

MESSAGE OUTLINE

Sunday, September 17, 2023



CHURCH

הקהילה מתקדמת

10:30am Sunday 13095 Publishers Drive, Fishers

Today's Message: **GOD SPEAKS***
Pastor Gary Stump
Experiencing God—Reality 4

Does God still speak to us today? How does God speak to us? How can we know when God is speaking? How can God be more real and personal? How do we know when He is speaking and when it is simply our own thoughts, or worse, Satan's ideas?

John 10:3–4 (NLT) “The sheep recognize his voice and come to him. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴ After he has gathered his own flock, he walks ahead of them, and they follow him because they know his voice.”

John 8:47 (ESV) “Whoever is of God hears the words of God. The reason why you do not hear them is that you are not of God.”

SEVEN REALITIES OF EXPERIENCING GOD:

1. God is always at work around you.
2. God pursues a continuing love relationship with you that is real and personal.
3. God invites you to become involved with Him in His work.
4. God speaks by the Holy Spirit through the Bible, prayer, circumstances, and the church to reveal Himself, His purposes, and His ways.
5. God's invitation for you to work with Him always leads you to a crisis of belief that requires faith and action.
6. You must make major adjustments in your life to join God in what He is doing.
7. You come to know God by experience as you obey Him, and He accomplishes His work through you.

Reality 4: God speaks by the Holy Spirit through the Bible, prayer, circumstances, and the church to reveal Himself, His purposes, and His ways.

Hebrews 1:1–2a (NLT) Long ago God spoke many times and in many ways to our ancestors through the prophets. ² And now in these final days, he has spoken to us through his Son.

“You learn to know the voice of God through an intimate love relationship.” (163)

Wrong ways to discern God's will:

1. Asking for a miraculous sign.
2. Seeking a method. A formula is not the way to hear God's voice.
3. “Name it and claim it” method.
4. Open and closed doors. Nowhere in the Bible does God promise to stop us from making mistakes!

GOD SPEAKS BY THE HOLY SPIRIT

John 16:13a (ESV) “When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority.”

1. God speaks through the Bible

2 Timothy 3:16–17 (NLT) All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. ¹⁷ God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work.

“I do not deny your experience. I do question your interpretation of what you experienced because it is contrary to what I see in the Word of God.” (197)

2. God speaks through Prayer

Romans 8:27 (NLT) *And the Father who knows all hearts knows what the Spirit is saying, for the Spirit pleads for us believers in harmony with God's own will.*

3. God speaks through circumstances

1 Corinthians 16:8–9 (NLT) *In the meantime, I will be staying here at Ephesus until the Festival of Pentecost. ⁹ There is a wide-open door for a great work here, although many oppose me.*

4. God speaks through the church (other believers)

Acts 9:17–18 (NLT) *So Ananias went and found Saul. He laid his hands on him and said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road, has sent me so that you might regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." ¹⁸ Instantly something like scales fell from Saul's eyes, and he regained his sight. Then he got up and was baptized.*

5. To reveal Himself

Yahweh Yireh = I AM God who provides	I AM the bread of life	(John 6:35)
Yahweh Rapha = I AM God who heals	I AM the light of the world	(John 8:12)
Yahweh Shalom = I AM God of Peace	I AM the door of the sheep	(John 10:9)
Yahweh Tsidkenu = I AM God of Righteousness	I AM the Good Shepherd	(John 10:11)
El Shaddai = I am God Almighty	I AM the resurrection and the life	(John 11:25)
Immanuel = I am God with us	I AM the way, the truth, and the life	(John 14:6)
El Roi = I am God who sees	I AM the vine	(John 15:5)

6. To reveal His purposes

Acts 17:27 (NLT) *His purpose was for the nations to seek after God and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him—though he is not far from any one of us.*

7. To reveal His ways

Isaiah 55:8 (ESV) *For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord.*

Gen 24: (Story of Eliezer finding a wife for Isaac)

- When God speaks to you, He will do so with a purpose.
- The time God speaks is the occasion for you to begin adjusting your life and orienting your thinking to Him.
- He will work to develop your character for the assignment He has in mind.

When God spoke, the person knew it was God, knew what God said, and knew what to do.

SO WHAT? Once God has spoken through His Word, how you respond is crucial. You must adjust your life to the truth.

- What is the Holy Spirit saying to me through God's Word?
- What is He saying to me in prayer?
- What is He confirming through circumstances what He said?
- What is the Holy Spirit verifying through the counsel of other believers? (186)

What will you do next?

* The messages in this series have been inspired and adapted from the book: Henry T. Blackaby; Richard Blackaby; Claude V. King. *Experiencing God* (2021 Edition). (B&H Publishing Group. Kindle Edition).



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ONWARD CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2023

1. YOUTH GROUP TONIGHT 6-8PM—Dinner provided \$3 per student.

2. HIGH SCHOOL BIBLE STUDY (Grades 9-12) EVERY WEDNESDAY 6-8PM—We would love to have you join us at the Brock and Angi Vaughters house (15098 E 191ST Street, Noblesville, IN 46060). You can bring your high school friends!

3. MEN'S BIBLE STUDY—Beginning Friday September 15th—Each Friday at 7am at MCA. Study in the book of Romans. See Alex Abell for more info.

4. LADIES BIBLE STUDY (Two Options):

- **Beginning September 13th Wednesday Mornings @ 9:30am**—Each Wednesday morning at 9:30am at Kathy Stump's house (12928 Whitehaven Lane, Fishers, IN 46038). Studying the book of Ephesians. For more info email Kathy at kathystump77@gmail.com.
- **Beginning September 14th Thursday Evenings @ 7:00-8:30 pm**—Each Thursday evening at 7:00-8:30pm at Lynda North's house (9929 Brightwater Dr., Fishers, IN 46038). Studying the book of Ephesians. For more info email Lynda at LANorth7@gmail.com.

5. NEW GIVING QR CODE—If you would like to give online you can use this code →

6. PAL ("PARENTS OF ADDICTED LOVED ONES") MEETING—This is for families of adult children dealing with substance addiction. Every Tuesday night, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. Free weekly meetings. Dr. Nancy Smith, facilitator. For more information, contact nancy1108smith@gmail.com or 317-508-8149.



Giving QR Code

7. GIVE BIBLES IN HONOR OF OR IN MEMORY OF A LOVED ONE—The Gideons have provided a display on the counter in the foyer for you to give God's word in honor or in memory of a loved one.

8. ONWARD PRAYER RESPONSE CARD ONLINE—To make it easier for some to complete your Prayer Response Card... you can **scan this QR code.** →



Prayer Card QR Code