

“God Told Me It’s Ok”

(Compiled by Paul R. Blake from a lesson developed by Keith Sharp)

Introduction:

- A. How many times have you heard someone say: “Well, the Lord spoke to me, and said...”?
 - 1. Pentecostal and Charismatic preachers, TV evangelists; acquaintances
 - 2. They have been able to move people, not only to disregard the written word, but also to engage in sinful and self-destructive activities.
- B. God sent genuine prophets.
 - 1. God sent genuine prophets - 2Kings 17:13; Jer. 7:25
 - 2. Some took advantage of this by claiming the Lord sent them when He did not - Jer. 23:21, 25-27, 30-32
 - 3. The ability to foretell future events with unerring accuracy distinguished true prophets from false - Deut. 18:21-22
 - 4. But the Lord even made the test tougher. Sometimes He allowed false prophets to do wonders to test Israel's faithfulness - Deut. 13:1-3
 - a. This implies responsibility on the part of the hearer to discern between true and false prophets
 - b. The penalty for falsely claiming to speak for the Lord was death Deut. 13:5
 - 5. God makes His will for man known in every age - Amos 3:5-7
- C. How does one discern?
 - 1. Ex. 7:1-2, 10:3 - If God speaks to one, he is a prophet. If he tells another what God said to him, he is claiming to be a prophet.
 - 2. New Testament prophets - Acts 13:1; 1Cor. 12:28
 - 3. There were also false prophets, making it necessary to discern between them - 1John 4:1
 - 4. The gift of prophecy ceased when the Divine revelation was completed, and recorded - 1Cor. 13:8-10
- D. Can we be sure that God no longer speaks directly to humankind?
 - 1. Once the word of God was found in human vessels, inspired men, the apostles and prophets of Christ.
 - a. 2Cor. 1:1, 4:6-7; Eph. 3:1-5; 2Peter 1:12-21
 - 2. The Holy Spirit revealed God's words to them - 1Cor. 2:9-13
 - 3. They worked signs, wonders, and miracles to confirm the Divine message they preached - Mark 16:17-20; 2Cor. 12:12; Heb. 2:1-4
 - 4. They also wrote down these inspired words in books - Eph. 3:1-5
 - 5. These books were gathered together in the New Testament, which, along with the Old Testament compose the Scriptures, the writings from God commonly called the Bible.
 - a. 2Tim. 3:16-17; 1Tim. 5:18; 2Peter 3:14-16
 - 6. When someone claims, “God spoke to me,” he is claiming the gift of prophecy. But that gift has ceased, and all Divine truth for men has been revealed, confirmed, and recorded in the Scriptures.

7. If one is having a hard time making a difficult decision, look for guidance from the Scriptures and pray for wisdom to do what's best.
 - a. James 1:5
8. But he must not confuse his opinions or feelings for divine revelation. Divine truth doesn't come from a human mind; it's found in an inspired book. His feelings are just his feelings, and all they prove is that he feels that way.
9. Robert F. Turner used to tell this story. "A woman came to him asking him to perform her wedding ceremony. Upon discussion he found she was unscripturally divorced. He said he couldn't perform the ceremony. She left but later returned and announced, 'Brother Turner, God spoke to me and said it's OK, you can perform my wedding ceremony.' Unfazed, he inquired, 'Well, did He write it down for you?' 'No,' she replied. 'Well,' Brother Turner announced, 'God spoke to me too. But He wrote it down for me.' And He read to her Matthew 19:9."
10. If God didn't write it down for you in His Bible by a real prophet, He didn't speak to you.

Conclusion:

- A. There is no need or purpose for God to speak to individual human beings today. He has already said all that He is going to say to this world.
 1. 2Tim. 3:16-17
- B. The next time He speaks to this world will be in the Judgment - 1Thes. 4:16
- C. May I encourage you to listen to what God has already said in order to be prepared for that day? - 2Thes. 1:8