

WHAT DOES GOD WANT WHEN HE SPEAKS TO US?

1 Samuel 3:1-11

Introduction: God has spoken to His children through the centuries by various means, such as angels, in dreams, through visions, by animals, voices out of no where, and other means. God speaks clearly, privately and uniquely when He speaks. Consider the question now, "What does God want when He speaks?" If/when He speaks to you/me, what does He want?

I. WHEN GOD SPEAKS, HE WANTS TO REVEAL HIMSELF

Genesis 17:1 Leviticus 19:1-2 Malachi 3:6-7 John 6:51

1. God wants to increase our faith.
 - We can better respond to God when we believe God is who He says He is and can do what He says He can do.
 - Abraham needed to know God was almighty in order that he might believe that God could give him a son so late in life.
 - Through Moses, God proved He was holy. The people had to believe God was holy, so that they would respond by being holy, themselves.
 - Through Malachi, God revealed His forgiving nature so the people would believe they would be forgiven if they returned to God.
 - Jesus revealed that He was the source of eternal life so the Jews could believe and respond to Him and receive eternal life.

2. God wants to increase our faith that it might lead us to action.
 - We will have to believe God is who He says He is.
 - We will have to believe God can do all that He says He can do.
 - We will have to then make necessary adjustments in light of our belief.
 - When we obey, God works through us and demonstrates that He is who He says He is and can do what He says He can do.
 - Then we will know God FIRST HAND.

3. When did Abraham "really" know God was almighty? In his mind he knew it all along, but when God gave him that son, Abraham knew then by experience who God was.

II. GOD WANTS TO REVEAL HIS PURPOSES WHEN HE SPEAKS (*Amos 3:7*)

1. God wants to reveal His purposes so we will do His work and His will.
 - If we are to "join" God, we must know what He is going to do.
 - God didn't ask Noah "what do you want to do for me today?" God told Noah what was about to happen and what he was to do. God worked through Noah to accomplish what God wanted to do, His purposes.
 - God spoke to Abraham because He wanted to work through Abraham to build a nation unto Himself.

- God didn't ask what Abraham he thought when Sodom and Gommorah were about to be destroyed. Abraham needed to know what God was about to do.
- Throughout the Bible, this/that is how God has worked. When about to do something, God took the initiative, spoke to His servant, told him what He wanted him to do. God accomplished His purposes His way.
- It is different with most of us however. We tell God what we are about to do and ask Him to bless it. WE choose what we want to do or not do. What is important though is what are God's plans for us. ***Proverbs 19:21***

2. God's purposes versus our plans.

- Our plans and purposes **MUST** be the same as God's or we will never experience God working through us and with us.
- God comes to us to reveal HIMSELF and His purposes so we will know what He plans to do with and through us.
- Planning is never to be a substitute for God.
 - Our biggest problem with planning is that we plan and carry out in our own wisdom and strength, worthy as it might be but in all probability it is not what God has/had in mind, therefore He cannot and will not bless it.
- God wants us to follow HIM daily, not some plan of ours for plans take away the need of a continuous relationship with God.
- Also notice that God **NEVER** reveals the whole plan to us. Just step by step, bit by bit. He does this because we would rush off to do things **OUR** own way.

III. GOD WANTS TO REVEAL HIS WAYS WHEN HE SPEAKS (*Isaiah 55:8*)

1. God wants to reveal His ways to us so we can accomplish what HE wants.

- God uses "kingdom" ways to accomplish "kingdom" purposes.
- As this body is made for this earth and our new body is made for heaven, each has it's own place and purpose, so does God's plans.
- God reveals His plans and ways to us because they are the **ONLY** way to accomplish His purposes.
- God doesn't wait around for us to finally get around to what He is going to do, if we ever, but He comes to us with what He has in mind for us to do, and do it His way.
- We will never accomplish God's work in our own ways.
 - We may have some good ideas, even accomplish some good things in our own strengths, but we will never see God nor His power at work in what we are doing if in our own way.
- Only when we allow God to work through us and do things His way, will others ever come to know God for they can then recognize that only God could have done that.
- Using "kingdom" ways, Jesus fed over 5,000 one day. ***Matthew 14:13***

CONCLUSION:

1. What God is trying to tell us is that it must be GOD who gets the glory in all that we do.
2. When God wants something done, it must be His plan, His way, in His time, and in order that others will see that it is God and not us.
3. Has God ever come to you before? In all probability He has. How did you respond?
4. If you have never heard from God, would you like to? God has something He wants everyone of us to do, but we have to be willing to become involved and do things God's way.
- Are you willing?