

My son, do not reject the discipline of the LORD or loathe His reproof, For whom the LORD loves
He reproveth, Even as a father corrects the son in whom he delights. Proverbs 3:11-12

WORD OF GOD SPEAK

"TODAY IF YOU HEAR HIS VOICE, DO NOT HARDEN YOUR HEARTS,
AS WHEN THEY PROVOKED ME." Hebrews 3:15

Have you ever asked the Lord to speak to you and then be totally surprised when He did? If He was to speak or has spoken to you,

what would or did He say?

2 Tim. 3:16 All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; that the man (or woman) of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.

I guess I should define what I mean

by "God speaking." In my experience as a Christian and in living relationship with God, my Father, I have been 'spoken' to by God in several different ways. The most common way I have heard the voice of the Lord is through His Word, the Bible. Somehow in His awesomeness, God will 'illuminate' a scripture for me and I will receive personal instruction on how that particular 'word' or scripture applies to my life. Another way I hear God's voice is by personally studying the Bible and learning, understanding and applying a (general) life principle that will ultimately become an integral part of who I am and what I believe. Yet another way I hear the voice of the Lord is through the gift of teaching or reading of the Word. If someone has the gift of teaching, for example, I can glean all kinds of things the Lord is speaking to me, even if they are just reading the Scripture it can just hit me and I am changed. I've also received instruction from the Lord in and through circumstances. Most recently, I have been receiving 'personal' counsel from the Holy Spirit. What that means to me is that, the Holy Spirit will open my eyes to something inside of me that isn't quite right, like a motivation or a feeling, you know, counseling heart stuff... this is where I believe the Word of God pierces as far as the division of soul and spirit...see

Heb. 4:12 As my friend and I were joking the other day, "The Lord just won't let us get away with anything!" (of course we're happy with that in the long run:) And then of course there are those

Heb. 4:12 For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

'rare' times (for me) when someone will speak a 'word of knowledge' or prophesy (also gifts of the Spirit) and I hear God speak to me directly through a person. It's this last way (word of knowledge/prophesy) that I found myself hearing the Word of God speaking to me the other day.

I was in my house just minding my own business... studying Galatians for a Bible Study I was to do in a few hours when a man from 'the little white church' came to visit me. I'm new to the area, and had gone to this church a

couple of times so I thought I might get a visit from someone, but I wasn't expecting it right then. The elderly gentleman was looking for my husband, but since he was out of town, I asked him to come in and sit down, and offered him a cup of coffee.

He asked me what I was studying. He got more than he bargained for as I began to unload a very large portion of my 'knowledge of God's Word' on him. I would've kept on going too if it hadn't been for God stopping me dead in my tracks. Just so you know, I never did shut the Bible, just kept it open and was finding verses to support what I was saying, then out of the blue the man says, "I don't think we really know what it means to love one another." While he's saying that, I'm like, 'mmmhum, I know that's right,... and only God could've heard the arrogant, self righteous tone of my heart as I was judging everyone else for not loving like *they* should....Then HE said, '*it's like you paying attention to the book when you should be paying attention to me.*' Ouch! That's gonna leave a mark! Depending on what I do with that rebuke, a mark in the form of a bruise on my pride leading to justification and anger, or a mark of humility leading to holiness and training in righteousness. This must have been just a pinch of what David felt when Nathan the Prophet called him out and said, "**You are the man!**" (in regard to sin- 2 Sam. 12:4-7) As I heard the Word of God speak right to me I was speechless and immediately shut my mouth realizing my utter sinfulness.

The man was gracious, he didn't say it to shock me or wound me, he may not even remember saying it, but personally, I see it as my having received a formal 'talking to' by the Lord and I will not forget it.

Afterwards, this statement (from my very good friend, Susan:) kept going through my head: '*they won't care how much you know until they know how much you care*'...and isn't that the truth! It all comes down to love. (But the goal of our instruction is love from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith. 1 Tim. 1:5)

Word of God speak? Are you sure you want to hear what He has to say? I sure am glad I listened to His rebuke and did not harden my heart in pride. I agree with the status of my heart as the Lord has exposed it, and I repent once again with joy knowing I have taken yet another step into holiness, into grace, into love. And I dare say all the more, **Word of God Speak!**

Peace IN, Big D:)

PS After writing this I opened my Bible to James 1:22...It's not enough to "hear" God speak, but we must act on what He has said. **But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves.**