

Details

I believe God wants to connect directly, personally with each one of us. Many Christians don't believe this to be true. They see no miracles, nothing extraordinary in their lives. At best, they believe we are guided throughout our lives by reading the Bible, because they think God no longer talks directly and personally to people. Some Christians are chronically critical of the experiences of others, especially if they themselves have not experienced the same or similar thing.

I wholeheartedly agree with Apostle Paul that in God I breathe, I move and have my being. God lives in me in all his fullness. There is only one way to live the Christian life and that is supernaturally. So, in human terms, I am an on-going miracle.

Does God want to communicate, to interact with people today? I believe he does. Although I read the Bible every day, I cannot have a relationship with a book. I am not saying God cannot or does not “communicate” with us through his word. But, it is still God the Spirit who gives the word its life; it is still the Holy Spirit who speaks to me through his word; it is still the Spirit who conveys biblical truth to me. Furthermore, he personalizes his message to each of us, depending on our own current orientation and need.

Not only does God “speak” to us through his *written* word, he does so through people and circumstances. But all this can never take the place of his personally and directly communicating with us.

By the way, regardless of who reads it, the Bible does not change its wording to suit the individual, even though a person is free to interpret the word as she or he wishes. Hopefully, the reader is looking for the Holy Spirit's interpretation, since only he knows the exact meaning of what he has inspired godly men to write on his behalf.

The Christian life is not a religion; it's a relationship – a living, loving relationship with the three Persons of the Trinity. The resurrected Christ did not ask Peter, "Do you love my words?" He wanted to know, "*Do you love me?*"

Fellowship – a relationship – requires on-going communication. That's what the Lord wants with his people. Apostle Paul knew God's word well. He penned a large part of it. But, he wasn't satisfied with writing or knowing Scripture. In Philippians 3:10, he says, "*I want to know Christ...*"

To be of optimum value, this divine initiative has to work in *both* directions. The *Spirit* lets us *know* we are the children of God. We are led by him. He works within us and with us. He guides our personal lives individually and, therefore, differently, because we are all unique – one of a kind. I can get a clear sense of his leading only if he is somehow communicating with me – personally.

Not only that, but he will lead me to only the spiritual depth and breadth that I allow. If I permit him to lead me only in general rather than in particular, that is the way he will do it. If I think, for example, that God is not concerned about whom I marry or where I live, he tolerates that opinion. He works with me where I am. He respects my restrictions. But if I want (and allow) him to lead in itemized detail (with nothing too small or insignificant for his personal attention and involvement), then that's the way he will lead me.

Actually, the One who sees every hair fall from my head (and knows how many are left), is *very* interested in every detail of my life. Life is made up of details and my life (every bit of it) is what God is interested in. Since we *belong* to the Lord and do *everything* – including eating and drinking – for his glory, then every detail of our lives is significant to him. But, for him to get involved in the details of our lives, he needs our permission.

Of course, he wants us to appeal to him when we have a crisis. But, he prefers to be an on-going part of our everyday life. And we will discover that God transforms the usual into the unusual, the natural into the supernatural, the ordinary into the extraordinary. The Lord doesn't want us to *get* a life; he wants to *give* us an abundant life. ◇◇