

## ENCOUNTERING GOD THROUGH THE BIBLE

**John 8:47; 10:2-4**

**Introduction:** Through the ages God has revealed Himself to people in various ways such as using angels, dreams, nature, even animals and by "His" voice and by prophets. In the New Testament God came in the flesh and was called "Jesus" and people heard God, in the flesh, speak directly to them. After Jesus ascended back to Heaven, He sent the Holy Spirit to spoke directly to the ones who started the Church. During the early years of the Church, the Holy Spirit led men to write what is now called the New Testament, thus the "written Word of God."

### I. GOD SPEAKS TODAY THROUGH THE BIBLE, HIS WRITTEN WORD

1. The Bible is not a book about God, it is God's Word to man. It is God speaking directly to man through the written pages of the Bible.
2. No person, even though he/she has a Bible, can "hear" God through the bible unless the Holy Spirit reveals what God wants the reader to know.
  - As one reads along in God's Word, suddenly a verse grabs one's attention and he/she goes back and reads it again..**that was God!** God was just encountered in His Word.
  - Notice the sequence of encountering God in the Bible:
    - Read the Word of God, the Bible.
    - The Holy Spirit reveals something to you.
    - God has just spoken to the reader and now the reader must agree with God that it is to be applied specifically to him/her.
    - The reader than must make adjustments in his/her life in accordance with what God has shown, whether personal, family, or church related.
    - The reader obeyed what God wanted him/her to know and do.
    - One has just had a personal, private encounter with the living God.

### II. WHEN GOD SPEAKS, ONE MUST BE ABLE TO RECOGNIZE GOD'S "VOICE"

1. The outstanding reason most Christians are so distant from God and therefore useless in His \ service is that **they don't study God's Word.**
  - If a person doesn't study God's Word, then God's voice won't be recognized when/if He were to speak. One has to be familiar with a voice in order to recognize it.
2. Another reason some Christians are weak and unable to be used by God is that when God is finally able to get through to them with something He wants them to do, **they don't obey what God shows them.**
  - Notice the sequence of encountering God in the Bible again:
    - One studies God's Word, looking and listening for God to speak.
    - A passage grabs one's attention, **that's God!**
    - One agrees with God about what God has just shown and that it applies to him/her.
    - One then adjusts his/her life in order to obey what God has just shown.
    - One has just had a personal, private encounter with the living God.

## **CONCLUSION:**

1. Have you ever encountered God in reading the bible?
2. Did you do what the Holy Spirit revealed that you needed to know and apply to you life?
3. God doesn't speak today through angels, animals, or nature as much as He does through His written Word. The Bible is God's way of speaking to people since the Church was first started. To encounter God in the Bible, one must study the Word daily, asking God to speak to you as you read and as you read be watchful for a particular verse or verses to suddenly get your attention. That's God! You have just encountered God in the Bible. Then do what God shows you through that verse or those verses of Scripture.