



Some of the Ways that God Speaks

Allow God to speak to you in the way He chooses. Do not try to dictate to Him concerning the guidance methods you prefer. He is Lord. We are His sons and daughters, as well as, His servants. In fact, now He no longer calls us His servants, He calls us His friends. Friends who have a servant's yielded heart (John 15: 9-16). Listen with a heart that's willing to be obedient. Knowing more about how He speaks enables us to know how to listen.

God often speaks to us according to our personalities. E.g. if you are academic, He might speak to you in point form. Or if you are creative, He might speak to you through visions.

Our God is an awesome God. Nothing is too difficult for Him. He loves to work with us and through us. If we truly love Him, we will obey Him.

*For God does speak - now one way, now another –
though man may not perceive it.
In a dream, in a vision of the night,
when deep sleep falls on men as they slumber in their beds,
He may speak in their ears and terrify them with warnings,
to turn man from wrongdoing and keep him from pride ...
Or a man may be chastened on a bed of pain with constant distress in his bones . . .
Yet if there is an angel on his side as a mediator, one out of a thousand,
to tell a man what is right for him, to be gracious to him ... Job 33:14-19; 23-26*

1. God Speaks through the *Bible*, His Word.

Knowledge of the Word can save us from errors and heartaches. It is the most important, and only, infallible way of hearing God speak.

If you want to know what God thinks about anything, seek the answers in His Word, the Bible. The will of God is made known in the Word of God.

*All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful
for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,
so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. 2 Tim 3:16-17*

If you want to know and live God's will, you must have your thoughts, purposes and actions filled with, and obedient to, His Word.

*. . . meditate on it day and night,
so that you may be careful to do everything written in it . . . Joshua 1:8*

Let this be our prayer . . .

*I have chosen the way of truth; I have set my heart on your laws.
Teach me, Lord, the way of your decrees, then I will keep them to the end.
Give me understanding, and I will keep your law and obey it with all my heart.
Direct me in the path of your commands, for there I find delight.
Turn my heart toward your statutes and not toward selfish gain.
Turn my eyes away from worthless things; preserve my life according to your word.
Fulfill your promise to your servant, so that you may be feared. Psalm 119:30, 33-38*

*Your statutes are my delight;
they are my counselors. Psalm 119:24*

*Your word, O Lord, is eternal.
It stands firm in the heavens. Psalm 119:89*

*Your word is a lamp to my feet (immediate need) and
a light for my path (what is ahead). Psalm 119:105*

*You are my refuge and my shield;
I have put my hope in your word. Psalm 119:114*

*The unfolding of your words gives light;
it gives understanding to the simple. Psalm 119:130*

*Direct my footsteps according to Your word;
let no sin rule over me. Psalm 119:133*

*Your promises have been thoroughly tested,
and your servant loves them. Psalm 119:140*

*Great peace have they who love your law,
and nothing can make them stumble. Psalm 119:165*

God never speaks against what He has written.

*For the word of God is living and active.
Sharper than any double-edged sword,
it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow;
it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. Heb 4:12*

*Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and
the message is heard through the word of Christ. Rom 10:17*

*Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves.
Do what it says. James 1:22*

As you read the Bible, picture yourself sitting with your best friend, the Author of the Book, our Father, our Savior the Lord Jesus, and our Counselor the Holy Spirit. Let Him explain it to you. So often, we read the Bible, but we don't include the Holy Spirit who is the Spirit of revelation and truth. Listen, and then respond. The answer is in the Word of God for anything we will ever need to know.

*For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us,
so that through endurance and encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. Rom 15:4*

Every revelation must be tested against the Word of God. Application of *truth* is how we grow. God can speak to us through the Bible in numerous ways - through meditation, memorized Scripture quickened by the Spirit, the Holy Spirit speaking a reference, teaching, preaching, through Scripture in song, and even quotations.

Jesus quoted the Word when tempted by the devil saying, "It is written . . ." We must also know the Word so we can quote it when doubts, fears and temptations come. It is a weapon of warfare (Eph 6:17).

2. God speaks through the *inner witness of the spirit*.

*For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the sons of God.
For you did not receive the Spirit that makes you a slave again to fear,
but you received the Spirit of sonship.
And by Him we cry, "Abba, Father"
The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children.
Now if we are children, then we are heirs . . . Rom 8:14-17a*

If you are led by the Spirit, you must know the difference between feelings in your physical emotions, and feelings in your spirit. The Holy Spirit can communicate spiritual feelings to your human spirit when you are praying. This is known as the witness of the spirit.

Another definition is when God, the Holy Spirit, gives you peace, or joy, in your human spirit when you are doing or mentally picturing something which is God's will. The Holy Spirit gives an uneasy feeling in your spirit when you are doing, thinking, or saying something that is not God's will, or it may not be the right timing to share it.

*The peace of God, which transcends all (human) understanding,
will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Phil 4:7*

*But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name,
will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.
Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you.
I do not give to you as the world gives.
Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid. John 14:26-27*

. . . the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace. Rom 8:6

Colossians 3:15 says to let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts. This peace is not from human emotions, but it can affect our emotions.

*Because you are sons,
God sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts,
the Spirit who calls out, "Abba, Father."
So you are no longer a slave, but a son;
and since you are a son, God has made you also an heir. Gal 4:6-7*

*. . . (God) set His seal of ownership on us,
and put His Spirit in our hearts as a deposit,
guaranteeing what is to come. 2 Cor 1:21-22*

*. . . he who unites himself with the Lord
is one with Him in spirit. 1 Cor 6:17*

We need to learn how to submit our minds to the Lord and be in unity with the Spirit. When we are born again of the Spirit, our spirit becomes one with Him (John 3:6).

My spirit rejoices in God my Savior. Luke 1:47

The inner witness is the presence of the fruit of the Holy Spirit spoken of in Galatians 5:22. The person who is abiding in the Spirit will reflect love, joy, and peace, no matter what the circumstances are. Abiding in Him is the key.

*Abide in Me, and I in you.
As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine,
neither can you, unless you abide in Me.
I am the vine, you are the branches.
He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit;
for without Me you can do nothing. John 15:4-5 NKJV*

*In his heart a man plans his course,
but the Lord determines his steps. Prov 16:9*

*Since we live by the Spirit,
let us keep in step with the Spirit. Gal 5:25*

Peace and joy are not governed by outward circumstances, but by being in the center of God's will. The voice of the Lord calms us in times of trouble. He gives us peace beyond our understanding. If you do not have peace, ask God why, and wait. You may have peace, but not understanding. That is ok. God has revealed His will to you.

Often the inner witness of God's Spirit in your spirit will tell you to do things which are opposite to the way you feel in your natural feelings or emotions. First, do what the Bible says about the matter. Second, do whatever the inner witness or inner voice of His Spirit guides you to do.

There is an inner peace that you learn to pay attention to; you bear witness, or you don't. There can be peace in the midst of a storm (or warfare). True guidance from God doesn't push you. It brings satisfaction and peace, often without understanding.

3. God Speaks through the *inner voice* of the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit speaks from where He dwells.

*Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit,
who is in you, whom you have received from God? 1 Cor 6:19*

Sometimes we're unaware that the guidance we have is from God. If we've asked Him, we must trust that we've heard correctly.

*Show me Your ways, O Lord, teach me Your paths;
guide me in Your truth and teach me,
for You are God my Savior,
and my hope is in You all day long. Psalm 25:4-5*

*But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all truth.
He will not speak on His own; He will speak only what He hears,
and He will tell you what is yet to come.
He will bring glory to Me by taking from what is Mine and making it known to you. John 16:13-14*

*But you have an anointing from the Holy One,
and all of you know the truth.
As for you, the anointing you received from Him remains in you,
and you do not need anyone to teach you.
His anointing teaches you about all things
and as that anointing is real, not counterfeit –
just as it has taught you, remain in Him. 1 John 2:20, 27*

Humility is the key that we learn not just His will, but His ways.

*He guides the humble in what is right
and teaches them his way. Psalm 25:9*

We need to quiet ourselves because often God speaks in that still small voice or in a gentle whisper. We submit our minds to the Holy Spirit and He speaks thoughts to our minds. He reminds us of what is written in the Word. It's not an audible voice but is Spirit to spirit communication.

*After the earthquake came a fire,
but the Lord was not in the fire.
And after the fire came a gentle whisper.* 1 Kings 19:12

*Whether you turn to the right or to the left,
your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying,
"This is the way; walk in it."* Isaiah 30:21

*My sheep listen to My voice; I know them,
and they follow Me.* John 10:27

*Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires;
those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires.
The mind of sinful man is death,
but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace.* Rom 8:5-6

Acts 13:2 says that His Spirit speaks to us when we are worshiping God.

*While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting,
the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul
for the work to which I have called them."* Acts 13:2

Romans 7:15-25 shows that Paul had a war inside himself - his spirit wanted to obey (v22), but his brain and physical emotions wanted to disobey God's will; or didn't want to find it.

*So, as the Holy Spirit says: "Today, if you hear His voice,
do not harden your hearts . . ."* Heb 3:7, 8

The Spirit told Philip, "Go . . ." Acts 8:29

There are many situations for which the Bible does not give a specific answer. For example, whether you should live in France or China; or whether you should be a farmer, a doctor or a postal worker. If you have the right motives in your heart, the Spirit of God will show you when you ask Him.

*When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives,
that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.* James 4:3

However, in Acts 9:10-18, we see an example of when God spoke very **detailed instructions**, specifically outlining what Ananias needed to do.

v. 10 The Lord called to him in a vision, "Ananias!"

v. 11 The Lord told him, "Go to the house of Judas on Straight Street and ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying."

v. 15, 16 . . . the Lord said to Ananias, "Go! This man is my chosen instrument to proclaim my name to the Gentiles and their kings and to the people of Israel. I will show him how much he must suffer for my name."

As we listen to His Spirit, our minds will be renewed.

*Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world,
but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.
Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is –
His good, pleasing and perfect will.* Rom 12:2

Read also Ephesians 4:17-32 and Ephesians 5:1-2.

*I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go;
I will counsel you and watch over you.* Psalm 32:8

*The Lord will guide you always;
he will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land
and will strengthen your frame.
You will be like a well-watered garden, like a spring whose waters never fail.* Isaiah 58: 11

Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. Gal 5:25

We may not always know all the details. We take one step at a time.

4. God speaks through your *conscience*, showing you right from wrong.

God speaks to our spirit, and our spirit speaks to our conscience. Conviction comes out of the conscience - the conscience knows the existence of God.

... my conscience confirms it in the Holy Spirit. Rom 9:1

... since they show that the requirements of the law are written on their hearts, their consciences also bearing witness, ... Rom 2:15; see also Rom 13:5

When God speaks to us through our conscience it can be a 'gnawing feeling' deep inside. If our consciences are seared from continual sin, we no longer recognize right from wrong (1 Tim 4: 1-2). We no longer have the fear of the Lord, which is having the hatred of evil (Prov 8:13).

5. God speaks through *circumstances*.

God can create circumstances or allow them to take place. The circumstances can also be a result of bad choices. Be careful. We need to learn to recognize circumstances brought by God, and those brought by Satan, or even by well-meaning people.

Circumstances alone are not a reliable guide to God's will. When we make big decisions, circumstances must be confirmed through the Bible, inner guidance in your thoughts & spirit, and by people who listen to God.

Many people are led by 'open doors', and 'closed doors'. If this were true, Peter & I would never be in missions. When leaving Canada to go to the Islands, we were only given a 30-day visa, we had enough money for one month, but no debt. With four little children, God said, "Go!". We had to be led by the Spirit of God, and through His Word which said to "Go into all nations. And preach the gospel." (Matt 28:18-20) If we seek first His Kingdom, and His righteousness, everything else will be given to us (Matt 6: 25-34). We have learned that this is truth. Many times, in the gospels, Jesus said, "I tell you the truth".

*"I tell you the truth," Jesus replied,
"no one who has left home or brothers or sisters
or mother or father or children or fields for me and the gospel
will fail to receive a hundred times as much in this present age:
(homes, brothers, sisters, mothers, children and fields—
along with persecutions) —and in the age to come, eternal life."* Mark 10:29-30

This is so true. We left our home, our family, and land. Over the last 40 years since walking in obedience to Him, God has given us family and homes all over the world. Family are those who are doing the Father's Will.

*For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven
is my brother and sister and mother ...* Matt 12:48-50

Nothing is impossible with God. When we are disobedient, maybe because of fear, He will make circumstances happen to fulfill His purposes.

Jonah was swallowed by a great fish when he ran away from the Lord (Jonah 1:3, 17). And the Lord commanded the fish, and it vomited Jonah onto dry land (Jonah 2:10).

When Paul and Silas were in prison, worshiping the Lord, suddenly there was a violent earthquake which shook the foundations of the prison and all the doors flew open (Acts 16:25-30). Sometimes God speaks through pain to get our attention.

... a man may be chastened on a bed of pain ... Job 33:14-19

One of my greatest challenges in life was the fear of men, worrying more about what people think than what God thinks.

It was the second year in YWAM, when we had just moved into the new promise land. The volcano erupted, and the heads of Maintenance and Hospitality flew over the volcano to see the spectacular view. The pilot lost control of the airplane in weather conditions that are beyond his ability to fly in, and they crashed into the lava rock and died.

Loren and Darlene Cunningham were leading the base at that time. I knew how to do hospitality, so I got busy. My heart motive was to please Darlene. I didn't ask the Lord if that was His will.

After a few months of working at hospitality, I started to get blisters on my right hand. The only way I could get rid of the pain was to lay flat on my back with my hand elevated. It was a sign of surrender. God spoke clearly to me, "I didn't call you here to please people, but to please Me." I confessed my sin to God, asked Darlene's forgiveness, and called for the elders to pray for me, and anoint me with oil so I could be healed (James 5:13-16).

Two elders came separately to pray for me to be healed, and they prophesied, "You are called to be a 'mother in Israel', and a 'mother to the nations'." I pondered that in my heart for many years, and now realize that you can't be a mother to His sons & daughters if you are trying to please people and not God. The only way to know the Father's will is listen to Him, have faith to believe that you are hearing, and walk in obedience.

God can speak to us through circumstances which we may initially think to be distractions.

There was a YWAM Associates Gathering in New Zealand with many Maoris and Polynesians present. The leaders waited on God to hear what was on His heart. Frank Naea, one of the indigenous leaders, said, "I see God smiling. He is pleased with what we're doing."

A few hours later, in obedience to God, approximately 70 of us - young and old - started to climb Mangere Mountain. We worshipped, walked and waited on God as we went. In the sky over the mountain a small airplane appeared, writing in the sky. At first, he 'drew' a big circle and I thought, "God is pleased with our unity." Then, as we were to stop half way up to have communion, the airplane continued, putting a big smiling face approximately a mile in diameter, in the sky.

We all laughed, danced and cheered, knowing God was smiling at us. He is a creative God. Only He could have arranged such a time and place.

6. God Speaks through *visions*.

A vision is a personal, pictorial presentation while you are awake. It shows us what cannot be seen with our physical eyes. Often, God reveals hidden truths through visions. Present the eyes of your heart to God to see what He will show you.

... he had a vision. He distinctly saw an angel of God . . . Acts 10:3

Dreams and visions are signs of God's last day outpouring of His Spirit.

*In the last days, God says,
I will pour out my Spirit on all people.
Your sons and daughters will prophesy,
your young men will see **visions**,
your old men will dream dreams.* Acts 2:17

*... the word of the Lord came to Abram in a **vision**.* Gen 15:1

*For God does speak—now one way, now another—
though no one perceives it.
In a dream, in a **vision** of the night . . .* Isaiah 6:1

More examples can be found in the following verses:

Job 33:14-18
Daniel 7; Daniel 10:5-9, 14
Acts 10:9-21; Acts 11:5-10
Rev 1:12-17

God uses visions to speak His words within our hearts. We have moved into logic, analysis and cognitive thinking so much, that we rarely use the eyes of our hearts.

When our son, Pete, died, my friend, Ruth Demian, had a very clear picture or vision of Pete running into the Father's arms, and the Father said to him, "Welcome home, Pete!"

Children are very in tuned to their imaginations which can be used by God or the enemy. If taught that God can speak through their imaginations, children's spiritual eyes are very open to visions. As a child, I was taught "Stop using your imagination!" But God gave us imaginations to reveal His pictures as we read the Word, worship, and listen to Him.

*He called a little child and had him stand among them.
And He said: "I tell you the truth,
unless you change and become like little children,
you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.
Therefore, whoever humbles himself like this child
is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. Matt 18:2-4*

There are approximately six types of visions, and all must be tested by the Word of God:

1. A dream or vision in the night - While I am sleeping, my spirit is awake and very capable of receiving messages from the Lord. (Acts 16:9-10; 1 Kings 3:5-15; Dan 7&8)
2. While in a trance - Often when God cannot get through to us any other way. Physical senses are suspended, but you are aware of everything. (Acts 10:10-16)
3. Seeing outside ourselves with spiritual eyes

*Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit,
looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God,
and Jesus standing at the right hand of God.
"Look," he said, "I see heaven open
and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God." Acts 7:55-56*

4. Spontaneous unsought inner picture (most usual, gentle, normal and simple), seeing a person's face and feeling the call to pray - while driving, walking, etc.
5. We can see a scene or written script. God reveals His mind with His creative ways.
6. Received while seeking the Lord in prayer or worship. Ask the Lord if there is anything He wants to show you. (Dan 4:13-14; 7:1, 13, 15)

While I was worshipping the Lord with approximately 6,000 people from many nations, the Lord reminded us of Hebrews 12:1 about the great crowd of witnesses. I had a vision of my oldest sister who died, my mom who's also with Jesus, and my dad was with our son, Pete. Dad had his arm around Pete and they were having fun. The Lord allowed them to see me in Munich Germany, worshipping with the nations. The vision lasted approximately five minutes. Then I sensed Jesus say, "Now come, we must leave.", and then it was almost like the heavens closed as they walked away. The clouds came together over the bright blue sky.

My prayer for you is from Ephesians 1:17-18:

*I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father,
may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation,
so that you may know Him better.
I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened
in order that you may know the hope to which He has called you,
the riches of His glorious inheritance in the saints, . . .*

7. God speaks through dreams.

Dreams give us messages our minds cannot or will not receive. They are personal and happen while we are asleep. Numbers 12:6 says dreams and visions are perfectly valid means of prophecy.

Other examples of when God spoke through dreams can be found in these Scriptures:

Genesis 28:12-16
Genesis 37:5
Jeremiah 23:28

Daniel 7:1
Joel 2:28; Acts 2:17

*For God does speak—now one way, now another—
though man may not perceive it.
In a dream, in a vision of the night,
when deep sleep falls on men as they slumber in their beds,
He may speak in their ears
and terrify them with warnings,
to turn man from wrongdoing
and keep him from pride,
to preserve his soul from the pit,
his life from perishing by the sword. Job 33:14-18*

*Joseph had a dream,
and when he told it to his brothers,
they hated him all the more. Genesis 37:5*

I've ponder this question -- When Joseph shared his dream, was it the right timing or the right people to share it with? We must be very careful who we share our dreams with, and the timing of sharing our dreams. God speaks to our oldest daughter, Laurie, through dreams, but she may not share it for six months until God tells her to do so.

Before communicating to others, dreams should be tested by those who are listening to God. And the one who shares the dream should have the fear of the Lord and the heart of the Father.

*Let the prophet who has a dream recount the dream,
but let the one who has My word speak it faithfully. Jeremiah 23:28*

In the New Testament, God spoke through a dream to Pilate's wife which caused a great deal of suffering. (Matt 27:19)

The Lord spoke to Joseph through dreams. We know sometimes it's by angels, and sometimes it's for warnings (Matt 1:20; Matt 2:13, 19, 22).

Do not blame every dream on God - it could have been the spicy pizza, or kimchi you had for dinner!

Dreams and visions are revealing Jesus Christ as Savior more and more to the world and unsaved. The New Testament opens with five dreams and three visions surrounding the Christmas story!

8. God speaks by His *audible voice*.

The audible voice of God is heard with our natural ears. Most often God uses it to get our attention. God spoke many times in the Old and New Testaments; usually around major transitions in peoples' lives.

- God called to him from within the bush, "Moses! Moses!" (Ex 3:2-4)
- Paul on road to Damascus where *He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?"* (Acts 9:3-7)
- God spoke at Jesus' baptism: "*You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.*" (Luke 3: 21- 22; Mark 1: 9 -11; Matt 3:17)

Before we left for missions, my husband, Peter was in business. One noon hour, he was sitting at his desk, with his feet up as he was reading Time magazine. All the secretaries had gone to lunch. Suddenly, he heard an audible voice say, "Peter." Right away the story of Samuel came into his mind, (1 Sam 3:1-14) and Peter said, "Speak, for Your servant is listening." Then into his mind came a Scripture reference. Peter looked up the reference and it said, "don't follow things of this world, follow Me." (1Cor 7:29-31) That was a real attention getter, when least expected.

9. God speaks through *angels*.

In the days to come, in many parts of the world, God is going to minister through many angels. This is happening now. It's going to happen in public, in churches, and thousands of people will be seeing angels at the same time. Angels will be ministering to the Body in the last days. They will come in angelic and human form. I have friends who see angels in 'angelic form.' I know they have come to me in human form when most needed or right after I have asked God for help.

Angels in angelic form:

- Jacob had a dream where he saw angels of God ascending and descending on a stairway. (Genesis 28:12)
- The Angel of the Lord found Hagar near a spring in the desert. (Gen 16:7-12)
- Angel of the Lord appeared to Moses in flames of fire from within a bush. (Exodus 3:2)
- Angels came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came with them. (Job 1:6)
- For He will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways; they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone. (Psalm 91: 11-12)
- A great company of the heavenly host appeared with an angel to shepherds in a field. (Luke 2: 13-15)
- Mary Magdalene saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot. (John 20:11)
- We all have angels. (Matt 18:10; Acts 12:15b)
- Angels can speak in a loud voice. (Rev 7:2; Gen 22:11)
- Angels have strong discernment. (2 Sam 14:17)
- Angels are ministering spirits sent by God giving specific instructions to man. (Heb 1:14)
- Angels never die. (Luke 20:36)

*When the Son of Man comes in His glory,
and all the angels with Him,
He will sit on His throne in heavenly glory. Matt 25:31*

In our early YWAM years, we knew about angels, but didn't talk much about them. One day, Maureen who has the gift to recognize angels, said to me: "Donna, there is a huge warrior angel who is always in front of you. And 3 or 4 angels who are behind you. They are intercessors and protectors." A few months later, I shared this with a DTS leader in YWAM. He could not believe it, as he also had seen these angels surrounding me, but didn't want to tell anybody about it. So, this confirmed that those are the angels that God has put around me during this season in my life. They never leave me. I don't see them, but the Spirit of God reveals them to me.

Angels in human form:

- Two angels came in human form to Sodom to warn Lot and his family. (Gen 19:1-24)
- Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some people have entertained angels without knowing it. (Hebrews 13:2)

Our son, Pete, was always a risk taker. When he was about 8, while diving through the waves, he was taken out to the ocean by a rip tide which I did not notice. All of a sudden, we saw a large Polynesian man carry Pete and put him on the beach, and then the man disappeared. He was obviously an angel sent by God to rescue Pete.

When taking an outreach team to China, one of our responsibilities was to deliver Bibles and Concordances to a pastor in the underground church. Peter and I walked the streets of Shanghai where we were told the pastor stayed. We couldn't find him nor anyone who knew him. A couple of hours later, we returned to our hotel room, and prayed. We heard God say that we are to continue to pursue our mission. We phoned friends in Hong Kong who knew him and they gave us an address where he picked up mail once a week. We took a taxi as it was getting dark. We came to a dead end. There was a large apartment building down the road. Peter said: "I'm sure that's where we are to go." We showed the pastor's name and everyone shook their heads. No one knew him. Suddenly, a man in a bicycle came towards us. After he rested his bicycle against the wall, he beckoned us to follow him. He led us up five flights of stairs. On the left side was light coming from under the door of one of the apartments. The man knocked on the door. The door opened. And the man who led us there disappeared. When the Chinese people opened the door, they hugged us knowing that we are sent by God. The Chinese pastor was hiding in the back because he thought we were the police. We knew then it was an angel sent by God to lead us there.

Our spiritual daughter, Rebekah, who edited this manual, had an encounter with an angel who came in human form.

I (Rebekah) was admitted to a hospital in Dallas, Texas for coughing blood. On Saturday morning, I was coughing blood again. I started to cry in frustration as the doctors hadn't figured out the cause even though I'd been in the hospital for about a week already. At that moment, a nurse walked into my room. She hugged me while I was coughing blood into my hands, and whispered into my ears: "Do you believe in God?" I nodded. Then she said: "He is here with you in this room." She left my room shortly. Later that morning, I asked to speak with Theresa (I'd remember seeing her name tag). I wanted to thank her for her kindness. The nursing staff told me that they didn't have a Theresa working in the ICU, or anywhere in the hospital. In fact, the hospital didn't have a nurse who fit the description I provided; not on that morning shift, or any other shifts that day! I was sure then that God had sent an angel to comfort me.

Angels are the most perfect worshippers in God's creation. They adore God alone (Is 6:1-4; Rev 4:8). Their priority is the glory of God. They exist to do God's will. They perceive the truth of the essence of God's character. They know that God is holy, and they show reverence for Him.

Angels do the bidding of the Father, and they:

- are obedient to God (Psalm 103:20; Heb 1:14)
- obey the Lord's commands (Psalm 91:11)
- have a free will like humans. They are not robots because we know that one third of the angels followed Lucifer and were cast out of the heavens (Jude 6)

*Praise the LORD, you his angels,
you mighty ones who do his bidding,
who obey his word.*

*Praise the LORD, all his heavenly hosts,
you his servants who do his will.* Psalm 103: 20-21

*Do you think I cannot call on my Father,
and he will at once put at my disposal
more than twelve legions of angels?* Matt 26:53

Angels can be seen by us, and by creation (Joshua 5:13-15; Num 22:21-35):

- ministered to Jesus (Matt 4:11)
- rolled back the stone from the tomb (Matt 28:2)
- can come in dreams and visions (Acts 10:3-6)
- children's angels in heaven always see the face of our Father (Matt 18:10)
- are **not** to be worshipped (Col 2:18)

Some of their God-given authority and calling are:

- guard over you and over the seven churches in Revelations (Psalm 91:11)
- harvesters (Matt 13:38-40)
- weed out sins in the last days (Matt 13:40-41, 49; Psalm 78:49)
- offer guidance and give specific instruction to men (Ex 23:20-21; Matt 2:13; Acts 8:26; 27:23-26)
- give advance announcement or warning of certain events, and can be messengers of God's mercy and promise (Judges 13:3; Luke 1:28-30)
- protect and deliver God's people (Psalm 34:7; Psalm 91:11-12)
- guard (Luke 4:10) *"For He will command his angels concerning you to guard you carefully."*
- give crucial revelation (Matt 1:20-24)
- execute judgement (Acts 12:23)
- go with you (Gen 24:7)
- can speak languages (1 Cor 13:1)
- can come and strengthen you (Judge 6:11-24)
- will fight your enemies (Psalm 35:5; Is 37:36)
- can rescue from trouble (Acts 5:19)
- children's angels in heaven always see the face of our Father (Matt 18:10)

Angels are **not** to be worshipped (Col 1:16; 2:18; Rev 19:10). We need to be careful, because demons can imitate angels but you won't have peace *'for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light'* (2 Cor 11:14). Several world religions and cults have started this way - Islam, Mormonism.

*Do not let anyone who delights in false humility
and the worship of angels disqualify you.
Such a person also goes into great detail about what they have seen;
they are puffed up with idle notions by their unspiritual mind. Colossians 2:18*

10. God speaks through the gifts of the Spirit (Manifestations).

1 Cor 12:8-11 - message of wisdom, message of knowledge, tongues and interpretation, prophecy - the voice of God speaking to our spirits and informing our minds of what God is going to do.

God has told us to try the spirits & test the prophecies. Anything God does, Satan tries to counterfeit, if possible. But he cannot counterfeit God's love. He can deceive our minds, but not touch our hearts.

God's Word says, *'Every matter must be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses'* (2 Cor 13:1). Prophetic writings were made known by the command of the eternal God so that all nations might believe and obey Him (Rom 16:25-27).

The word of wisdom . . .

. . . is the God-given ability to speak an appropriate word, to make right decisions and to discern between good and evil.

In 1 Kings 3:7-12, Solomon asked for wisdom. It is God's incisive word given for a specific occasion, that comes with power and authenticity.

With the spirit of wisdom, deep truths are suddenly imparted, enabling us to know what to do, when to do it and how to do it in every situation. This spirit provides knowledge of His character and helps us love Him more. If you lack wisdom, ask God - He gives generously (James 1:5). The spirit of wisdom and understanding work in harmony with each other.

The Lord wants to anoint us with supernatural wisdom to the point where people would say: "How did he get so smart?"

*"Where did this man get these things?" they asked.
"What's this wisdom that has been given him?
What are these remarkable miracles he is performing?" Mark 6:2b*

The church is about to minister out of a wisdom that's going to confound the wisest people on the earth.

The word of knowledge . . .

. . . is an insight implanted by God about a particular person, or situation, for a specific purpose.

The word of knowledge is a . . .

- fragment of knowledge that cannot be attained by study
- revelation concerning things which were hidden from the senses and mind of men

The word of knowledge comes by listening to the Holy Spirit.

Jesus exercised this gift with the woman at the well (John 4:18). Revelation is the comprehension imparted into our spirits from the Holy Spirit and transmitted into our minds. It can save hours of time in counseling. Revelation and understanding are synonymous.

*I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father,
may give you the spirit of wisdom and revelation
so that you may know Him better. Eph 1:17-18*

Daniel had the spirit of knowledge and understanding. He could interpret visions and dreams of all kinds (Dan 1:17; Dan 5:12).

The word of prophecy . . .

. . . is not only a word of love, it is also timely, in the sense that it is necessary for that person or group of people at that time. It is accurate and survives the test of time. It should be natural and distinct, not drawing attention to the person giving it. Prophecy differs according to our measure of faith, and according to grace given to us (Rom 12:6).

*Everyone who prophesies speaks to men
for their strengthening, encouragement and comfort. 1 Cor 14:3-5*

This can sometimes happen in a team worshipping together and prophesying back and forth. This takes much humility and being in the Spirit (1 Cor 14:29-32).

*For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man,
but men spoke from God
as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit. 2 Peter 1:21*

The word of wisdom, the word of knowledge, and the word of prophecy often intertwine (1 Cor 12:4-7).

*The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him - the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding,
the Spirit of counsel and of power, the Spirit of knowledge and
of the fear of the Lord - and he will delight in the fear of the Lord.
He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes,
or decide by what he hears with his ears ... Isaiah 11:2-3*

*In the last days, God says, I will pour out My Spirit on all people.
Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions,
your old men will dream dreams.
Even on My servants, both men and women,
I will pour out My Spirit in those days,
and they will prophesy. Acts 2:17,18; See also Joel 2:28,29*

*Do not treat prophecies with contempt but test them all;
hold on to what is good, reject every kind of evil. 1 Thes 5:20, 21*

Tongues . . .

- the supernatural impartation of a language that other nationalities can understand (Acts 2:8-11)
- and the interpretation of them (1 Cor 14:27-28)
- a prayer language that edifies and builds up your faith, strengthens the church body, as well as gives boldness and guidance for intercession (Rom 8:26-27; 1 Cor 14:6-14; Eph 6:18; Jude 20)

In Matt 7:21-23, Jesus says that He didn't know the people even though they prophesied, cast out demons, and performed many miracles in His name. Those gifts didn't come out of their walk with Jesus. We must be careful not to elevate people because of their gifts. Do not be impressed with spiritual gifts; only the Giver.

11. God speaks through leadership.

Read Hebrews 13:17 and 1 Corinthians 14:29.

Whether you are a lay person, or a spiritual leader, you must be humble enough to seek the advice of other church leaders. Otherwise Satan will lead you into deception. We all need to be accountable to someone.

- Jesus is our model. He only spoke what He heard His Father say. He only did what He saw His Father do (John 5:19, 30; John 8:28-29).
- Only look to leaders as much as they look to Jesus.
- Spiritual maturity comes through applying God's Word.
- When you do not understand something, or do not have a witness in your spirit, 'put it on the shelf.'
- Be careful who counsels you. Choose a person whose life expresses the fruit of the Spirit - love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control (Gal 5:22). It should be someone who is trustworthy and dependent on God and His Spirit within. It should be someone who is obedient to God's Word.

12. God speaks through songs, hymns and instruments.

The Lord can give you a song or speak to you through a song. He is giving new songs (Psalm 98:1; Psalm 149:1; Isaiah 42:10).

Don't be surprised by the new sounds and new songs that are coming from the indigenous people. All creation worships God in the way that God created them.

13. God speaks through others.

He can do this through testimonies, books, teaching tapes, another person's comments, pastors, teachers, and leaders (Luke 8:36-39; John 1:40-42).

- Test it first. Sometimes the opposition of man is guidance from God, or it could be the enemy using someone who is 'in the flesh' (Matt 16:22-23; Acts 21:10-14; 1 John 4:1-3). In Matthew 16:13-23, Jesus said to Peter, '*Blessed are you Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by man but by My Father*' (v 17). Six verses later Jesus told Peter to '*get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the things of God, but the things of men*' (v 23). Peter went from operating in the spirit to operating in the flesh.

Some authors and speakers may share their own thinking in their teachings; speaking as if it's by the Spirit. We need wisdom to test what is from God, and what is from their own thinking (Romans 12:1-3).

- We need each other in 'the body;' but only God sees the motives of the heart. '*Every matter must be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses*' (2 Cor 13:1).

Often our spirits can get refreshed by others. It is important to share what God has done in our lives. We need to be bold to share our testimonies. God can use our testimonies to bring others to Him (Acts 2:42-47).

We were especially delighted to see how happy Titus was because his spirit has been refreshed by all of you. 2 Cor 7:13

They gave themselves first to the Lord and then to us in keeping with God's will. 2 Cor 8:5

14. God speaks through feelings and emotions.

God can communicate to us through feelings and emotions such as:

- Tears, weeping, like a woman in child birth. (Is 42:14; Is 66:8)
I have been like a woman in travail especially regarding the indigenous people taking their place. People may think I'm an emotional woman, but I'd like to see a man go through childbirth in public!
- Joy
The Holy Spirit can fill us with *an inexpressible and glorious joy*. (1 Peter 1:8; Psalm 16:11; Psalm 126:2)
... everlasting joy will crown their heads. Gladness and joy will overtake them, and sorrow and sighing will flee away. (Is 51:11b)
And He can even touch people in the womb! (Luke 1:44)
The joy of the Lord is your strength. (Nehemiah 8:10)
- Laughter is one of the biggest warfare weapons.
Laughter can come when you experience victory in the spirit realm. (Psalm 2:4; Leviticus 9:24)
He will yet fill your mouth with laughter and your lips with shouts of joy. (Job 8:2)
The Lord laughs at the wicked. (Psalm 37:17; Psalm 2:4)
A cheerful heart brings healing. (Prov 17:22)
- Peace
God gives us a peace that is beyond our understanding. (Phil 4:7; John 14:27)
As we abide in Him, we have peace. ((John 16:33)
And *a heart at peace gives life to the body.* (Prov 14:30)

- Physical body reactions, e.g. trembling, or heart pounding, or pain in parts of the body, or heat in your hands, or like an electric shock, chills, or goose bumps, or a “gut feeling” e.g. sensing that you should pray for someone. A hand touched Daniel in a vision, and he trembled on his hands and knees. (Dan 10:10)

When we were selling the House of Peace in Richmond, BC, the prospective buyer felt an electric shock go through her body when I shook her hand. She also sensed an overwhelming peace in the house. I explained that it was the power, peace, and presence of God.

Two of the apostles, while working on the road to Emmaus, Jesus joined them and walked with them. Later, they asked each other: “*Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?*” (Luke 24:32)

Jeremiah ‘felt’ the voice of God like a fire burning in his bones (Jeremiah 20:9). See also David’s confession in Psalm 39:2-3.

- Power and strength from God

It is good for our hearts to be strengthened by grace ... Heb 13:9

But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me. 2 Cor 12:9

My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit’s power ... 1 Cor 2:4

We should be careful not to do what our human emotions tell us to do unless it is coming from the Spirit of God.

A gnawing feeling, or a troubling feeling, can come from the Spirit of God. We need to differentiate what comes from God, and what comes from the enemy. The enemy brings fear (1 Peter 5:8).

15. God speaks through the *principles of Scripture and principles of faith.*

We find this in His dealings with men and women over generations. It is recorded especially in Hebrews 11 which reminds us of what the saints went through in the Old Testament in their walk with God. It teaches us how they lived by principles of faith. These were all commended for their faith, yet none of them received what had been promised, since God had planned something better (Hebrews 11:39-40).

16. God speaks through *creation.*

Let the sea resound . . . let the fields be jubilant . . . Then all the trees of the forest will sing for joy. Psalm 96:11-13

His way is in the whirlwind and the storm, And clouds are the dust of his feet. Nahum 1:3

I fly a tremendous amount, and often times alone. When I look out the window of the airplane and see all the clouds I think, "God just walked by!"

‘I tell you,’ he replied, ‘if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out!’ Luke 19:40

Did Jesus literally mean the stones would, or could, cry out?

He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, ‘Quiet! Be still!’ Then the wind died down and it was completely calm . . . They (the disciples) were terrified and asked each other, ‘Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!’ Mark 4:35-41

Creation responds to the Creator’s voice (Mark 11:12-14; 20-21; Luke 17:5-6).

*Then the word of the Lord came to Elijah . . .
you will drink from the brook and I have ordered the ravens to feed you there . . .
the ravens brought him bread and meat in the morning
and bread and meat in the evening. 1 Kings 17:2-6*

*.. the morning stars sang together
and all the angels shouted for joy ... Job 38:7*

*He determines the number of the stars
and calls them each by name. Psalm 147:4*

But the Lord provided a great fish to swallow Jonah . . . Jonah 1:17

Balam's donkey saw the angel before he did and brought the Word of the Lord. (Num 22:28)

*But ask the animals, and they will teach you,
or the birds of the air and they will tell you;
or speak to the earth, and it will teach you,
or let the fish of the sea inform you.
Which of all these does not know that the hand of the Lord has done this?
In his hand is the life of every creature and the breath of all mankind. Job 12:7-10*

Just because creation does not speak our language, it does not mean that it does not speak. All of creation has a voice (Jer 4:28; Rom 8:22; Rev 5:13).

God spoke through creation when He placed the rainbow in the sky as a covenant symbol between Him and His people (Gen 9:13-14).

For further reference see also Job 37:2-6; Psalm 19:1-6 and Psalm 29:3-9.

Creation is responding now to the Creator and will continue for future glory.

*I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.
For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed.
For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice,
but by the will of the one who subjected it,
in hope that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay
and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God.
We know that the whole creation has been groaning
as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. Romans 8:18-22*

17. God speaks through *the arts*.

*... I have filled him with the Spirit of God, with skill, ability and knowledge in all kinds of crafts –
to make artistic designs for work in gold, silver and bronze,
to cut and set stones, to work in wood,
and to engage in all kinds of craftsmanship ... Exodus 31:3-5; Exodus 31:1-11*

God has given skill to all the craftsmen to make everything that He commanded them to make.

Other aspects of art that He has used include:

- architectural design (1 Kings 7:13-22)
- the potter's house (Jer 18:1-6)
- the bronze snake (Num 21:5-9)
- illustrative prophetic acts (Ezekiel 4:1-8)
- dance (1 Sam 21:11; 1 Sam 18:7)

Alexis Wilson, an artist, shared her vision from God through art:

In 1986, I was standing in a time of worship at the University of Kona, Kailua Kona Pavilion. I looked out at the Pacific Ocean, and a beautiful majestic cloud was coming ashore and I had a vision of the Lord returning in the clouds. He is Warrior, He is King, He is God, He is the Bridegroom who loves His Bride (Revelation 19). Over the years the vision continued to develop and I saw the armies of heaven coming with the Lord in the clouds dressed in white linen, all on white horses. They were the nations of the earth dressed in the clothing that identified their nation.

Arthur Stace was an illiterate alcoholic who gave his life to Jesus. For over thirty years, he wrote his 'one-word sermon' word "Eternity" in a distinctive cursive style over 500,000 times, in every doorway, on every street, and major entrance to a public area that he could find in Sydney. He died in 1967. Thirty-three years later, the word "Eternity" was written on the Sydney Harbour Bridge. Not only did the people in Sydney, Australia, saw this, but also millions of people who watched the Olympics 2000.

When I was in Sydney, Australia, beginning of the year 2000, I saw this sign. I sensed the Lord saying: "From now on, I want my people to live for eternity, not down here on earth." Life is preparation for eternity. God is more interested in our character than our comfort; more interested in making our lives holy and humble, than happy. He wants us to become more like Him; preparing us to rule and reign with Him (Rev 20:6). One of the key ways is to walk and talk with Him; listening to Him.

*He has made everything beautiful in its time.
He has also set eternity in the human heart;
yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end. Eccl 3:11*

18. God speaks through supernatural signs.

*By day the Lord went ahead of them in a pillar of cloud to guide them on their way
and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light . . . Exodus 13:21*

*To the Israelites the glory of the Lord
looked like a consuming fire on top of the mountain. Exodus 24:17*

*This is the Lord's sign to you that the Lord will do what He has promised:
I will make the shadow cast by the sun
go back the ten steps it has gone down on the stairway of Ahaz.
So the sunlight went back the ten steps it had gone down. Isaiah 38:7-8*

*There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in flames of fire from within a bush.
Moses saw that though the bush was on fire it did not burn up.
So Moses thought, "I will go over and see this strange sight— why the bush does not burn up." Exodus 3:2-3*

God used Gideon's fleece as a supernatural sign (Judges 6:36-40).

It is wiser to ask God to use the sign of His choosing, rather than dictate to Him what we think would be best.

*Then they prayed, "Lord, you know everyone's heart.
Show us which of these two you have chosen to take over this apostolic ministry,
which Judas left to go where he belongs."
Then they cast lots, and the lot fell to Matthias;
so he was added to the eleven apostles. Acts 1: 24-26*

Specifically, God 'wrote with His finger' many times in Scripture to communicate with His people . . .

*. . . inscribed by the finger of God. Exodus 31:18
. . . He sent the hand that wrote the inscription. Daniel 5:24
Jesus bent down and started to write on the ground with His finger. John 8:6-9*

19. God speaks through our senses.

- Sight (Mark 10:52; Psalm 119:18; 2 Cor 3:17-18; see other verses below)
- Smell (2 Cor 2:14-16)
- Sound (Psalm 19:1-4)
- Touch (1 Sam 10:26)
- Taste (Psalm 34:8; Psalm 19:10; Psalm 119:103)

Sight

When you look into someone's eyes, what do you see? We reflect the Lord's glory (2 Cor 3:17-18).

*The eye is the lamp of the body.
If your eyes are healthy,
your whole body will be full of light. Matt 6:22*

God restores our sight; both physical eyes (Mark 10:52; Gen 1:31) & spiritual eyes (Psalm 119:18).
God can "enlighten" our hearts to perceive His Truth (Acts 8:23; Eph 1:18).
God speaks through you and me as we reflect God's glory. Stephen has the face like that of an angel (Acts 6:15).

*The commands of the Lord are radiant, giving light to the eyes. Psalm 19:8b
Fire came out from the presence of the Lord ... Leviticus 9:23-24
... he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting on him. Matt 3:16b*

Smell

God once spoke to a group of Canadian leaders through smell.

We were gathered together worshipping God. Many of us smelled something burning. We looked everywhere to find where the smell was coming from. We could find nothing. So, we stopped and asked God, "What was He trying to say to us through the smell." And He said that He wanted us to lay down our lives together as a living sacrifice. Each one of us took a stick, and together bound it with one cord, and laid it on the fire.

*But thanks be to God,
who always leads us as captives in Christ's triumphal procession
and uses us to spread the aroma of the knowledge of him everywhere.
For we are to God the pleasing aroma of Christ
among those who are being saved and those who are perishing.
To the one we are an aroma that brings death;
to the other, an aroma that brings life. ... 2 Cor 2: 14-16*

Sound

Have you ever wondered what God sounded like when He walked in the Garden? (Gen 3:18)
Have you wondered what God's singing voice is like when He rejoices over us? (Zeph 3:17)
God speaks to us through sounds in nature, e.g. waves, thunder, rain, etc.

Touch

God touches the hearts of men (1 Sam 10:26).
Many feel His love through physical touch, e.g. hugs.

Taste

*Taste and see that the Lord is good ... Psalm 34:8
How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth! Psalm 119:103*

APPLICATION

Read the Word and meditate on it. What is the prophetic word, or the *rehma word* to you?

What are the ways that God speaks to you?

Do you recognize the inner voice of the Spirit?

When you read the Bible daily, ask the Holy Spirit for revelations.

What is He saying to you from His Word?