

“A Word From God”

Acts 9:4-6; 13:2; 16:9-10; 18:9-10

Does God still “speak” to His people today? Can you really know if it’s God? Does He “speak” in only one way (i.e. Bible)? These have been puzzling questions for many of us. Obviously, we find answers from the way God spoke to others, particularly those in the Bible. One clear example of this is found in Acts as we read of God’s Word coming to Paul, the Apostle. God still speaks in some of these same ways and for some of these same purposes today.

- I. God speaks in our **CONVERSION** (Acts 9:4-6) -to get us **SAVED!**
 - A. He, first, get’s our **ATTENTION** (9:3b “...suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him.”)
 - B. He, then gives His **ASSESSMENT** (9:4b “...Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?”)
 - C. He, then, gives us His **DIRECTION** (9:6 “...get up and enter the city; and it will be told you what you must do.”)

- II. God speaks in our **COMMISSION** (Acts 13:2) -to get us into **SERVICE!**
 - A. This involves the **ACTIVITY** of God’s Spirit (13:2b “...the Holy Spirit said...”)
 - B. This involves the **ACTIONS** of God’s Leader’s (13:1-2a)
 1. There were **PROPHETS** and **TEACHERS** (13:1a)
 2. These were **MINISTERING** and **FASTING** (13:2a)
 3. These were **PRAYING** and **OBEYING** (13:2b-3)

- III. God speaks in our **CONCENTRATION** (Acts 16:9-10) -to get us **SENT OUT!**
(God speaks when we are ready to listen and obey)
 - A. God speaks **PROVIDENTIALLY** (16:10a “...he had seen the vision...”)
 - B. God speaks **PERSONALLY** (16:10b “...we concluded that God had called us...”)
 - C. God speaks **PURPOSEFULLY** (16:10c “...to preach the gospel to them.”)

- IV. God speaks for our **COURAGE** (Acts 18:9-10) -to keep us **STRONG!**
(When we feel defeated and want to quit or drop out, God has a word:)
 - A. Don’t be **AFRAID** (v. 9b “Don’t be afraid any longer...”)
 - B. Don’t be **SILENT** (v. 9c “...go on speaking and do not be silent.”)
 - C. Don’t feel **ALONE** (v. 10 “I am with you... I have many people in this city.”)
 - D. Don’t **GIVE UP** (v. 11 “...he settled there a year and six months...”)

Obviously, God does still speak! He will speak **BY HIS SPIRIT, THROUGH HIS WORD, THROUGH HIS PEOPLE** (Church) and **THROUGH CIRCUMSTANCES**. He will never speak in any way that is incompatible with His Word! The question is not, “Does God still speak?” The big question is, “Are we really listening, ready to obey?”