

Communicating with God

Jim Downing

I. Introduction.

II. Theorizing.

A. Ways of communication.

1. The first incident was one-way communication - Adam. (Genesis 2:16-17)
2. The first incident of two-way communication - Adam. (Geneses 3:9-13)
3. The second incident of two-way communication - Moses. (Exodus 25:22)

B. Words for communicating - speak, declare, appoint, promise, talk, teach, tell, entreat, utter, etc. This is two-way. God speaks and we answer.

C. Methods.

1. Verbally (Job 3)
2. Through dreams and visions.
3. Through the written Word.
 - a. All that God wants us to know can be found here about Him, conduct and life.
 - b. God divided the history of man under dispensations to test him under different circumstances. Man will have a representative of each age and no excuse will be valid because sin will have occurred under each age
 - c. Ignatius Loyola - he who has heard the Word of God can bear the silence of God. But there is no subject upon which God has been silent upon. The Word is complete.
4. Through the mind. We have our own private line to God. God has got a system and the capacity to respond to every communication that we send his way.
5. Through body language. Noah prepared an ark, the Prodigal's Father ran towards the Prodigal Son. (Luke 15)

D. A balanced sense of communication with God keeps one perpendicular. We communicate with God through the mind, will, and emotions.

III. Practical suggestions.

- A. Communicating with God on a twenty-four hour basis by listening.

1. Give the last three to five minutes of the day to God because the mind is still active. (Proverbs 6:22)
2. We need to feed on the Word of God and study it to be intelligent Christians.
3. We need to memorize for skillfulness and meditate for fruit.
4. We need to apply the Word to be obedient Christians.

B. Communicating with God by talking back to Him.

1. Worship and adoration. (Psalm 29:2)
 - a. An occupation of the heart with God Himself.
 - b. When not original, pray Psalm 104:1.
2. The occupation of the heart with blessing. (Psalm 100:4) We communicate praise for the blessings we have.
3. The occupation of the heart with petition. (Philippians 4:6-8)

C. God's attitude towards the day.

1. It is great to read the Bible and to pray and commune with God, but it has a purpose - it is to equip us for the battle.
2. Two situations we will find ourselves.
 - a. Choosing good in the midst of temptation. God communicates back to us by enriching our souls. (Psalm 37:3)
 - b. God places in our paths hungry souls to feed. We communicate in response by body language and God communicates back to us with soul refreshing. (Isaiah 58:10)

IV. Conclusion.

- A. The Word of the LORD is to all generations - He does not need to catch up to human progress. God speaks to all situations through the Bible. (Proverbs 33:11)
- B. God can communicate to us through Scripture out of context. A man pursuing a young lady was convinced by a text out of context that he was supposed to marry a young woman and he married her and now has a fine family.
- C. God is the master communicator. Spend time communicating with God through the mind, emotions, and the will.

Application questions.

1. What are the key observations the speaker makes about communication with God? What is the method?

2. What did you think of the speaker's method? Was it complete? Was it too much? Or was it just right? Explain.

3. What will you do to initiate regular communication with God? How should this look in your personal life?
