

HOW TO RECEIVE FROM GOD REVELATION FROM THE HOLY SPIRIT

According to the Bible, we are made in the image of God, the Creator of the universe. Our being is modeled after His divine existence. Through logic or intellect, we cannot see or identify God. Unless God chooses to reveal Himself we can not **know** Him. Why is this? If God made the eyes, ears and mind of humanity, how would we **know** whom the creator is unless the Creator reveals Himself to His creation?

The Bible teaches that we are made in the Creator's image, yet we lack the ability to know God apart from His willingness to **reveal Himself** to us. This is our predicament, how can fallen humanity know God? We cannot! That is the point, it is impossible for us to **know** God, unless He reveals Himself to us. Does God choose to reveal Himself? Yes, He does! The Creator of the universe want's to communicate with you!

The Word of God, is the written record of God's revelation. This revealed record is the **inspired** word of God, which the **Holy Spirit** communicated through the prophets (and the apostles) to us. Therefore, understanding and knowing God is beyond our nature, meaning it is "super-natural." The Holy Spirit plays two roles in God-inspired revelation. **(a)** The Holy Spirit reveals the Word of the Lord to mankind through the authors who transmit God's thoughts and intentions - the holy scriptures. **(b)** After the inspired Word is released, the God's Spirit reveals this to man - moving us toward understanding and applying His Word. Both aspects of the Holy Spirit's work is part of **revelation** - and in the Greek "rehma."

The Holy Spirit and Revelation

Isaiah captures our situation clearly; he paints four pictures of our condition (in **Isaiah 59:10**), each bringing to light the helpless condition of humanity. Isaiah includes himself, saying "we", for the 'blindness' of the human condition is the issue:

- We grope for the wall like the blind,
- We fumble as if we had no eyes;
- We stumble at noonday as at twilight;
- We are as dead men in desolate places.

Therefore, only the Holy Spirit can reveal any communication from God to us. The Holy Spirit gives us the **ability** to know (understand) the words God is communicating. Here are the two aspects of the Holy Spirit's revelation; **1. He reveals God's Word. 2. He gives us the ability to understand the revelation.**

The Spirit reveals God's Word. But how does the Spirit reveal the Word of God? Well, when we read the Bible, we see the different ways God communicates. Moses for example, went to Mt. Sinai and was with God on the Mountain for forty days, while David wrote under the inspiration of the Spirit. Ezekiel was caught up by the Spirit and taken to Jerusalem. Saint John (in Revelation) sees and talks to the resurrected Jesus - Jesus tells him to write a letter to seven churches. The apostle Paul saw a vision of Jesus on the road to Damascus and was commissioned to bring the Gospel to the Gentiles. These are just a few examples, but we can see that God's method of **revelation** is not uniform. He alone can determine the method of transmission - how He want's to communicate.

The Bible was inspired by God through the **power** of the Holy Spirit, and it was recorded by man in a written format. Yes, God used human agents to pen His words, but these authors were working under the **inspiration** of the Holy Spirit. The Bible is not an oral transmission, as some liberal scholars teach, but a written transmission. The Hebrew culture was literate from the earliest times - as validated in archeological records. Therefore, through **written revelation**, the Words of God were recorded, and through the generations, the words were transmitted to the present era. The role of the Holy Spirit in the transmission of scripture is noted in Zechariah.

"Yes, they made their hearts like flint, refusing to hear the law and the words which the Lord of hosts had sent by His Spirit through the former prophets." (Zechariah 7:12).

Concerning God's inspired communication, note:

- (a) God personally communicates a message. And in some cases, God directly dictates the message, such as in the book of Revelation chapters 2 and 3, where Jesus tells John what to write to the seven-churches. In Exodus, God wrote the Ten Commandments on the stone, which Moses carried down Mt. Sinai.
- (b) The authors wrote under Inspiration. And in other cases, the prophets recorded what they saw (and did) under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. They were not dictating the words of God, but were recording their own words and impressions, under the **power** of the Spirit. For example, the Psalms were written under the inspiration of the Spirit.

"For David said by the Holy Spirit: 'The Lord said to my Lord, "Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool" ' (Mark 12:36). The New Testament, like the Old was written under the direction of the Holy Spirit, this was the promise Jesus gave to the disciples. "But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you" (John 14:26).

- (c) Prophets sometimes had dreams and visions. In these dreams and visions, the Holy Spirit revealed to the prophets the very words of God (through the interpretation of the dream and vision). Dreams occur while the person sleeps, while visions take place when the person is awake. In both instances, God through the power of the Spirit revealed His Word. Peter was on the roof of his house praying, and fell into a trance, seeing a vision. Jesus spoke to Peter, telling him to go with the men sent from the house of Cornelius (*Acts 10*). Ezekiel, a Jewish captive of Babylon, had visions of God and was taken by the Spirit to Jerusalem (*Ezekiel 8:3*). Ezekiel reported what he saw and heard, under the inspiration of the Spirit, so the book of Ezekiel came to be.

With regards dreams, God even gave dreams to unbelievers such as Pharaoh (*Genesis 41*) and Nebuchadnezzar (*Daniel 2*), the King of Babylon. Under the power of the Holy Spirit, Joseph and Daniel interpreted these dreams, which allowed them to elevate to positions of power in Babylon and Egypt. Nebuchadnezzar's dream is foundational to Bible prophecy.

Daniel under the power of the Spirit was able to tell the king what his dream meant (*Daniel 4:8*). All by the Spirit's power!

The Holy Spirit dwelling inside us gives us direction, searching our hearts, and moving us. ***“Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God”*** (*Romans 8:26-27*).

Since the Bible is the Word of God, and the Word of God is called the sword of the Spirit (*Ephesians 6:17*), we have a weapon to wage war in the spiritual realm. Because the Holy Spirit dwells in us, the Words in the Bible become our way of understanding the will of God. The Spirit uses the Word for us to know God's will. And by knowing the will of God, we can stay in fellowship with God - always seeing the victory!

The Bible demonstrates it's super-natural nature, proving the source of its inspiration is from the God. Through Prophecy, the Bible foretold specific information about Jesus, proving the Jesus of the New Testament is the Messiah. The Bible also demonstrates it super-natural nature by proclaiming specific events in the future, regarding Israel, Jerusalem and the Jewish people. To validate Jesus is Messiah, Isaiah (700 years before His birth) foretold His rejection and murder, calling him “*Righteous servant*” (*Isaiah 53:11*), who would die for the iniquity of all (*Isaiah 53:6*). Daniel revealed the exact time of his death, 539 years before His birth (*Daniel 9:24-27*).

The point is this, God provides evidence for those who seek evidence. But once we understand and trust the authority of the Bible, as being the **revelation** from God, we can then tap into the **eternal power** of Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit wants to reveal things to you! Can you grasp that! He actually does want to communicate God's will and God's intentions to you!

John 14:15-17, “If you love me, you will obey what I command. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever - the Spirit of Truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.” (Verses 25-27) “... All this I have spoken while still with you. 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.”

John 16:12-15, “I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. 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. All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will take from what is mine and make it known to you.”