

WORKING WITH GOD

14/2/16

*Even though the world is full of sceptics and doubters, who all make their own demands on how God should reveal himself... the bible pattern remains consistent and effective. Even when Jesus was on the cross, there were those who wanted him to do it their way, but he refused (MAT 27:42 ...If he be the King of Israel, let him now **come down** from the cross, and we will believe him). God has his own plans and purposes that are far beyond limited, human imagination. It falls upon all of us to seek God through the use of the Holy Spirit's workings revealed in the scriptures... to regularly use them in a way that edifies others and ourselves.*

God's communications are not always what we think they should be. 1KIN 19:9 And he came thither unto a cave, and lodged there; and, behold, the word of the LORD *came* to him, and he said unto him, What doest thou here, Elijah? **10** And he said, I have been very jealous for the LORD God of hosts: for the children of Israel have forsaken thy covenant, thrown down thine altars, and slain thy prophets with the sword; and I, *even* I only, am left; and they seek my life, to take it away. **11** And he said, Go forth, and stand upon the mount before the LORD. And, behold, the LORD passed by, and a great and strong wind rent the mountains, and brake in pieces the rocks before the LORD; *but* the LORD *was* not in the wind: and after the wind an earthquake; *but* the LORD *was* not in the earthquake: **12** And after the earthquake a fire; *but* the LORD *was* not in the fire: and after the fire a still small voice. **13** And it was *so*, when Elijah heard *it*, that he wrapped his face in his mantle, and went out, and stood in the entering in of the cave. And, behold, *there came* a voice unto him, and said, What doest thou here, Elijah? **14** And he said, I have been very jealous for the LORD God of hosts: because the children of Israel have forsaken thy covenant, thrown down thine altars, and slain thy prophets with the sword; and I, *even* I only, am left; and they seek my life, to take it away. *Elijah felt isolated and alone, fearing that God was not with him. Fear and doubt can quickly take hold of our faith while we serve the Lord. Amazingly, it was only a day or so before this, he had called the fire of heaven down in the presence of his enemies... God responded powerfully in front of the most powerful enemies of this time. When God spoke to Elijah on Mount Horeb, he could have done so in the wind, earthquake, or fire, but he didn't. Elijah identified the 'still small voice', despite the fact he had an ongoing conversation supported with many miraculous signs leading to this moment. We need to make sure that we identify the ways that God works with us and apply our faith and hope accordingly. We need to compare spiritual principles with our actions.*

Philip wanted to see God in the way that would be convincing to his natural thinking. JOH 14:6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me. **7** If ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also: and from henceforth ye know him, and have seen him. **8** Philip saith unto him, Lord, shew us the Father, and it sufficeth us. **9** Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou *then*, Shew us the Father? **10** Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? the words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works. *Philip had missed the point that the faithful works and attitudes that Jesus was expressing, were equally the ways and attitudes of God. Our own lives, despite our failings and limited abilities, should equally reflect the overall attitude that God has for us and each other. Our testimony is God's testimony, despite our humanity.*

We are encouraged to use the voice gifts to edify each other (reflecting God's principles). 1COR 14:24 But if all prophesy, and there come in one that believeth not, or *one* unlearned, he is convinced of all, he is judged of all: **25** And thus are the secrets of his heart made manifest; and so falling down on *his* face he will worship God, and report that God is in you of a truth. *God talks to us at these times through faithful people.*

We still have many limitations. 1COR 13:9 For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. **10** But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away. **11** When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things. **12** For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known. *Our walk in the Lord, prophecy, etc., is still based on limited ability and understanding, but it serves God as he has given us the power to discern and resolve our still limited (childlike) knowledge.*

These signs are the primary identifiers of whom God is happy to work with. MAR 16:20 And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with *them*, and confirming the word with **signs following**.

God works with us in many ways confirming his word with signs, pricking and wisdom. It is up to us to faithfully apply the principles behind those things we hear and see in our fellowship, prayers and reading.