

Resurrection Life of Jesus Church

ACCEPTING THE LOVE OF GOD

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PART 7: HEARING FROM JESUS

From time to time believers in Christ wonder if they are in God's will, are they doing what God wants them to do or are they just doing things in the flesh?

Others are bewildered when they hear fellow believers saying they just heard from the Lord in a personal way but have never experienced that direct communication with God themselves. In this message I want to discuss what Christians should expect when it comes to hearing directly from the Lord.

DOUBTING THOMAS

Thomas was upset that all the apostles had seen the risen Jesus except for himself. **John 20:19-23**

When he heard about this event, Thomas said that unless Jesus would give him a personal revelation, he would not believe that Jesus had risen from the dead. **verses 25**

Jesus heard that statement and a week later Jesus confronted Thomas. **verses 26-28**

More than likely Thomas was embarrassed. **verse 28**

Jesus stated it was fine to have faith in Him because they had seen the risen Christ, but to others who would never have such a revelation, they would be more blessed. **verse 29**

HOW DOES GOD COMMUNICATE WITH HIS PEOPLE

If we take a brief look at the Old Testament times, we find that God personally interacted with key leaders but the masses were guided through the written word given to God's prophets. **Hebrews 1:1-3**

God communicated directly with Adam, Cain, Abraham, Job, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, etc. but the majority of the people of Israel never heard from God personally and had to rely on the prophets and written accounts of the Words of God. **1 Peter 1:13-21**

The written word of God was the general guidance for the people of Israel. **Deuteronomy 6:4-9**

THE NEW COVENANT

Very few Christians have understood that the believers who lived before Jesus came and died on the cross did not have the Holy Spirit indwelling in them. **John 7:37-39**



Jesus told the disciples that He would send the Holy Ghost. **John 16:7-14**

Jesus went so far to state that He and the Father would come and live inside every believer in Christ, which is only possible through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. **John 14:23-26**

Every born again person is indwelt by the Holy Spirit. **Hebrews 8:6-12**

GUIDANCE FROM GOD

What can we expect in the way of guidance from God?

1. General guidance from God is received through the written word in the Bible. It would not be wise to ask God if you should be born again, baptized in water, if you should read the Bible or whether to pray. **2 Timothy 3:14-17**

2. The apostle Paul had a direct revelation from Jesus that was dramatic. God could not speak to Paul through the written word in the Old Testament nor was Paul willing to listen to any eyewitness account about Jesus. As a result, God had to use a direct revelation to get his attention.

Please note that God used Ananias to pray for Paul and confirm the reality of the vision. **Acts 9:1-19**

God gives personal revelations today to thousands of Muslims around the world since they do not read the Bible and can only be reached by personal revelation. But once they have a revelation, they begin to seek out Christians and find Bibles. Then God begins to speak to them through other believers and the Bible.

3. From time to time God will speak directly to individuals in order to change their direction. This can be in the form of a dream, a vision, an audible voice or even a strong thought pattern.

A. Dreams – **Matthew 2:11-15**

B. Visions – **Acts 10:1-6; 9-17**

C. The Holy Spirit – **Acts 13:1-3**

D. Thought patterns – **1 Corinthians 2:9-16**

The Holy Spirit indwells in every Christian. God's will is for you to be saturated with the Word of God with a desire to do His will. The Holy Spirit will automatically use a Christian's mind to dwell upon the things of God in order to be automatically directed on a daily basis. Jesus called this for "abiding in Him." **John 15:4-17**

Remember, it's not so important how you begin your life after salvation, but how you finish it!

Do you have an ear to hear with?