Pastor Eddie Ildefonso

02-20-15 (9)

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)

⁸ "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

Words of the Prophets

We repeatedly find in the Scriptures this phrase: "Thus says the Lord." Those who spoke these words of God—men and women we call prophets—seemed to have felt they had little choice in the matter. God so overwhelmingly gave them a message that they could do nothing else but speak. Isaiah spoke of it as a burning coal applied to his lips. Jeremiah said that he felt as if he had fire shut up in his bones.

Prophets did far more than foretell future events. In many ways, their words can be considered prophetic from the standpoint that they spelled out what was wrong in the people's hearts and that without repentance, certain conclusions were inevitable.

To be a prophet means ultimately to speak the truth of God to others.

Sometimes, that truth is about trends or future conclusions. At other times, it is very specific truth about a particular circumstance. And at still other times, it is the telling of what God's Word says.

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God continues to speak through proclaimers today—men and women we might call preachers, teachers, evangelists, Bible study leaders, Sunday school teachers, and others, people who proclaim the full story of God's truth.

We need to be very careful in discerning who is telling us the truth today. Our main source for discerning a true prophet from a false prophet is the written Word of God. We must always ask, "Is this person telling me only part of God's truth, without giving any of the consequences for not heeding God's Word?" We also must ask, "Is this person telling me something other than what I can find in the Word of God?" If so, the person isn't God's prophet.

Our second means of discernment is evidence. What a prophet says happens. If a person tells us that God is going to do something, it must come to pass. If it doesn't, the person is a false prophet.

What the Word Says

What the Word Says to Me

Reflect upon these three "words from the Lord" by God's prophets:

Ezekiel 6:11	
Electici 0.11	
Isaiah 61:1–3	
Lamentations 3:22–24	

Include in your reflection your emotional response to these prophetic words.