

TUESDAY— How does God speak?

Big Point: Listening to hear God speak is key in living a fulfilling Christian life.

In his recent book, *The Power of a Whisper*, Bill Hybels casts a vision for what life on earth can look like when God's followers turn an ear toward heaven—discerning whispers that arbitrate key decisions, nudges that rescue from dark nights of the soul, promptings that spur growth, urgings from the lips of another person and inspiration that opens glazed-over eyes to the plight of injustice and poverty in our world.

Hybels incites passion in Christ-followers' hearts for being wide open to the power of a whisper from God, offers practical filters for discerning whether the whisper you heard is from heaven and issues the challenge to get gutsier about actually doing what God is prompting you to do.

There are six ways God speaks to us. Today we will look at three of those ways: God's Word, wisdom and authority. Tomorrow, we will look at the remaining three vehicles God uses to speak to us.

READ...What does the Bible say?

Psalm 119:105 (New International Version)

¹⁰⁵Your word is a lamp for my feet and a light for my path.

James 1:5 (New Living Translation)

⁵If you need wisdom, ask our generous God, and He will give it to you. He will not rebuke you for asking.

Romans 13:1 (New Living Translation)

¹Everyone must submit to governing authorities. For all authority comes from God, and those in positions of authority have been placed there by God.

THINK...Find the answers

God's Word to us is the Bible, a complete set of instructions directly from God. What does Psalm 119:105 mean by "lamp for my feet"? How about "a light for my path"?

According to James 1:5, where should we start our quest for wisdom? Will we be penalized for asking for wisdom?

Read Romans 13:1. Why does God care whether we listen to those in authority? How does God speak to us through authority figures?

To read more about discerning whether a whisper is truly from God, turn to the Weekly Wrap-Up on Friday for a list of Bill Hybels' *Five Filters to Test a Whisper*.

LIVE...What will you do now?

There are many different ways to hear God speaking to us. What are some ways that you have experienced God speaking into your life? How did you know God was speaking?

Today, we examined three ways that God speaks to us. Do you need to improve in any of those areas?

One of the ways that CedarCreek helps Christ-followers learn to hear from God is to encouraging the memorization of scripture each month. Turn to the last page of this study and write out the new July Memory Verse below:

PRAY...God, What do you want me to know & do?

One of the most assuring things in the Christian life is the sense that God is speaking to us. Today you have the opportunity to reflect on the times in life when you were certain God was speaking into your life. If it's been a long time since God has spoken into your life ask God to reveal the reasons why He seems to be silent.

“Learn to hear from Heaven as you navigate life on earth.”

-Bill Hybels, *The Power of a Whisper...this book is available in The Source*

DAILY BIBLE READING COMMENTARY: Proverbs 19

19:2—How often do we over-rationalize the reasons to do something we really, really want to do? This verse warns us to not rush important decisions that require careful evaluation as to whether or not God is leading us in a particular direction.

19:4—Did you know that the average lottery winner is broke within five years of winning? Former winners reported that they couldn't say “no” to their sudden “new” friends or long-lost family members asking for money.

19:8—This verse doesn't condone selfish or self-centered behavior. However, we are instructed to love and care for ourselves in a manner that honors the God that created us. This includes caring for ourselves spiritually and physically.

19:13—Unfortunately, many of us experience the tragedy of this verse first hand.

19:18—Parents are admonished to take great care in training their young children while those children are still moldable. Lenient parents do not realize that untrained children will not only be a burden to the parents, but society as well.

19:21—During this weekend's message, we discussed a question Christians like to ask: “What is God's will for my life?” What have you learned about God's will and what He desires for your life? Are you willing to conform your desires to God's purposes?