

# Does God Really Talk To People?

YES... BUT...

- The Elijah Story

1 Kings 17:1 – 19:13

- The Elijah Principles:

Matthew 2:12 & 2:22 and Acts 9:10-11/ 1 Corinthians 12:7-12

✓ We want **thunder** & **lightning**. God likes to **whisper**.

✓ Don't expect the **rare** to be **common**.

✓ God primarily speaks **through Scripture**.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 & 2 Peter 1:3-11

WHEN SOMEONE CLAIMS TO HAVE  
A WORD FROM GOD FOR YOU...

- Don't **despise** it – Don't **blindly follow** it.

1 Thessalonians 5:19-22

Remember...

✓ If it **contradicts Scripture** – it's not **from God**.

Acts 17:11/ Deuteronomy 13:1-5

✓ God sometimes **draws straight lines** with **crooked sticks**.

✓ The **one and done** principle.

Deuteronomy 18:19-22

WHEN YOU THINK YOU HAVE  
A WORD FROM GOD FOR SOMEONE ELSE...

- Unless ABSOLUTELY certain, say,  
**"I think God told me"** rather than **"God told me..."**

- It's our job to **deliver the message**.

It's their job to **weigh it** and **respond**.

Acts 11:27-29 & Acts 13:1-3/ Acts 21:10-15

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✓ We want \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_. God likes to \_\_\_\_\_.

✓ Don't expect the \_\_\_\_\_ to be \_\_\_\_\_.

✓ God primarily speaks \_\_\_\_\_.  
 2 Timothy 3:16-17 & 2 Peter 1:3-11

## WHEN SOMEONE CLAIMS TO HAVE A WORD FROM GOD FOR YOU...

- Don't \_\_\_\_\_ it – Don't \_\_\_\_\_ it.  
 1 Thessalonians 5:19-22

Remember...

✓ If it \_\_\_\_\_ – it's not \_\_\_\_\_.  
 Acts 17:11/ Deuteronomy 13:1-5

✓ God sometimes \_\_\_\_\_ with \_\_\_\_\_.

✓ The \_\_\_\_\_ principle.  
 Deuteronomy 18:19-22

## WHEN YOU THINK YOU HAVE A WORD FROM GOD FOR SOMEONE ELSE...

- Unless ABSOLUTELY certain, say,  
 “ \_\_\_\_\_ ” rather than “ \_\_\_\_\_...”

- It's our job to \_\_\_\_\_.  
 It's their job to \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.  
 Acts 11:27-29 & Acts 13:1-3/ Acts 21:10-15

# Food for Thought

For the week of September 9, 2007  
 (Questions and Scriptures for further study)

1. In 1 Samuel 3:1-14, God speaks to Samuel when he is a boy. Samuel almost missed God's voice because he thought someone else besides God was talking to him. What was Samuel's initial response to the voice he heard?

Why do you think Samuel initially mistook God's voice?

How can Samuel's response -- once he realized who was really talking to him -- serve as a model for us in our response to God's voice in our lives?

What does Samuel's confusion about who was speaking suggest about our need for discernment in hearing God's voice?

2. We heard during this series about the important role God's Word plays in helping us know God's will. Too often voices in our culture communicate messages contrary to God's Word. In the following verses, contrast what we often hear in our culture with what God's Word teaches us.

|                        | Biblical teaching | Common "wisdom" |
|------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| 1 Thessalonians 4:3-4  |                   |                 |
| Ephesians 6:5-7        |                   |                 |
| Leviticus 19:11-19, 35 |                   |                 |

3. In each of the three sermons in this series, Larry has talked about how God uses other people to communicate His will to us. One of the best ways (although certainly not the only way) to see God use a group of people to communicate is through our involvement in a Growth Group. If you've been in a Growth Group, how has God used your group to be His voice in your life?

In what ways have you seen God use individuals to communicate to you His will?