

# KNOW HOW GOD SPEAKS TO YOU



Many people today wonder if God still speaks as He did in the Bible, and the answer is yes, He still speaks but do we recognize his voice? From the stories in Luke 24:13-35 and 1 Kings 19:3-9, there are quite a few essential knowledge and revelations that surface. We realize that God still speaks and that we need to be awakened and listen when He does. Therefore, we should know the word of God, get familiar with how He speaks. As we dwell in the presence of God, we become acquainted to Him, and as his sheep we start to learn to hear the Shepherd's voice.

In both scriptures (Luke 24:13-35) and (1 Kings 19:3-9) we see that both the disciples and Elijah were in distress. The disciples were saddened by Jesus' death. While on the other hand, Elijah wanted to die because he feared what Jezebel would do to him. In one instance Jesus just died and it was the topic of the town, that the one who people hoped to be the Messiah wasn't the "Messiah" after all for he was dead for 3 days. The two disciples' hope was gone to the point where they didn't even recognise Jesus when he spoke to them. Let us ask ourselves this question, are we able to recognise the voice of God even when we're facing a tough situation? Jesus was alive and was with them, but the two disciples couldn't recognise him because their focus was on the tragedy of his death. They were astounded that they didn't recognise his voice to the point where they asked each other "Wasn't it like a fire burning in us when he talked to us."





On the other hand, Elijah was a mighty prophet. He stopped the rain for 3 years and called down fire from heaven and fire came down. But in 1 Kings 19:4, we see him praying to die because he feared Jezebel's threats. Elijah forgot that the God that instructed him to do everything he did until this point was with him. Elijah kept repeating to himself that he was alone and that all the Prophets were killed. He forgot that the Lord will never leave nor forsake him (Matthew 28:20). God looked beyond Elijah's prayer to die instead he gave him what he needed at that moment and that was strength, through food. In Elijah's story, we see him recognising the voice of God but trembling when a mere human being threatens him. Our fear makes us forget that it was God who spoke in the first place.

It's difficult to recognise the hand or voice of God in tough situations, but we serve a God that can relate (Hebrew 4:14). The angel of the Lord told Elijah to eat as so he may have strength for the journey. God understood that Elijah was tired, so he gave him what was necessary at that moment and that was strength. Jesus could relate to the sadness of the disciples, so he gave them what was necessary and that was communion. In that communion, they learned that the promises of God included the cross. Sometimes we receive the promises of God with so much joy forgetting that there are two sides to the promise: the cross and the resurrection. In their communion with Jesus, they learned to recognise the voice of God. While in Elijah's pursuit for death, he heard God's voice in the stillness and was given strength for the long journey.



These two stories remind us that in this present life we will have troubles, we will be overwhelmed and maybe like Elijah we will ask for our lives to be taken. In this kind of situation, Jesus is always present. He doesn't take our lives but instead gives us strength for the long journey. In both stories food (which represent strength) was given to the disciples and Elijah. The food that we may need is also the word of God which is the bread of life. The word of God is the voice of God and is what strengthens us. But are we able to recognise when the bread of life is given to us?