

Intro.

- A. Few days ago a man the nursing home residents called *preacher* invited me to his room after Bible class.
1. He explained his nickname. (This wasn't 1st time we had talked about spiritual things.)
 2. His primary concern that moment: *God had spoken to him, & told him he had done all he could there, & that it was time for him to move to another place to serve Him.*) He related observing “Pentecostal experience in which he became emotionally involved.
 3. He went on to mention going to another care facility. (*Medicare no longer pays for care in skilled care facilities for those who can dress & feed themselves, & are somewhat independently mobile.)
- B. In our conversations, I have always expressed the importance of the trust we should have in God, taking Him at His word, & that God has certainly told us in the Bible just what we need to know to reach heaven.
1. He reaffirmed: “*But God spoke to me...*”, & I would never deny that God speaks to you & me today, but there is plenty of room for discussion as to *HOW* He does that today.
 2. God's word is the instrument of His power, *And God said...* **Gen. 1:3, 6, 9, 11, 14, 20, 24, 26, 29.**
 3. The power of God's word is beyond question, **Heb. 4:12 (c. Eph. 6:17)**

Discuss.**I. GOD HAS SPOKEN DIRECTLY TO MAN.**

- A. Among those w/ whom God has communicated directly in the past are...
1. Adam – **Gen. 2:16-17**
 2. Cain – **Gen. 4:9**
 3. Noah – **Gen. 6:13; 7:1**
 4. Abraham – **Gen. 17:19**, God told Abraham to change Sarai's name to Sarah; **Gen. 22:1-2** (re: sacr. Isaac)
 5. Moses – **Ex. 3:2-4**
- B. Although there are several other examples, fact is clear that God has certainly spoken directly to man at times in the past.

II. GOD HAS SPOKEN THROUGH THE PROPHETS.

- A. Moses was a gt. prophet of God, & of him God said, *You shall speak all that I commanded you*, **Ex. 7:2**
1. The Lord used many prophets: Joshua, Nathan, David, Elijah, Isaiah, as well as others.
 2. Interesting to note that God seldom spoke directly with even the great prophets, but God's Holy Spirit guided them in stating heaven's message accurately. **1 Pet. 1:20-21**
 3. For ex: when we read the writings of Isa. or Jer., we read the words God's Spirit directed them to write.
- B. God used that same procedure with all of the prophets, **Heb. 1:1-2**

III. GOD HAS SPOKEN THRU HIS SON.

- A. *...In these last days, [God] has spoken to us by His Son.*
1. **These last days** has reference to the Christian age (e.g., Patriarichal & Mosaical)
 - a. **Ac. 2:17** (c. **Joel 2:28**)
 - b. **Mic. 4:1** *But in the last days it shall come to pass, that the mountain of the house of the LORD shall be established in the top of the mountains, and it shall be exalted above the hills; and people shall flow unto it.*
 2. In **Mt. 17:1-5** God told Peter that Jesus iss the One to whom all should now listen, not prophets
- B. Jesus repeatedly affirmed that He spoke for Jehovah, **Jn. 3:34-35.**
1. *He who hears you hears Me, he who rejects you rejects Me, & he who rejects Me rejects Him who sent Me*
 2. Read **Jn. 12:49**.—The only way to know the Father's will for your life is to listen to Christ's word.

IV. GOD HAS SPOKEN THRU THE APOSTLES.

- A. The apostles were men chosen by Christ (**Lk. 6:13ff**) & close to Him, to whom he gave the responsibility of delivering God's word to the whole world.
 - 1. Jesus assured the apostles that the Holy Spirit would *teach them what they ought to say* **Lk. 12:12...** & *bring to their remembrance all that [He] said to them,* **Jn. 14:26**
 - 2. Christ promised that the Spirit of God would guide the apostles into **ALL** truth, **Jn. 16:13.**
- B. At Pentecost, God the Spirit *gave them utterance* as the apostle spoke the truth in tongues, **Ac. 2:4**
 - 1. Listen to the way Paul later explained the process of God speaking thru the apostles, **1 Cor. 2:12-13**
 - 2. The apostles revealed the things of God *in words* which the Spirit gave (*taught*) them.

V. GOD SPEAKS THRU THE SCRIPTURES.

- A. Thru men (Mark, Matthew, Luke & John) God recorded the life of Christ, & the beginning of the church
 - 1. The apostles wrote down the Words of God, preserving them perpetually for all mankind, c. **2 Tm.3:16**
 - 2. Paul made it crystal clear that what the apostles taught was a divine message, not their own, **1 Thes.2:13**
- B. The message of the gospel is *God's power to salvation* **Rom. 1:16**
 - 1. That message *is able to save your souls,* **Jas. 1:21**
 - 2. The Bible gives us everything we need to know about *life & godliness* (living for the Lord) **2 Pet. 1:3.**
 - 3. God's Holy Word applied correctly in our lives makes us complete & suitable for heaven, **1 Tim. 3:17**
 - 4. Searching the scriptures leads to nobility in God's sight (c. **Ac. 17:11; Jn. 5:39**)

Concl.

- A. God still speaks to us today, directly, **THRU HIS HOLY & INSPIRED WORD!!!**
- B. As Paul admonished the elders at Ephesus...
 - 1. **Ac. 20:32** *And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified.*
 - 2. Have you been → *born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which lives and abides for ever.* **1 Pet. 1:23**
 - 3. John recorded a wonderful & encouraging truth for us to direct you & me towards heaven: *And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever* **1 Jn. 2:17**

POWER

(Mat 26:64 KJV) Jesus saith unto him, Thou hast said: nevertheless I say unto you, Hereafter shall ye see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven.

(Mat 28:18 KJV) And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.

Mk. 2:10 – Christ has power to forgive sins; Mk. 3:15 – power to heal the sick; Mk. 12:24 – some do not know the scriptures, nor the power of God;

Lk. 4:32 – At yg. age, Jesus' word was w/ astonishing power;

(Rom 1:16 KJV) For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

(1 Cor 1:18 KJV) For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God. (1 Cor 1:24 KJV) But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God. (1 Cor 2:5 KJV) That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.

(Heb 1:3 KJV) Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;

(2 Pet 1:3 KJV) According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: