

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

Circumstances That Convey Confirmation

We spoke earlier about the proper interpretation of nature. Sometimes the circumstances that God uses to confirm His word involve natural phenomena. One of the most notable examples in the Bible is the story of Gideon. Being unsure that he was hearing God clearly and being a little fearful, Gideon asked God to confirm His word that Gideon was to lead the people in battle. He laid out a fleece one evening and asked that God make it soaking wet and the ground around it dry the following morning. Sure enough, the next morning the fleece was wet and the ground dry. Next, he asked that the fleece be dry in the midst of wet grass. Again, God graciously gave Gideon the assurance that he needed by doing as Gideon asked. (See [Judges 6:36-40](#))

Judges 6:36-40 (NASB)

³⁶“Then Gideon said to God, “If You will deliver Israel through me, as You have spoken,

³⁷behold, I will put a fleece of wool on the threshing floor. If there is dew on the fleece only, and it is dry on all the ground, then I will know that You will deliver Israel through me, as You have spoken.”

