

Revelation: God Speaks

Question and Answer

- You're asking, does God still reveal?

- [Congregant] Yes.

- That's your question? Yes, and there is a position called cessationism, which means to have ceased. And that would be that God used to speak and work, largely, in supernatural means and He doesn't necessarily do that much, if any, anymore. They would go and argue from 1 Corinthians 13, that when the perfect comes the imperfect disappears. And they would say the perfect there is the Word of God, and once the perfect comes, it says prophecies and other revelations will cease or be stilled, is what Paul is telling in 1 Corinthians 13. And what they're saying is that those are imperfect modes of communication, once we got the perfect Word of God, we don't need them anymore. But if you continue to read in 1 Corinthians 13, it says when the perfect comes the imperfect disappears and we will see Him face-to-face. So the perfect is with the coming of Jesus, the second coming of Jesus, the lifting of the curse, the rising of the dead and the ushering into the kingdom of God. The Bible is perfect, but God's perfect work isn't concluded until Jesus comes back and makes us and everything perfect. Now, in heaven, we won't need dreams, we'll just ask Jesus. We won't need angels, we'll just ask Jesus. We won't need somebody to get up and said, "I have a word from the Lord." And they're like, "Well, Lord's right there." You know, He could tell us, you know? I mean, in heaven, you're not gonna need the gift of healing. People who have the gift of healing, they'll be doing something else, right? So there are certain supernatural spiritual gifts and, you know, graces that God gives us that we need until we're perfected in the perfect kingdom of God. And then we don't necessarily need those things anymore. And so can God still speak today? Yes, because the Bible says, "Do not treat prophecies with contempt." The Bible says, "Do not grieve the Holy Spirit." The Bible says, "Do not forbid the speaking in tongues." Those are supernatural, charismatic expressions of faith. And some people will translate it and say, "You know what it means, don't treat prophecies with contempt? What it means is treat prophecies with contempt. What it means is don't forbid the speaking in tongues, what that means is forbid the speaking in tongues. I mean, I've literally heard basically that taught with a lot of Greek and language and quoting dead guys and some Latins and then a little, you know, I don't know, a little origami, like, hey, I'll make it into something else. There you go. But God is a supernatural God, but the God of the Bible tells us that He creates, Satan counterfeits, so He says, "Do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits," 1 John. And we test them by the Word of God. So what I would say to you is this, in the Protestant Reformation, there was a slogan called sola scriptura, which means that scripture alone is the highest authority. So here in America we would say that this is the Supreme Court, right? There's no court above this, this is God's Word. But, that is not solo scriptura, solo scriptura is that God only speaks through scripture. If you read the Bible, it tells us that God speaks in a variety of ways, but all of that is under the authority of the Bible. And so we test everything by the Word of God. And 1 Corinthians talks a lot about this. If somebody feels they have a prophecy or a word from God, they need to bring it to the leadership who will prayerfully consider it, check the person's character, consider it by the Word of God and then verify it. So just because you believe God has communicated, that needs to be confirmed by the Word of God and the leaders of God. And I'll be honest, I've been in environments where I've seen this done very healthy. I've seen

God reveal. One movement, some years ago, it's a movement that I love very much, it's International Movement of Church Planters, a godly woman with high character who loved the Lord and believed the word of God in this large assembly, thousands of pastors, she felt like God laid something on her heart. And this was in London, this was in, maybe in Brighton, it was in England. And so brought it to the leaders. They brought it to the senior leader. They met, they prayed, they considered and they believed it was a word from the Lord, so they brought her up and she said, "I feel like God is telling us that a beautiful woman is going to die and that the whole country is going into mourning. And that flowers will fill the streets and that we need to minister to people who are hurting after the death of this beautiful woman." And then Princess Diana died. God knows the future, and prophecy is how God prepares His people for the future. Now, the majority of prophecy is given to us in the Bible. 25% of the Bible was prophetic in nature, predicting the future when it was written. But there are occasions where God can give some additional insight to prepare His people for the future. I'll close with this, 'cause, we're not late, I am, but this building got here because of a prophetic word. Some of you that don't know the story, when we were thinking about planting the Trinity Church, I met with one of our pastors and overseers and he said, "What are you gonna do?" I said, "Well, I'm gonna rent a building." He's like, "No, no, no, you're gonna buy a building. It's gonna seat about 800. It will be a historically grandfather church. It'll be probably off the 101 and you'll be able to buy it." I was like, "Wow, okay. That's pretty specific. We have no people or money, which tends to mean you're not gonna really get a lot of real estate." And then lo and behold, the phone rings and somebody says, "Hey, there's a potential building coming for sale." God supernaturally worked it out. The church that was here vacated, the denomination let us come in. They gave us a year to raise the down payment. They served as our bank, so we didn't have to pre-qualify. I mean, all God, all God. And it was Easter this last year we had 793 seats set up in this room, and Pastor Brandon came over, he's like, "I thought Jimmy said 800." I looked up in the booth and there were seven people. There was 800 people in the historic church off the 101 that we bought because a guy over breakfast in Texas said it was coming. And I'm just telling you, if you get a guy like that on your board, it's good. I'm just telling you. And so there are false prophets. There are counterfeit signs, wonders and miracles, there are demonic spirits, but the key is not to because of the possibility of the counterfeit, to deny the real, the goal is to get so familiar with the real that you're aware of the counterfeit, okay? And so we believe in the supernatural. We believe God can speak, we believe God can reveal, and we'll test all of that by the Word of God. And if you believe God has communicated something, it needs to be confirmed. So that's where Paul even says to close early in Galatians, he says, "Jesus saved me and I spent years alone, just with Jesus, studying the Bible. And then I went up to Jerusalem and I went before James, Peter, John, and I submitted my message and my findings and what I believe God told me and I submitted to leadership and they confirmed it was right." And if Paul who writes the Bible is willing to submit what he believes is revelation from God to godly leadership and to those who know the Word of God, then we all should be under authority, under the authority of the Word of God, and under the authority of leaders of God. I am, I'm under spiritual authority. We all should be under spiritual authority, and God speaks, but Satan speaks too. And God does things, and Satan does things too. And what we wanna do is we wanna love the genuine and we wanna hold to that which is good. We wanna reject that which is evil and we wanna remove that which is a counterfeit, so that we can live with the real that God gives.