

How to Receive Prophecies

Hearing from Heaven, Part 1

☑ **Target:** *Learn to use the gift of prophecy!*

Key Verses

1 Corinthians 14:1—Pursue love, and desire spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy.

Proverbs 3:5–6—Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; (6) In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.

Suggested Bible Reading

☐ Matthew 10–16

Other Recommended Reading

☐ *Hearing from Heaven (Get Activated! booklet)*

Prayer and Praise: “Speak Lord, Your Servant Hears!” (1 Samuel 3:10b)

Thank You Jesus for how I am learning over and over how much You love me, and how very great Your love is for me, and how much You want to show it to me. I come before You now as young Samuel of old, waiting patiently and quietly for You to speak to Me. Please help me now to cease from my own thoughts and listen to You. Help me to wait patiently to receive Your Words. Help me to trust that You are going to give those Words. Help me to know that it’s not in my own strength, but as I commit myself to You, You will lead and guide. As I ask now and listen to You, I believe You are here for me. Now as I stop for these moments, please help me to hear Your voice.

Meditation: Daily Food!

We have a living God, a speaking God!—One who still loves His children, who still speaks to them. His Word says, “Stir up the Gift of God which is in you” (2 Timothy 1:6).

He can speak to any one of us who love Him. As the Lord said on the Day of Pentecost: “In the Last Days I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams” (Acts 2:17).

Every day should be a new day, a new experience, a new listening to the Voice of the Lord. Why just live on yesterday’s food, why not have something fresh every day? You can hear from God every day, and you should be hearing from Him every day.

It doesn’t have to be out loud; it doesn’t have to be with an audible voice. It can just be in that still small voice that you feel inside of you; sometimes it’s not even words, just an impression that you have. God doesn’t even have to communicate in words, He can just give you a feeling or a picture or an idea.

You ought to be hearing everyday. He says, “My sheep hear My voice, and they follow Me” (John 10:27).

You might be thinking, “I read the Bible every day, so I hear from the Lord every day.” It’s good that you’re reading the Bible, the recorded Words of the Lord, but it’s wonderful to hear straight from the Lord yourself.

We get too busy sometimes. We get so busy serving Him we forget to love Him. So it is good to try to make it a habit of having some “quiet time” first thing in the morning. Read the Bible and pray.—Start the day off right, hear from the Lord. He’ll solve a lot of the problems before the day even starts if you listen to what He has to say. If you go plunging into all your problems and troubles and your work without stopping to talk to the Lord and get directions from your Commander in Chief, then you’re going to be like a soldier who’s trying to fight the war all on his own without listening to headquarters, with no organization from his chief. You need to have prayer and listen to the Lord.

<To think about> *Do you talk to the Lord and hear from Him fresh before starting the day, or do you go straight into your daily affairs?*

Getting to Know the Bible: Prophecy in the Bible

What is prophecy?

- Prayer includes listening to God: 1 Samuel 3:9–10; Numbers 9:8; Psalm 4:4b; 46:10a
- When God speaks...: Acts 2:17–18
- One of the Gifts of the Spirit: 1 Corinthians 12:4,10–11
- The desirable gift: 1 Corinthians 14:1,5,39
- Prophecy comes from God: 2 Peter 1:21; Acts 3:21; Hosea 12:10,13; Romans 12:6

Prophecy and prophets in the Old Testament

- In the days of Moses: Numbers 11:24–30
- In Elijah’s time: 1 Kings 18:1,3–4
- Elisha’s schools for prophets: 2 Kings 2:3,5; 2 Kings 4:38; 6:1
- Samuel’s group of prophets: 1 Samuel 19:20

The Early Church and the gift of prophecy

- Prophecy in action: Acts 11:27–30; 13:1–3; 21:8–9; 21:10–14
- A respected ministry in the Early Church: 1 Corinthians 12:28; 1 Thessalonians 5:20; Romans 12:6; 1 Corinthians 14:29,32; 1 John 4:1

God speaks today

- Counsel: Isaiah 30:21
- Recognizing God’s Voice: 1 King 19:9,11–12