



PART 1: Connecting with God

CHAPTER 2

**God Speaks our Love Language**

When the Holy Spirit speaks, love dominates the conversation. Prophecy and love complement one another with elegant precision. Together, they convey God's thoughts and they reveal His passionate heart. Paul wrote,

***Pursue love, yet desire earnestly the spiritual gifts, especially that you may **prophecy**.*** (1 Cor 14:1 ESV)

Love transforms information into useful revelation. It communicates the truth about God in relation to His desire for us. Our Heavenly Father loves us so well because He knows everything about us. Made in His image, we hold immense value in God's sight. He esteems us as we are and He fully appreciates who we will become. True prophecy compels us to explore our divine design more carefully so we might discover who we are and who we are destined to be.

Fueled by love, prophecy exerts a far-reaching and long-lasting influence. Hearing from the Holy Spirit may or may not answer some of our vexing questions. It may or may not provide the direction that we seek or alleviate the tension that we carry. The word of the Lord will however, connect us with the knowledge of the truth so we might know God better. His word imparts strength, inspires courage, and conveys comfort in a context of God's inseparable love.

*For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor*

*height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, **will be able to separate us from the love of God**, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

(Romans 8:38-39 NAS)

The Holy Spirit knows how best to communicate with each of us. Normally, we hear God speaking directly through the Bible. He also communicates through dreams and visions. On rare occasions, God may express Himself audibly or appear in person. During this season however, He usually communicates without sound bites from His lips or body language from His physique.

Frequently God speaks indirectly. He may use the spirit of prophecy, the gift of prophecy, or the ministry of a prophet. Sometimes He may send an angel or angels to convey His message. In each case, God always communicates with a purpose. He reigns as master communicator proficient with every potential mode at His disposal. He uses audio and/or visual aids from cultural props, and once He enabled a donkey to speak in a lifesaving conversation with Balaam.<sup>1</sup>

**God Speaks Directly** (all references in this table are from the NIV Bible)

<b>The Bible</b>	<i>All Scripture is God-breathed [inspired]... ...no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation...</i>	2 Tim 3:16 2 Pet 1:20
<b>Dreams and Visions</b>	<i>...Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams...</i>	Act 2:17
<b>An Audible Voice</b>	<i>I fell to the ground and heard a voice say to me, 'Saul! Saul! Why do you persecute me?' "'Who are you, Lord?' I asked. "'I am Jesus of Nazareth, whom you are persecuting' he replied.</i>	Act 22:7-9

**God also Speaks Indirectly** (all references in this table are NIV)

<b>The Spirit of Prophecy</b>	<i>... the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.</i>	Rev 19:10
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<sup>1</sup> Numbers 22:23-30

<p><b>The Gift of Prophecy</b></p>	<p><i>There are different kinds of gifts... the message of wisdom... the message of knowledge... faith... prophecy... distinguishing between spirits... ... eagerly desire spiritual gifts, especially the gift of prophecy</i></p>	<p>1Cor 2:4,10  1Cor 14:1</p>
<p><b>New Testament Prophets</b></p>	<p><i>And in the church God has appointed first of all apostles, second prophets, third teachers ... It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers,</i></p>	<p>1Cor 12:28  Eph 4:11</p>
<p><b>Angelic Messengers</b></p>	<p><i>But now I urge you to keep up your courage, because not one of you will be lost; only the ship will be destroyed. Last night an angel of the God whose I am and whom I serve stood beside me and said, 'Do not be afraid, Paul. You must stand trial before Caesar; and God has graciously given you the lives of all who sail with you.'</i></p>	<p>Ac 27:22-24</p>

Without exception, everyone needs to hear what God has to say. The word of the Lord extends wisdom and revelation for our wellbeing. It imparts indispensable vitality by refreshing our spirit, regenerating our soul, and renewing our body. Whether God speaks directly or indirectly, His voice empowers us to become the person that He always intended for us to be. God’s word affirms the immense value attached to our existence. We are made in His image—we are made for love.

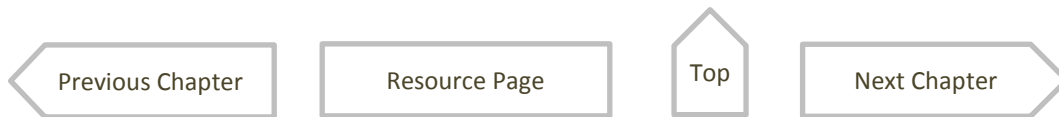
Embracing this truth renews our mind with intellectual certitude and revives our heart with emotional fortitude. It equips us to connect with God more completely. Jesus redeems and restores our soul so we will love Him with the intensity that He desires and deserves.

As spiritual adversaries compete for our attention, knowing God’s voice will become increasingly important. Our ability to distinguish God’s word from Satan’s deception does not depend on will power or brain-power; it depends on our relationship with Jesus. Years ago, *“God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various*

*ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son*".<sup>2</sup> Jesus Christ personifies the truth because, "*His name is the word of God*".<sup>3</sup>

Bonding with Jesus allows God's word to abide in us with supernatural power and with sovereign authority. Today, we embrace a more comprehensive message, "*For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy*".<sup>4</sup> In Christ,

*we have **the prophetic word made more sure**, to which you do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star arises in your hearts. But know this first of all, that **no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation**, for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but **men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God**. (2 Pet 1:19-21 NAS)*



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<sup>2</sup> Hebrews 1:1-2 NIV

<sup>3</sup> Rev 19:13 NIV

<sup>4</sup> Rev 19:10 NAS