



# GOD SPEAKS

**IGG DAY**

*02.11.2013*

**ST HELEN'S**  
*BISHOPSGATE*

# God Speaks: How? So What?

## [A] HOW GOD SPEAKS TO US

### **GOD SPEAKS TO US...**

- Speaker
  
- Listener

### **...BY HIS SPIRIT THROUGH HIS WORD ABOUT HIS SON**

*God speaks about his Son*

Heb 1:1-4 / Jn 1:14-18

*By His Spirit, through his Word (the Bible)*

- **Inspires** the Bible  
2 Tim 3:16 / 2 Pt 1:21 / Jn 14:26
  
- **Illuminates** the Son  
Jn 15:26 / 16:12-15

Jer 23:29 / Isa 55:11 / 1 Pt 1:23-25 / Heb 4:12

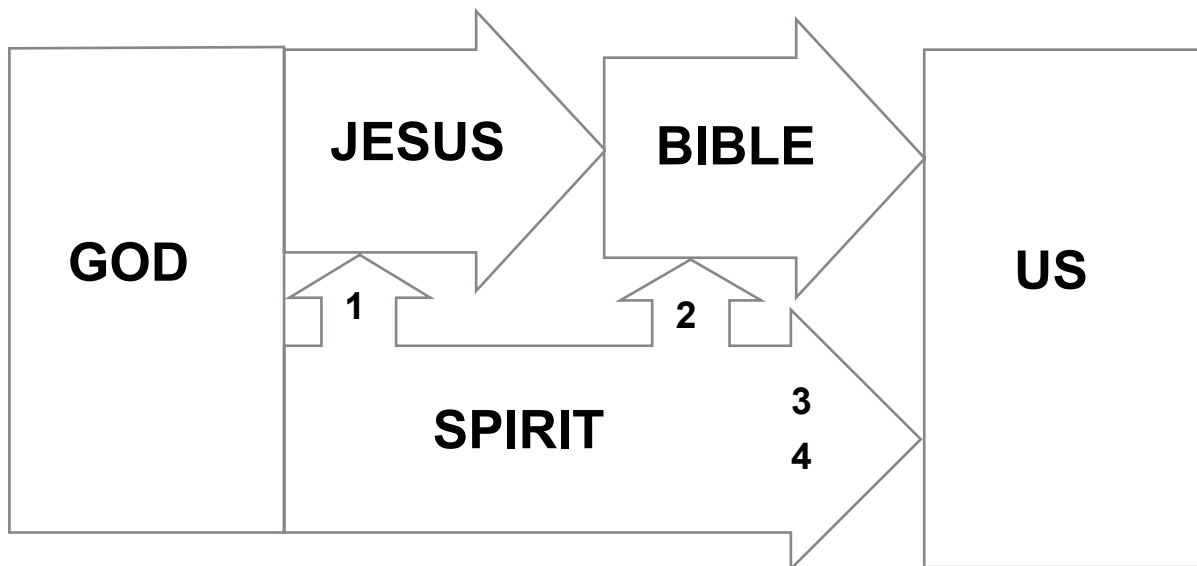
**DISCUSS:** How is God's word described?

- **Interprets** for the Believer

1 Cor 2:10-14 / 2 Tim 2:7 / 1 Jn 2:27

- **Implements** God's Will

2 Cor 3:18, 4:5-6 / Jn 3:5-6 / 1 Pt 1:23 / Col 1:9-10



1 =

3 =

2 =

4 =

## [B] HOW WE SHOULD LISTEN TO GOD

**DISCUSS:** If this is HOW God speaks to us,  
how should we LISTEN?

- **CONCERNED** with God's AGENDA

humility & hard work (Isa 66:2 / 2 Tim 2:15)

- **CENTRED** on God's SON

repentance & faith & delight (Lk 24:25-32)

- **CONFIDENT** in God's SPIRIT

prayerful dependence & expectation (Acts 6:3-4 / Titus 1:1)

**IMPACT** on us as:

an individual

a local church

# **Guidance: Discerning God's WILL**

## **Introduction**

An important subject

A misunderstood subject

- God's Specific Will for 'my life'
  
- God's Special Way of 'directing' me

[A] The PRINCIPLES

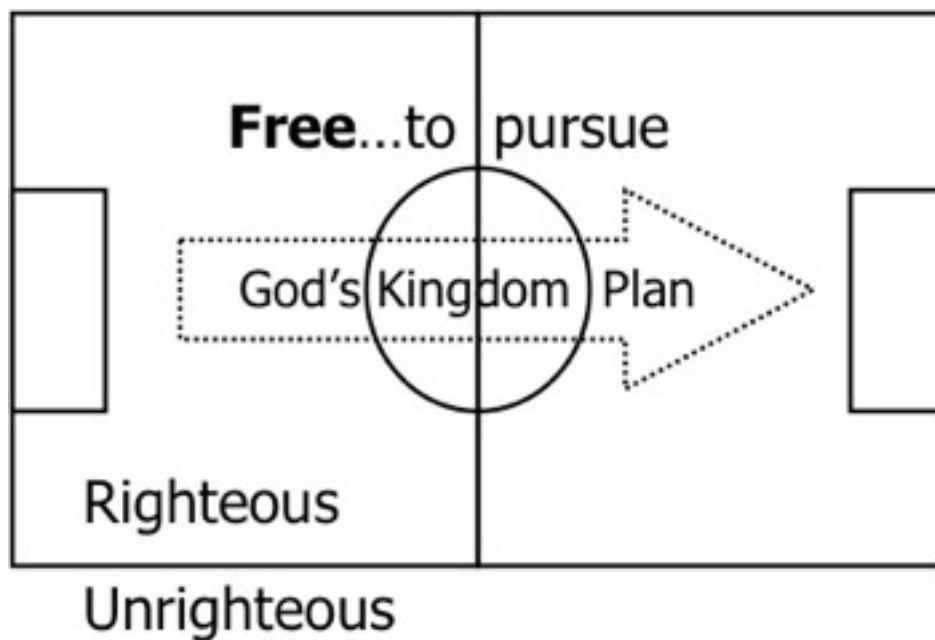
## **God's Will**

- God's Christ-Centred Will (Eph 1:9-10)
  
- God's Secret Sovereign Will (Jm 4:13-15)
  
- God's Revealed Righteous Will (Mt 7:21)

## Our Responsibility

*Seek first the Kingdom of God and his Righteousness (Matthew 6:33)*

- **Pursue** God's Kingdom PLAN
- **Submit** to God's Righteous STANDARDS



## **Case Study: 'Which city should I live in?'**

Ruth needs to make a decision. It seems to him he has 3 main options:

### **1. STAY in London**

continue with current job; develop existing relationships at work;

stay at St Helen's where he's grown lots & is very involved serving

### **2. MOVE to Edinburgh**

accept job offer – very well paid, though long hours expected;

unable to give visa for the first 3 months; boy friend lives in Glasgow

(30 minutes away)

### **3. RETURN to Home Country**

Her parents have been hoping she'll return; her uncle has offered

her a job managing a factory that produces pirate DVDs

## [B] The PRACTISE

*What should we do?*

- **Call** on God for Wisdom
- **Consider** God's Word
- **Consult** God's People
- **Call on** God to Overrule

*What should we expect?*

- **Feelings** of Peace?
- **Consequences** that are Smooth?
- **Signs** of Confirmation?

*What does it look like?*

- Examples from the **Early Church**
- Examples from **within IGG**



## **Case Study:** *'Which church should I belong to?'*

Having recently returned home John needs to make a decision.

It seems to him he has 2 main options:

### **1. RETURN to home church**

Family would be happy; and he already knows lots of people there;

Whilst at St Helen's, his thinking has changed quite a lot;

Being part of his old church wouldn't be easy, but maybe he could encourage them to be more Biblical

### **2. MOVE to a new church**

It meets near where he is working, and it shares lots in common with how we do things at St Helen's; the Pastor would be really excited to have another likeminded person join them