

What Language Does God Speak?

How to hear and understand
God's voice daily

Michael Glass

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FOREWORD

By Larry Chell

Just last week my wife and I were talking with our 17 year old son about his post high school options. It's an important and complicated decision that he will have to make in the next 15 months. After an hour or so he let out a sigh and said, "I just wish God would tell me what to do." It's a feeling that almost all people have at some point in their lives, and it raises an interesting question: Does God still speak to us today? Mike Glass answers with a resounding yes!

Although very few of us ever hear an audible voice or have seen handwriting on the walls, Mike helps his readers to explore the communication process between God and ourselves. He notes that God definitely wants us to experience Him in a very genuine way and explains the role we can play in helping to prepare ourselves (the soil), to hear a word from God. He offers fresh insight into familiar passages through an extraordinary amount of research and personal investigation. These sorties seek to illuminate previously uncharted waters and provide encouragement to those who might think that God doesn't care to speak anymore.

Years ago, David Mains and his *Chapel of the Air* ministry produced a series of 50 – day adventures to help Christians experience a season of accelerated spiritual growth. One of the disciplines that participants were asked to incorporate into their daily lives was a "God hunt." The idea was to look for ways that God may be speaking to you throughout the course of a day. Almost everyone had at least one "sighting" that brought joy and enthusiasm into their relationship with the Lord. Mike fleshes out this idea and shows how we can be more in tune to what God might be trying to say to us each and every day.

In John 10:27, Jesus explains that his sheep hear and listen to his voice and follow him. Certainly we know the primary way God speaks to us today is through His revealed word, the Scriptures. The author of Psalm 1 notes that the man who turns to God's word for his source of counsel will indeed be blessed. But is the Bible God's only method of communicating with us? In Acts 20:22, the apostle Paul writes that he was "compelled by the Spirit" to take a specific direction in life. Whether it was a clap of thunder or a small whisper, we can't say for sure, but it was more than just a warm fuzzy that said, "I've got you right here in the palm of my hand." It was a prompting by God to step out of the comfort zone into another part of the world to advance the kingdom.

Mike argues that God not only wants to make himself known to us, he is also wanting to direct the course of our lives and to take advantage of opportunities to be the salt and light of the world, even if it comes with a costly price tag. There is obviously a need for common sense, the council of godly advisors and wise decision making abilities, but Mike also speaks clearly about the need for discernment when it comes to hearing a word from God. Too many times a "word from God" has been abused and used for selfish gain, or as an excuse to justify questionable behavior or heretical teachings. His premise is that God is speaking a language each of us can understand in our own way, and with

practice and a commitment to personal purity and godliness, we can begin to see and hear from God in ways that will energize our faith and prepare us for great works of service. The question for each of us is: Are we listening?

Larry Chell
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Michael Glass has a perceptive eye and a storyteller's heart. He draws from his experience as a Christian of Jewish descent, his formative years in Evangelical churches, his years in the business world, and his own personal passion for the study of Scripture, to open us up to the ways of God. His stories and insights help us to develop "eyes to see and ears to hear" what too often passes us unnoticed. I recommend his book to you.

**Marshall Shelley,
Author and Vice President,
Christianity Today International**