Pastor Eddie Ildefonso

03-06-15 (11)

## **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

## **Angelic Messages**

The word *angel* means "messenger from God." God spoke through an angel to the parents of Samson, to Mary, to Peter, and to a number of other people in the Bible.

God sends angels at His will and for His purposes. We are not to seek or pray for angelic encounters. Many people today have been duped into thinking that they can call angels or conjure them up. They may be conjuring spirits all right, but let me assure you, the visages that appear to them are not God's angels. God's angels come to people uninvited, unannounced, and unexpectedly. They usually are so awesome in form that their first words are, "Fear not." They deliver their messages—which are always very direct and specific—and then leave. They do not engage in small talk, develop a friendship with a human being, or give ongoing guidance and help.

Angels appear to men and women throughout Scripture, but if you closely analyze their appearances, they appear in nearly all instances to people who are isolated from

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fellowship with a larger body of God-fearing people or who have no other means of hearing God's message.

The Bible refers to angels as "ministering spirits"—in other words, God sends them to help us. But they always come to us at God's choosing and on the authority of heaven. They do not appear when we think we need help; rather, they appear when God thinks we need their special help.

Our response to angels must always be, "I will do what God says." We are not to worship angels. We are to worship God alone, and we are to give all our praise to Him.

Furthermore, angels are not dead human beings. Angels are of a different creative order. People do not become angels when they die and go to heaven. People are saints, and the Scriptures tell us that saints will one day rule over angels, although we presently have less power and wisdom than the angels have. Angels are strictly the servants of God. We are sons and daughters of the almighty heavenly Father.

Finally, many people of faith in the Bible did not receive messages from angels. A visit from an angel is not a badge of approval from God.

## What the Word Says to Me

Meditate on or more of these passages:	
Judges 13—Samson's mother	
Luke 1:26–38—Gabriel to Mary	
Acts 12:1–11—Peter in prison	

Note especially the responses made by these people: