



MINISTRIES

A Ministry of the Athens Universal Life Church
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<https://aulc.us>

Welcome. Today's sermon is titled, When God Speaks to You.
Our Scripture lesson today is from John Chapter 8 verse 47. "He who is of God hears God's words; therefore you do not hear, because you are not of God."
May the Lord add His blessing to the reading of His Word.

Have you ever met someone famous?
There is something almost surreal about standing in the presence of someone you've only ever seen on a screen or read about in a book. Your heart beats a little faster. Your palms get a little sweaty. You think, "I can't believe I'm actually here." Maybe you get a photograph. Maybe a handshake. Maybe an autograph.

But friend, let me tell you, as exciting as it is to be in the presence of someone famous, there is something far greater. Something that surpasses even that. And that is for a famous person to actually speak to you.
Not just to the crowd. Not just to the room. Not just a wave from a distance. But to look you in the eye, to call you by name, to speak directly to you. That is one of the greatest things that can happen to a person.

And yet, church, there is something even greater still. The most exciting event that could ever happen to any human being is not for a celebrity to speak to you, it is for God to speak to you. In person. Directly. Personally.
And I want you to know this morning, He does. He still does. He wants to.

In the Old Testament, God spoke in many different ways. He spoke through angels. Through visions. Through dreams. Through the Urim and Thummim. Through thunder and lightning on Mount Sinai. Through a still, small voice.

Through miracles and signs. But here is the thing we must not miss, how God spoke is not nearly as important as the fact that God spoke. And every single person who heard Him knew two things beyond any shadow of a doubt, that it was God, and what He was saying.

So this morning, I want to walk with you through three truths from Scripture. And I want to ask you a question that may change everything about how you walk with the Lord.

Are you listening?

When God Speaks, He Speaks to You Uniquely.

The first thing we notice in Scripture is this...when God spoke, it was usually unique to that one person.

Think about Moses. God spoke to Moses through a burning bush, a bush that was on fire but was not consumed. Nobody before Moses had ever heard from God in that manner. And nobody since. There has never been a burning bush sermon in all of church history where God spoke through literal flames and an unconsumed shrub. That was Moses' moment. That was Moses' method. It was unique to him.

Now, why is that so important for us?

Because, beloved, God wants only you to hear and understand what He has for you. His word to you is personal. It is private. It is not a one-size-fits-all formula.

God is not in the business of mass-producing spiritual experiences on an assembly line.

Some of you have been waiting for a burning bush. Some of you have been waiting for a donkey to speak to you like He did to Balaam. Some of you have been waiting for some method, some technique, some formula you saw in a book or heard about from a friend.

But can I tell you something? Stop waiting for the method, and start looking for the God.

God does not want you to find Him through a technique. He wants you to look for Him. He wants to be sought. He wants to be loved. He wants relationship, not ritual. He wants a conversation, not a checklist.

So let me say this plainly... how one person heard from God is not necessarily how you will hear from God. Your neighbor's story is not your story. Your pastor's experience is not your experience. God is not a formula to be cracked. He is a Father to be known.

And He wants to speak to you... individually, personally, and privately.

Are you looking for Him? Not for a method. Not for a technique. Not for a spiritual experience you can post about. But for Him?

When God Speaks, You Will Know It Was God.

The second truth is this... when God spoke, the person spoken to was absolutely sure it was God speaking.

Look at Moses again. He asked God, "Who are You?" And God answered him directly. In Exodus chapter 3 verse 14, God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." There was no ambiguity. There was no confusion.

There was no wondering, "Was that God, or was that just my imagination?"... Moses knew.

Now here is something interesting. Moses couldn't prove to anyone else that he had spoken with God. He had no recording. He had no witnesses. He had no evidence that would stand up in a court of law. He believed, and he obeyed... and that was enough. Besides, what he heard wasn't for anybody else's ears anyway. It was for him.

And this is a hard truth for some of us: only God can prove to others that He has spoken to you. You don't have to convince anybody. You don't have to explain yourself. You don't have to defend your experience.

If God spoke to you, He will confirm it in His time and in His way. Your job is not to prove it. Your job is to obey it.

But let's be honest... sometimes we are a little more like Gideon, aren't we?

Gideon was harder to satisfy. He wanted confirmation. He laid out a fleece. He asked for dew on the fleece but not on the ground, then dew on the ground but not on the fleece. He wanted to be sure. And you know what?

God was patient with him. In Judges chapter 6 verses 21 and 22, God revealed Himself clearly to Gideon and gave him specific instructions to obey... and that obedience proved that it was truly God speaking.

Isn't it wonderful that God is patient with our weak faith? He doesn't scold us for wanting to be sure. He graciously confirms His word to us.

But hear this... there comes a point where we must stop testing and start trusting. There comes a moment where the fleece must be put away and faith must be exercised. God is not offended by your questions...

but He does want your heart.

So let me ask you something. When was the last time you were absolutely certain that God had spoken to you? Not a feeling. Not a vague impression. Not a coincidence you dressed up as a revelation. But a deep, settled, undeniable knowledge in your spirit that the God of the universe had spoken... and it was for you?

That is available to you. That is what God wants for you.

When God Speaks, You Will Know What He Said.

The third truth is this... when God spoke, the person knew exactly what God had said.

This is where it gets concrete, church.

Noah knew exactly what God said... the measurements of the ark, the number of animals, the kind of wood to use, and that rain was coming. He didn't have to guess. He didn't have to interpret. He knew.

Abraham knew what God said... "Leave your country, your people, and your father's house, and go to the land I will show you." And he left. He knew exactly what God had told him to do.

Joseph knew what God said... and he interpreted dreams because God had spoken to him.

David talked with God and received explicit instructions for the temple God wanted built. Detailed plans. Measurements. Everything laid out.

Daniel knew what God said... and gave us prophecies about the end of time that are still being fulfilled today.

Countless others have heard God and have known exactly what God said.

And here is the fourth truth that flows right out of this... when God spoke, that was meeting with God.

People don't talk to bushes and then claim that God was in the bush. No... Moses talked with God, and the bush was just the setting. Whenever God reveals Himself to you by whatever means, you are meeting with God.

In person. Face to face. Heart to heart.

That is what prayer is. That is what worship is. That is what the Christian life is meant to be... not a religion of rituals and rules, but a relationship with the living God who speaks.

And when He speaks, you will understand. Not because you are clever. Not because you are spiritual. But because He is a good Father who knows how to communicate with His children.

So what do we do with all of this?

Let me bring it home.

God used many different methods to speak throughout Scripture. Burning bushes. Dreams. Visions. Angels. Thunder. A still, small voice. A donkey. A fleece. But there were always three things present every single time God spoke...

God spoke uniquely, directly to people.

Those people knew it was God.

Those people knew exactly what God said and wanted.

And here is the promise for you today... when God speaks to you, you will know without any doubt that it is God speaking, and you will understand what He is saying.

But I have to tell you something, and I say it with love... methods, formulas, and traditions are not the way to hear from God. You don't pick and choose the time, the place, the manner, or the situation in which you hear

from Him. God is in charge of all of that. He is not a vending machine. He is not a magic trick. He is not a spiritual slot machine where you put in the right prayer and out comes the answer.

God wants to personally speak to every one of His children. But they have to give Him their time, their attention, and their love for this to take place.

That is the key. That is the hinge. That is the application.

If you don't think God has spoken to you directly and personally, it is not because He doesn't want to. It is not because He has been too busy. It is not because He hasn't tried. It is because something in your life is drowning out His voice.

Maybe it's the noise of your phone. Maybe it's the busyness of your schedule. Maybe it's the clutter of a thousand distractions. Maybe it's unconfessed sin. Maybe it's a heart that is more in love with the world than with Him.

So let me ask you the question I asked at the beginning: What adjustments do you need to make in your lifestyle so that God can speak to you... and so that you can hear and understand Him?

Are you giving Him your time? Are you giving Him your attention? Are you giving Him your love?

Because He is speaking. The question is whether we are listening — and whether we are willing to obey what we hear.

And now, as we come to this moment, I want to invite you to respond.

If you have never surrendered your life to Jesus Christ, this is your moment. The very fact that you are hearing this message is evidence that God is speaking to you right now. He is calling you. He is drawing you.

He is inviting you into relationship with Himself. Don't let this moment pass you by. Come to Him. Repent of your sin. Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved.

If you are already a child of God, but you have been drowning out His voice with the noise of life... this is your moment to return. To turn off the distractions. To lay down the busyness. To come back to the secret place where He speaks. He is waiting for you. He has never stopped waiting for you.

And if you have been confused, uncertain, wondering if God still speaks today... come. Come and see. He is the same yesterday, today, and forever. The God who spoke to Moses, to Noah, to Abraham, to David, and to Daniel is the same God who wants to speak to you.

Perhaps you need to come to the altar this morning and simply say, "Lord, I'm listening. Speak to me."

Will you come?

Please bow your heads with me as we pray.

Father, we thank You for Your Word. We thank You that You are not a silent God. You are not a distant God. You are not a God who has hidden Himself from Your children. You have spoken in times past through the prophets, through angels, through dreams and visions, and in these last days, You have spoken to us through Your Son, Jesus Christ.

Lord, we confess that so often we have not listened. We have been distracted. We have been busy. We have been entertained. We have been consumed with the things of this world. Forgive us, Lord. Forgive us for treating Your voice as an afterthought.

I pray this morning for every person under the sound of this message. I pray that You would quiet their hearts. I pray that You would remove the noise. I pray that You would speak to them in a way that is unique to them...
that they would know beyond any shadow of a doubt that it is You, and that they would understand clearly what You are saying.

I pray for the one who has never given their life to You. Draw them now. Open their eyes. Soften their heart. Let today be the day of salvation in their life.

I pray for the believer who has wandered. Bring them back. Restore the joy of their salvation. Restore the intimacy of their relationship with You.

And Lord, I pray that every one of us would leave this place with a new hunger... a new desire... to hear from You. Not through a formula. Not through a technique. But through relationship with You.

Speak, Lord. Your servants are listening.

In the precious name of Jesus we pray.

Amen.

Remember, Be a blessing and be blessed. For the more you are a blessing, the more you will be blessed.

Thank you for watching and listening and we will see you next week.

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