

God Has Never Spoken To Just Everybody, Instead Always Through His Representatives

I run into people all the time who say God speaks to them directly and tells them this or that, or God reveals things to them through their feelings or dreams/visions/emotions. What they don't realize is that God does not, and never has, spoken to just everybody. Instead, God has always spoken through His representatives - Patriarchs, prophets, apostles, etc.

Heb 1:1-2 says "God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son" Notice God spoke to the prophets in OT times, not to every saint.

Eph 3:3-4 reads "How that by revelation he made known unto me the mystery; (as I wrote afore in few words, ... Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ)." So God expected the prophets/apostles to write down what he told them, and then all the people could understand God's will by reading that, what was written. God wasn't ever going to just talk to everybody directly. I Cor 15:3 For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received ...

Neh 8:5,8 says "And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people ... and when he opened it, all the people stood up ... So they read in the book in the law of God distinctly, and gave the sense, and caused them to understand the reading." The people learned God's will by hearing God's word (the "Bible" then) read. God didn't tell everybody directly his will for them; instead he revealed to the prophets God's will for everybody.

Neh 9:13,20,30 reads "Thou camest down also upon mount Sinai, and spakest with them from heaven (thru Moses, ptd), and gavest them right judgments, and true laws, good statutes and commandments ... Thou gavest also thy good spirit to instruct them, ... and testifiedst against them by thy spirit in thy prophets: yet would they not give ear: therefore gavest thou them into the hand of the people of the lands." Eph 6:17b "the sword of the Spirit ... is the word of God."

Eph 4:11 - "... he gave some, apostles; & some, prophets; & some, evangelists; & some, pastors and teachers;" So not everybody in NT times was an apostle or prophet; God did not reveal to everybody directly even then. And verses 12-13 show how God educates the saints - indirectly.

I Cor 13:8-10 says "Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away. For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away." The point of this text is that miraculous revelation (done thru prophecy, tongues, etc.) would stop when the New Testament was completed - all revealed (and confirmed) and everything written down in one place. I can send you an article that goes into technical detail on this.

John 3:2 - before the NT was completed, God confirmed who had the truth with miracles. - The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him.

Acts 2:4-8,11 - tongues were human languages used to communicate the gospel, not gibberish.

Why Did God Do It This Way?, Why Does He Not Just Reveal His Law To Every Single Person?

Because revealing to every single person would inevitably lead to differing standards. "God is no respecter of persons" (Acts 10:34). He wants everybody to be responsible to the same law. If He told you one thing and me another, then we wouldn't be responsible to obey the same thing.

For example on a number of occasions, I have had women tell me God told them to be preachers. But God tells me and everybody else I Cor 14:34-35 "Let your women keep silence in the churches: for it is not permitted unto them to speak; but they are commanded to be under obedience as also saith the law. And if they will learn any thing, let them ask their husbands at home: for it is a shame for women to speak in the church." God wants all of us to obey the same rules; He doesn't want it to be wrong for some ladies to preach from the pulpit because I Cor 14:34-35 says it is wrong, but right for other ladies who He tells directly to preach. Can you imagine one lady being lost for preaching from the pulpit, but that being okay for another lady? That would be God showing favoritism.

If we had disagreement about how long something was, wouldn't it be valuable to have a ruler to determine the exact length and settle the question? Similarly, since we have differences on what we should do in our service to God, isn't it helpful to have God's ruler (the Bible) to determine what is really right on all those questions?

Carol and I recently watched a movie on YouTube titled "Created Equal" where a woman/nun was so sure God was telling her to be a priest that she sued the Catholic Church in California to try to force them to allow it. Compare to I Tim 2:11-12 ("Let the woman learn in silence with all subjection. But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence."). And there was a crazed Catholic in the movie that was sure God was telling him to murder her to stop her. Compare to Rev 21:8 ("But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death."). Can't we see how this does not work? We would have to just take everybody's word for it, and that could include a bunch of crazies.

So instead of revealing to everybody, God revealed his New Testament law to the apostles and other New Testament prophets in the first century, they wrote it down in the Bible, and He expects the rest of us to read and follow that written revelation. This is parallel to what He did in the OT with those prophets and the Israelites. We see this truth also from:

- James 1:25 "But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed."
- II Tim 3:16-17 "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works."

Think how much of God's law I would forget if He revealed all 66 books directly to me all at one time - probably 99% of it. I am so glad God had it written down for me to read, study, & refer to as I make time for it.

God has one standard – the Bible. Everybody should conform to what it says. And when someone is not conforming to God's word, we can tell because we can compare what they are teaching/doing to that one standard. So we don't have to determine whether or not someone is telling the truth when they say God told me to do some particular thing. If God reveals his will directly to every Christian, then there is no way to reliably make a judgment if someone (other than our self) is not serving the Lord faithfully. They can always say God told me to do that. But if God reveals his will through one written law, then there is one single standard for everybody by which we can judge if someone else is really serving the Lord. Many passages such as I Cor 5 say God expects us to make such judgments. Remember Jim Jones in Guyana?