Pastor Eddie Ildefonso

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# Listening to God

Read Psalm 46:1-10

## LESSON 3 HOW GOD HAS SPOKEN

Through the ages, God has used a variety of ways to speak to His people. He apparently talked face—to—face on a daily basis with Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, meeting them in the cool of the day (Genesis 3:8).

Genesis 3:8 (NASB)

<sup>8</sup> "They heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden."

After Adam and Eve disobeyed God and were expelled from the Garden, God turned to other forms of communication with His beloved creation.

There are at least eight ways in which God spoke to His people in Bible times:

- 1. Direct revelation
- 2. Dreams
- 3. Written words
- **4.** Prophets
- **5.** Circumstances
- **6.** Angels
- 7. Jesus Christ
- **8.** The Holy Spirit

#### **Dreams and Visions**

God has also spoken to people through dreams and visions. We have a number of examples in the Bible.

Joseph, the eleventh son of Jacob, had two notable dreams. In one, he saw himself and his brothers binding sheaves in a field of wheat, and all of the sheaves bowed down to Joseph's sheaf. In the other dream, the sun, moon, and eleven stars bowed down to Joseph. Those were prophetic dreams about what was to happen later in Joseph's life.

Daniel had visions in which God revealed to him the destiny of the world and the empires that were to come.

Joseph, the husband of Mary, had two remarkable dreams—one in which he felt convinced that he should take Mary to be his wife, and the other in which he saw God's direction to take Mary and Jesus to Egypt.

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Peter had a vision that led to his sharing the gospel with the house of Cornelius, thereby extending the gospel to all Gentiles.

Four things are important for us to recognize about dreams and visions as a source of God's word:

First, dreams and visions that bear God's direct message are very rare in a person's life. Not all dreams and visions are God's messages to us. Some dreams are of our own creation and desire. Some are the result of the mind's processing information.

Second, ask God if He wants you to reveal to others what He has shown you in a vision or dream. Not all dreams and visions are meant to be shared fully and freely with everybody in hearing range.

Third, we are never told in the Scriptures to seek dreams and visions. In no place are we commanded to pray for them or to request God to give them to us. Dreams and visions are at God's initiative.

Fourth, visions and dreams are confirmed by outward circumstances, either immediately or ultimately. If God gives a dream or vision, it comes to pass!

#### What the Word Says

### What the Word Says to Me

Meditate on or more of these passages:

Genesis 37:5–11—Joseph's dreams	
Matthew 1:19-25; 2:13-15—dreams of	
Joseph, Mary's husband	
Acts 10:9–34—visions of Peter and Cornelius	
Cornelius	