

Does God really speak?

Part two: "A voice within"

Reflection and study notes

Ps 42:1-7 As the deer pants for streams of water, **so my soul pants for you**, O God. **My soul thirsts** for God, for the living God. When can I go and meet with God? My tears have been my food day and night, while men say to me all day long, "Where is your God?" These things I remember as **I pour out my soul**: how I used to go with the multitude, leading the procession to the house of God, with shouts of joy and thanksgiving among the festive throng. Why are you downcast, O my soul? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Savior and my God. **My soul is downcast** within me; therefore I will remember you from the land of the Jordan, the heights of Hermon—from Mount Mizar. **Deep calls to deep** in the roar of your waterfalls; all your waves and breakers have swept over me.

Introduction:

Hearing God's voice is not an abstract or mystical experience. It is tangible and real. It is both natural and supernatural. There is a naturalness about hearing God that anyone can experience. It is also supernatural, in that when you are addressed by God's voice you know that the creator of the universe is having a one on one conversation with you. That's awesome!

What has been your experience of hearing God's voice?

What have been the special times in your life when you have heard clearly from God?

Another station to tune into: "A voice within"

Proverbs 20:27 *The lamp of the Lord searches a man's heart. It searches deep down inside him. (NIV)*

Psalm 119:105

"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path."

God's word (voice) searches the deepest places of a person's being.

God's voice is searching for you to be found (heard). So often we think that we have to search for God's voice as if it were lost. Not so. God's voice is searching for us. See also Ps 139:23.

Now look at the same passage in the KJV

"The spirit of man is the candle of the LORD, searching all the inward parts of the belly."

God's lamp / word, is within the human spirit searching to the core of our being.

THE VOICE OF GOD IS ALREADY PLANTED WITHIN US!

"That they should seek God, in the hope that they might feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us for "in him we live and move and have our being." Acts 17:27-28.

All too often people go looking for a "word" (external) when the "word" is already **within** searching for them. Now take a closer look at the passage, where does the voice of God search? In the deepest parts of one's belly. That's a way of saying the chamber room of the soul, the place of deepest hunger, mind, body and soul.

Learning the language of the soul

A conversation with the deepest place of your being.

Read Psalm 42 and note the conversation the writer has with his soul. Note also how his soul speaks back.

To hear God's voice speak to you from within you will need to peel back some of your superficial layers and allow yourself to be addressed by the voice of God to your inmost being.

When this happens you "take off your shoes" for you know you are now standing on holy ground. God is speaking to you.

| NOTES | Does God really speak? Part two: "A voice within" |
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| <p>How do you think Jesus got his guidance from God?</p> <p>Jesus ... "got his guidance through prayer as you and I do. That is, he got his guidance when in control of his faculties and not when out of control as in dreams. I do not say that God may not guide through a vision or dream; but if he does, it will be very seldom, and it will be because He cannot get hold of our normal processes to guide us. For God is found most clearly and beneficially in the normal rather than the abnormal. And Jesus is the Normal, for he is the Norm."</p> <p style="text-align: right;">E Stanley Jones</p> <p>"In guidance, when God shows us a sign, it doesn't mean we've received the final answer. A sign means we are on the way. On the highway we may pass a sign, "New York 100 miles." The sign doesn't mean we've reached New York, but it tells us we are on the right road."</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Bob Mumford</p> | <p>How God catches our attention</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Dreams ▪ Visions ▪ A voice (above, behind, beside, before or within) ▪ Animals ▪ Objects ▪ Impressions ▪ Feelings ▪ Music ▪ Art ▪ The Bible ▪ Thoughts ▪ Signs and wonders (natural and super natural) ▪ Circumstances ▪ Conversations with others <p><i>What other ways has God caught your attention?</i></p> <p>Yet all these require a conversation with the voice of God within that searches the deepest place of your being. When this happens you just know that its more than words, more than a good idea: God is speaking to you.</p> <p>But how can you be really sure?</p> <p>Can your thoughts be trusted?</p> <p><i>"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the LORD. Isa 55:8</i></p> <p>This passage comes in the context of God calling people to turn to Him. Similar to the context of Romans 12:1&2</p> <p><i>"Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will."</i></p> <p>There is a thinking process that is clearly not "of God" but as we experience the renewing of our minds by the mind of Christ we are then "in Christ" and can grow in confidence that his word remains within us.</p> <p>John 15:7&8</p> <p><i>"If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples."</i></p> <p>The ultimate test of hearing God's voice is to look at the direction of your feet. Are they leading to or away from God?</p> <p>What is the fruit of the word or voice?</p> <p>Psalm 119:105</p> <p><i>"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path."</i></p> <p>Next week: Part three "A known voice"</p> <p>John 10:4 "He goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice."</p> |