

Does God Still Speak?

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The First Words

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.

And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light.

Genesis 1:1-3 (NIV)

God Speaks

God speaks life into the world

God speaks to people

God speaks through people

God speaks through agents (angels, animals, etc.)

God speaks directly and indirectly

God's Words Have Power

God *speaks* creation into being

- “Let there be light” (Gen. 1:1-3).

Jesus *forgives* a paralytic, then heals him

- “Your sins are forgiven... Get up, take your mat and go” (Matt. 9:1-8).

Jesus *commands* Lazarus to rise from the dead

- “Lazarus, come out!” (John 11:38-44)

Childhood Catchphrases

“God said it, I believe it, that settles it.”

*“If God wrote you a letter, would you read it?
He did—it’s called the Bible.”*

The “Bad Pizza” Question

“Is that God speaking to me
or is it the pizza talking?”

“How can I test what God
may be saying to me?”



How can I *test* what God
may be saying to me?

Deuteronomy 13:1-4

If a prophet, or one who foretells by dreams, appears among you and announces to you a sign or wonder, ² and if the sign or wonder spoken of takes place, and the prophet says, “Let us follow other gods” (gods you have not known) “and let us worship them,” ³ you must not listen to the words of that prophet or dreamer. The LORD your God is testing you to find out whether you love him with all your heart and with all your soul. ⁴ It is the LORD your God you must follow, and him you must revere. Keep his commands and obey him; serve him and hold fast to him.



The *message* is more important
than the *messenger*.

Acts 17:10-12

As soon as it was night, the believers sent Paul and Silas away to Berea. On arriving there, they went to the Jewish synagogue. ¹¹ Now the Berean Jews were of more noble character than those in Thessalonica, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true.

¹² As a result, many of them believed, as did also a number of prominent Greek women and many Greek men.



The *message* is more important
than the *messenger*.

The *message* can be
tested by the Scriptures.

MB Discernment

1. How does the message align with Scripture?
2. How does it align with the fellowship of believers?
3. How does it align with the long history of the Christian church?

