. And the way He is speaking to you may be very different to someone else. There isn't one way which is better than the other. But when we realize God is speaking to us, the all-powerful and Creator of all things, speaking to us, then we soon realize how grateful we are to receive a Word from God. But not just receive a Word and carry on. But to stay in communication with God constantly. Because God wants to be in constant dialogue with us.

I encourage you to listen to the voice of God, engage in conversation with Him, and enjoy every moment you have with God. with you through music. And that's awesome.

Be blessed in the mighty Name of Jesus



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