

Bible Extra Extra

**Hearing God speak without
needing a therapist**

Part 1

The Cessationist view

God speaks to us today through
SCRIPTURE alone.

Why the Cessationist is wrong

God is the same yesterday, today and forever

How can there be relationship without communication?

Much of Scripture becomes redundant!

The witness of millions of Christians

“My sheep know my
voice”

Jn 10:27

“Surely the Sovereign LORD
does nothing without revealing
his plan to his servants the
prophets.”

Amos 3:7

“The Lord confides in
those who fear Him.”

Psalm 25:14

“I will pour out my Spirit
on all people, your sons
and daughters will
prophesy”

Acts 2:17 (Joel 2:28)

“To each one the manifestation
of the Spirit is given for the
common good. To one there is
given the message of
wisdom... to another
prophecy....”

1 Cor 12:7-11

“Therefore my brothers
be eager to prophesy.”

1 Cor 14:39

“Do not put out the
Spirit’s fire. Do not treat
prophecies with
contempt.”

1 Thes 5:19-20

“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

Key Question

Given that his general, moral and universal will is already revealed in the Bible, how does God speak specifically and individually to us today by the Holy Spirit?

What does God speak?

Comfort/reassurance

Acts 18:9-10

Encouragement

Hag 2:4

Information

Jn 4:18

Insight/understanding

1 Jn 2:27, 2 Tim 2:7

Big steps guidance

Acts 13:1, Acts 16:9

Small things guidance

Acts 8:26

Forewarning

Acts 21:11

INDIRECT WAYS in which the Holy Spirit speaks

- Bible (at level 2)
- Words of others
 - Sermons, Books
 - Advice, Inadvertent conversation, other spheres
 - Specific prophetic word given to us
- Creation/world around us
- Experience/events/circumstances
- Rational reflection (Stott quote)
- A growing desire that won't go away

DIRECT WAYS in which the Holy Spirit speaks

- **Impression or gut feeling**
- **Prompt/nudge to do something**
- **Peace / lack of peace**
- **A few words**
- **A picture**
- **Audible voice**
- **Dreams / Visions**
- **Words of wisdom/knowledge**
- **Prophecy to be shared**

What is prophecy?

- Communication from God
- Received in various forms, including words, pictures, impressions, feelings
- Containing information, direction, encouragement or correction
- For/about people, churches, nations or situations
- Delivered through a human agency
- In various forms, including words (written or spoken), symbolic actions, etc

To prophesy...

“To receive and communicate some spontaneous, divinely given revelation.”

“Speaking merely human words to report something which God brings to mind.”

How does prophecy relate to the Bible?

The Bible

- Universal truth
- Permanent
- Complete
- Pure
- Authoritative

Prophecy today

- Situational
- For a moment
- Incomplete
- Mixed
- Needs testing

A degree of mixture

- A message from God
- But fallibly received, delivered and interpreted
- Thus has a “mixed” nature

3 levels of use

1. Using the *gift* of prophecy occasionally (all Christians)
2. Exercising a prophetic *ministry* (some Christians)
3. Having a prophetic *office* (very few)

The Purpose of Prophecy

1. Builds, encourages & comforts 1 Cor 14:3
2. Brings correction & warning 2 Sam 12:1
3. Confirms/provides direction Acts 13:1
4. Evangelistic breakthrough Jn 4:18
5. Insight in counselling
6. Provides a faith injection 2 Chr 20:15
7. Vital to spiritual warfare 1 Tim 1:18
8. Direction for prayer Dan 9:2-3
9. Counters spiritual sloth Hag 1:2-11

Key Summary Points

- Not on a level with Scripture – but tested by
- Not for doctrinal issues
- Not simply preaching – but can be within
- Not exclusive to “prophets”, a gift for all
- Not a perfect thing (1 Cor 13:9)
- Not an out-of-control thing (1 Cor 14:32)
- Not always with understanding