

God Speaks to His Children

John 10:27

My sheep hear my voice and I know them, and they follow me.

When I tell my stories I often share that God speaks to me. Some people have asked me, "How does God speak to you? Is it an audible voice? Is it an impression? Is it a whisper that you hear in your ears, or in your mind? How is it that God speaks to you and how would I ever know if he speaks to me?"

That is difficult to answer because God speaks to each one of us in different ways. It's like the story of Samuel. When Samuel was really young he heard a voice in his sleep. It was an audible voice saying "Samuel, Samuel!" When Eli, the priest, finally recognized that God was trying to speak to Samuel he told him, "The next time you hear that voice and it calls your name, answer the voice and say, 'Here am I your servant is listening.'"

Sometimes I think that we don't hear the voice of God because we're not listening for it. Many times we don't believe that God speaks today. We have become unbelieving believers, cessationists, who think that all the miracles ceased with the Apostles.

I was sharing my stories with a few pastors I was coaching. When I shared that God had spoken to me and was leading me to do something, one of the young men got very upset. As a matter fact, he literally got in my face, shook his finger at me, and shouted with a loud voice. He was like a madman, furious that I would say that God spoke to me. Then he emphatically told me that God doesn't speak anymore. God's voice stopped with the Apostles. We have the Bible and we need nothing more. There is no way that God speaks to anyone today. He went on to say anyone that says otherwise is lying.

I was taken back by that. Here I was coaching and mentoring young inexperienced pastors and one got so upset he yelled at me. I was so thankful for one of the other young men who took up his responsibility to rebuke that young man. He did so by saying, "No, you are out of order. When you say God does not speak today you are saying God is just like the gods of the pagans. He has no mouth so he cannot speak. He has no eyes, so he cannot see. He has no ears, so he cannot hear, and that is not the gospel of Jesus Christ." Jesus said, "*My sheep hear my voice and they follow me.*" He did not say, "My sheep have only the written word of God." Think about it. Who gagged God that He is not allowed to speak anymore? God is God. He speaks today as well as yesterday.