

God is a communicating God

1. He introduces Himself as a speaking God (Genesis 1: 1-2).
2. He conversed and communed with the first man and woman (Genesis 3:8).
3. He communicated His will and His plans directly to Noah, Abraham and Moses and Joshua.
4. He made known His ways through the prophets communicating through sermons, mimes, role-plays and miracles:
 - a. Through Isaiah He promised to guide His people (Isaiah 30:21).
 - b. Through Jeremiah He promised blessings to those who obeyed His voice (Jeremiah 7:23-24).
5. He spoke to Zechariah, Mary and John the Baptist reaffirming His eternal plan for man.
6. He spoke through His Son (Hebrews 1:1) who was the expressed image of the invisible God (Colossians 1:15).
7. He spoke through the Holy Spirit (Acts 13:2).

God still speaks today through various channels

1. Human conscience (1 Timothy 1:5; 1 Peter 3:16).
2. His creation (Psalm 19; Romans 1:19-20).
3. A witness of His Spirit to our Spirit (Romans 8:16).
4. He speaks thoughts into our mind (Romans 12:2).
5. Through other people (2 Samuel 12:1).
6. Through manifestations of the gifts of the Spirit (Acts 13:2).
7. Dreams and visions (Acts 9:10, 10:3).
8. His Word (2 Timothy 3:16).

Hearing His Voice Today

1. Desire (Psalm 42).
2. Act on your desire- practice Spiritual Disciplines (Hebrews 11:6).
 - a. Meditation – Who He is, what He has said, what He has done (Psalm 1:2; 63:6, 2 Corinthians 12:1-4).
 - b. Prayer – Relationship made real through communion (Matthew 6:5-15).
 - c. Fasting – God centred, God initiated, God ordained (Isaiah 58; Matthew 6:16).
 - d. Study – Encounter Him in the Word (Proverbs 1:1-9; 2 Timothy 3:16).
 - e. Simplicity – A focused life, free of encumbrances (Matthew 6:19-24, 33; Hebrews 12:1-2).
 - f. Solitude (Matthew 6:5-6; Luke 5:16).
 - g. Submission (Mark 9:35; Philippians 2:4-7).
 - h. Service (Mark 10:45; Galatians 6:2).
 - i. Confession (1 John 1:9; James 5:13-16).
 - j. Worship (Isaiah 6:1-8; Romans 12:1-2).
3. Obey what you hear Him say (Psalm 119:100).
4. Keep your relationship with Him fresh:
 - a. Think right
 - b. Speak right
 - c. Live right

Conclusion

Those who long to see and hear Him will ...

“Earth's crammed with heaven,
And every common bush aflame with God.
But only those who see take off their shoes.
The rest sit round it and pluck blackberries”

Elizabeth Barret Browning