

WHEN GOD SPEAKS!

John 16:7-15

INTRODUCTION: One of the ministries of the Holy Spirit of God to His children is that He speaks to us in our inner voice to remind us of what is right: John 16:12-13.

I. DOES GOD SPEAK TO HIS CHILDREN TODAY?

The question is: "Does our God still speak to His children today in a direct, specific, and personal way? We all know from the Word of God that our God spoke to His people in the past. God spoke to Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden and told them the Garden rules: Genesis 1:27-31. God spoke to Noah about a great flood: Genesis 6:12-14. God spoke to Abraham about his descendants: Genesis 12:1-3. Today God speaks to His children about the ordinary things of their lives. Our Lord Jesus promised it would be so: John 14:16-17; John 14:26. The Holy Spirit we are told will "convict the world," "guide you into all truth," "speak only what he hears," "tell you what is to come", and "take from what is mine and make it known to you. John 16:7-15. We now have two people living in our body all the rest of the days of our lives. We are to be led of the Holy Spirit: Romans 8:14. We are to be filled with the Holy Spirit: Ephesians 5:18. We are to pray in the Holy Spirit: Ephesians 6:18. We are to walk by the Spirit's leading: Galatians 5:16. We are to keep in step with the Spirit: Galatians 5:25. Our God speaks daily into each of our lives and we are to be listening.

II. HOW DOES THE SPIRIT SPEAK TO US?

The most common way our God speaks to His children today is through His Word: 2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:19-21. The Lord speaks to His children in simple thoughts, in that we "sense" more than "think." Romans 8:16: We perceive the Lord when He speaks to us to talk to someone in a witness or to encourage others. However, here is where the danger comes in: our inner impressions can come from three different sources: God, the devil, and from ourselves. So how do we know the difference? The primary way to discern God's voice is to saturate our minds with the Scriptures. What our God says to us individually will always match the principles He has given to everyone in His Word.

III. HOW CAN WE BECOME BETTER LISTENERS?

We need to listen for God's voice as we read His Word. God will guide our lives by His Word. When we feel a verse "jumping off the page at us" that is God speaking through His Word to us. We need to listen for the voice of the Holy Spirit when we pray: Ephesians 6:18. When we pray we would do well to take just a second to ask the Holy Spirit how He would like us to pray. We need to listen for the Holy Spirit to talk with us as we are talking with others. We have a Counselor within us that wants to give us His counsel but we must listen for it or we will miss out on His counsel: John 14:16-17.