# How to Hear the Voice of God Now

## Table of Contents

1. INTRODUCTION  
2. Chapter 1: What Is A Voice?  
3. Chapter 2: The Fear Factor  
4. Chapter 3: How Do I Know When It’s God?  
5. Chapter 4: Recognizing His Form  
6. Chapter 5: Frequently Asked Questions

This special teaching manual is designed to provide space for your own personal notes and comments.

**Prophetic Image Expressions**

No part of this book may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, without written permission from the author, except for inclusions of quotations in a review.

**Copyright Pending 2003**

All Rights Reserved
Listen! What do you hear? Nothing?
Good. You are ready to hear the voice of God.

Muir College, Uitenhage, South Africa 1967

At the age of 11, I ran and played during lunch break at school. I was noisy and energetic as I socialized with the other boys who were so much like me. Nearly a hundred boys moved busily around me, noisy and preoccupied with their own games. I moved through the crowd, lost in my own thoughts, when suddenly I heard something whisper in my ear, “Duck!” I immediately dropped to the ground in front of a tree. Almost simultaneously, I heard a scream as something flew over my head and collided with the tree. Unbeknownst to me, a bully who had tried to intimidate me the day before through the delivery of an agonizing kick to my groin was running toward me at maximum speed with the intent to tackle and bully me again. After this encounter, which severely bruised his ego, he directed his violence elsewhere from that day forward.

I continued on my way, contemplating the bizarre events that had occurred. It was a hot afternoon, the kind of heat only South Africa can produce. My eyes squinted from the bright sun and I walked, lost in thought. Suddenly I felt the urge to stop and listen. Everything was quiet. I waited and suspected nothing unusual.

I was unexpectedly prompted to do something strange. I requested that the wind increase its volume. Instantly the wind began to howl and the dirt at my feet gathered into a whirlwind, spinning around me with incredible force. I covered my eyes and within seconds, it died down and stopped. In no way do I hold ideas of grandeur that I control the wind, but there have been so many similar occurrences throughout the course of my life that I no longer consider it a coincidence. I continued walking and felt prompted to stop again. I waited and as the wind began to gently blow, I heard, “Listen.” I strained to hear, but heard nothing. “Listen to the wind.” This time, I stopped trying so hard to hear and just listened. For a moment, I was able to “see” or perceive something that surpassed my natural hearing. I saw a place, which I could only describe as an old castle. It was gray and majestic and the sound of people shouting bellowed out. They shouted as though they had won a great battle.

This experience affected me deeply and even though it would take years to actually meet Christ, the feeling that I had at that moment, visits me from time to time. When it does, I know that I am standing in a place of destiny. Whether I am in a home in Europe, a church in England, or even a restaurant, when I get that feeling, I recognize that I am standing in the place that God showed me that day as a child in a little town at the tip of Africa.
Chapter 1:
What Is A Voice?

**Voice** – The sound produced by the vocal organs of a vertebrate. A specified quality, condition, or pitch of vocal sound: a hoarse voice; the child’s piping voice. A sound resembling or reminiscent of vocal utterance: “the murmur of the forest.”

You can recognize various aspects of a person by their voice:

A child’s voice can be recognized by the “piping voice.” The pitch of their voices can differentiate the voice of a man or woman. Thus, various aspects of a person can be recognized through their voice. **Agitation, happiness, or excitement can be discerned by the sound of the voice.**

A human or animal is known by the sound of their voice. However, there can be heard the howling of wind, the murmur of the forest, and the roar of the sea, which gives **a voice to things not human or alive.**

What About God?

**God’s voice opens your spirit to comprehend and perceive destiny and future.**

Don’t listen for an audible voice. It may not be something you can hear with your physical ear, but rather something you must perceive.
Can anyone truly say that they know what God's voice sounds like? God is not human, but He is able to take the human larynx and articulate His feelings through or to someone, or He can use a talking donkey to express His message.

He can speak in a STILL SMALL VOICE, as He did to Elijah.

Then He said, "Go out, and stand on the mountain before the LORD. ' And behold, the LORD passed by, and a great and strong wind tore into the mountains and broke the rocks in pieces 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 So it was, when Elijah heard it, that he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood in the entrance of the cave. Suddenly a voice came to him, and said, "What are you doing here, Elijah?"

1 Kings 19:11-13

He can speak through thunder, lightning flashes, the sound of the trumpet, and a smoking mountain.

18 Now all the people witnessed the thunderings, the lightning flashes, the sound of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking; and when the people saw it, they trembled and stood afar off.

Ex 20:18-19
He took on the VOICE OF A HUMAN BEING when He spoke to Samuel before he fell asleep.

Samuel thought that it was Eli, the High Priest, speaking to him and went over to find out why he was calling him.

2 And it came to pass at that time, while Eli was lying down in his place, and when his eyes had begun to grow so dim that he could not see,

3 and before the lamp of God went out in the tabernacle of the LORD where the ark of God was, and while Samuel was lying down,

4 that the LORD called Samuel. And he answered, "Here I am!"

5 So he ran to Eli and said, "Here I am, for you called me." And he said, "I did not call; lie down again." And he went and lay down.

6 Then the LORD called yet again, "Samuel!" So Samuel arose and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." He answered, "I did not call, my son; lie down again."

7 (Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, nor was the word of the LORD yet revealed to him.)

8 And the LORD called Samuel again the third time. Then he arose and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you did call me." Then Eli perceived that the LORD had called the boy.

9 Therefore Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down; and it shall be, if He calls you, that you must say, 'Speak, LORD, for Your servant hears.' " So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

1 Sam 3:2-9
As Moses walked on a mountain with nothing on his mind but the safety of sheep, he discovered God’s voice in a BURNING BUSH.

1 Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian. And he led the flock to the back of the desert, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God.

2 And the Angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire from the midst of a bush. So he looked, and behold, the bush was burning with fire, but the bush was not consumed.

3 Then Moses said, "I will now turn aside and see this great sight, why the bush does not burn."

4 So when the LORD saw that he turned aside to look, God called to him from the midst of the bush and said, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am."

Ex 3:1-4

God can speak through a billboard, a child, or a song. Why do we try to confine Him into our miniscule human resources?

The earth is the Lord’s and the fullness thereof, so let Him decide how He wants to communicate with us, and just enjoy the ride!

Action

Shakespeare once wrote, “My Voice is in my Sword.”

When I read this, I realized that a voice is not always a sound or certain tone, but an action as well.
When Elijah was at the place of extreme despair, he sought after God’s voice. There were three manifestations that were presented to him, in which he could not find God. God had passed by and the specific proof of His presence was by the manifestation of an earthquake, a whirlwind, and then fire, but GOD WAS NOT IN THEM! What do you mean, Elijah? God was not IN THEM. How do you know?

Even though God was present, this did not benefit Elijah because He had to hear God’s voice in order to move on or get direction.

God’s voice in a move of the Spirit adds substance to a very powerful manifestation that would otherwise be ineffective.

Substance

“Substance” means “Essential nature and essence and the integrity of the heart.

A manifestation of God without His voice will only make you an observer and not a possessor.

There are plans without substance that are presented on a daily basis in business meetings throughout the corporate world.

A person who has character, personality, and strong virtues is labeled a person of substance. There are many beautiful human beings outwardly but contain no character or special qualities that would add to their beauty. The minute they open their mouths you are able to assess, to a degree, the value of that person.

To discover the character and heart of God, you have to hear His voice!
Chapter 2:

The Fear Factor

18 Now all the people witnessed the thunderings, the lightning flashes, the sound of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking; and when the people saw it, they trembled and stood afar off.

19 Then they said to Moses, "You speak with us, and we will hear; but let not God speak with us, lest we die."

Ex 20:18-19

The Children of Israel told Moses to become a mediator for them. They no longer wanted to hear God's voice personally. Man was not made to physically comprehend or receive God's voice. It was spiritual interaction, however, when Adam and Eve fell in the Garden and their eyes were opened, they saw themselves naked. Their spirits were no longer alive and they were unable to hear with spiritual ears or see with spiritual eyes, hence their perception was destroyed by sin.

"PERCEPTION" is the ability to have Insight and Foresight.

When Adam and Eve heard the “sound” of the Lord God walking in the garden, they hid themselves. One of the reasons they hid themselves was because God had become an unperceived sound and no longer a clear spiritual voice to them.

It is our nature as human beings to run from something that is unfamiliar. We fear the incomprehensible and anything that we cannot understand. Because of the fall, God's voice became a sound.
Then it came to pass on the third day, in the morning, that there were thunderings and lightnings, and a thick cloud on the mountain; and the sound of the trumpet was very loud, so that all the people who were in the camp trembled.

17 And Moses brought the people out of the camp to meet with God, and they stood at the foot of the mountain.

18 Now Mount Sinai was completely in smoke, because the LORD descended upon it in fire. Its smoke ascended like the smoke of a furnace, and the whole mountain quaked greatly.

19 And when the blast of the trumpet sounded long and became louder and louder, Moses spoke, and God answered him by voice.

Ex 19:16-19

Some Said It Thundered

27 "Now My soul is troubled, and what shall I say? 'Father, save Me from this hour'? But for this purpose I came to this hour.

28 "Father, glorify Your name." Then a voice came from heaven, saying, "I have both glorified it and will glorify it again."

29 Therefore the people who stood by and heard it said that it had thundered. Others said, "An angel has spoken to Him."

John 12:27-29

The voice of God is only a sound to those who are conscious of their weakness and sin, but to those who are aware of their position in Christ, the sound is a clear voice.
As discussed on the previous page, the voice of God was a severe sound to the Children of Israel and the same fear that gripped Adam and Eve gripped the Israelites. Adam’s fear was not based only on the fact that he was naked but it was the combination of both hearing the sound of God proceeding and seeing himself naked. His perception of God and himself stopped the communion.

10 So he said, "I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself."
Gen 3:10

I believe the Fear Factor also drove him from God.

Fear will not allow you to hear God’s voice.

And He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you that you should not eat?"

12 Then the man said, "The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I ate."

13 And the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."
Gen 3:11-13

God spoke to them clearly so that they could comprehend and give an account of their actions. They answered Him to the best of their ability, giving an evaluation of their circumstances and why they thought they had hid themselves.
God Creates by Speaking

The voice of God is not some newfound phenomenon.

It began at Creation. God created light by speaking it into existence.

"God said, Let there be light; and there was light."
Gen. 1:3

In the same manner, He created the earth, vegetation, animal life, and all of mankind. God spoke it and it happened.

One of the basic principles of prophecy is that God's voice creates something new in our lives.

He will supply us with direction, guidance, and knowledge, which we do not already possess. God created man with His words and His breath. His purpose for Adam and Eve was to give mankind dominion over the earth and fill it with righteousness.

And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being. Gen. 2:7

Be fruitful and multiply,” Gen 1:28

God spoke the words in Genesis 1:28: “Be fruitful and multiply.” If He had simply breathed into him, Adam would have been a living being without a purpose or a destiny. God had to speak in order to create the desire and ability to, “Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion.”

When the wind comes to you, it has to contain God’s voice before any purpose can come out of it.
God created man with His words and His breath. His purpose for Adam and Eve was to give mankind **dominion** over the earth and fill it with righteousness. **Every day, as they heard God's voice, their knowledge, wisdom, power, and abundance increased.** The character of God was being formed in them.

If mankind had continued to hear the voice of God, we would be secure and creative beings with the ability to have dominion. Satan had to stop Adam and Eve from hearing the voice of God because he knew that eventually mankind would overcome him, judge him, and put him under our feet.

Once Adam had fallen, the voice of God was no longer a delight to his ear or a joy to his heart. It was terrifying to him because his nature had changed from righteousness to evil.

**Faith Comes By Hearing**

*So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.*

_Romans 10:17_

*Satan knows this and that is why he has constantly attacked mankind with sin awareness, so that we will not hear spiritually but instead become frightened.*

Most people are surprised when they hear God speaking through a prophet, because **God will speak graciously and with words of life, revealing His plans of prosperity and peace** instead of the proverbial garbage that we constantly expect Him to say.
Satan knows that faith, the one thing with the ability to conquer him and move mountains, must not progress in a believer. His **greatest attack is to make you aware of your nakedness, your sin, and your weakness.** Once he has you focused on this, you are no longer able to hear.

The way you see yourself is also the way your enemy sees you.

"There we saw the giants (the descendants of Anak came from the giants); and we were like grasshoppers in our own sight, and so we were in their sight."

Num 13:33
Chapter 3

How Do I Know When It’s God?

Apparently, even Elijah had to search for God’s voice before he could hear. He ran for his life because the words of Jezebel shook him.

And Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, also how he had executed all the prophets with the sword.

2 Then Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying, "So let the gods do to me, and more also, if I do not make your life as the life of one of them by tomorrow about this time."

3 And when he saw that, he arose and ran for his life, and went to Beersheba, which belongs to Judah, and left his servant there.

1 Kings 19:1-3

Always look at the conditions surrounding a person’s life to see what prevented them from hearing God’s voice.

Elijah was filled with fear when he ran from the words of Jezebel. Eventually this progressed into self-righteousness and pride. Thus, he boldly made the statement, “I only have not bowed my knee to the prophet’s of Baal. I alone!”

And he said, "I have been very zealous for the LORD God of hosts; because the children of Israel have forsaken Your covenant, torn down Your altars, and killed Your prophets with the sword. I alone am left; and they seek to take my life."

1 Kings 19:14

God passed by and the earth shook. God wasn’t there. The wind howled.
but God wasn’t in it. Then the fire came and God wasn’t there either. Elijah waited and then a still small voice said, “Elijah, what are you doing here?”

Recognize the fact that he was not positioned in the place where he could hear God. He was on the run in fear and his perception was clouded with anger and pride because he was the only one who had stood against the prophets of Baal and now he felt that God had let him down.

Due to all of these factors, he had positioned himself in such a way so that he had no idea what God wanted. God had to get back to questioning, as he did with Adam and Eve, Cain, and others: “What are you doing here?” This question had to be answered before God could make him aware of his positioning and redirect his focus.

9 Then the LORD God called to Adam and said to him, "Where are you?"
Gen 3:9

Cain: Where is your brother?

9 Then the LORD said to Cain, "Where is Abel your brother?"
Gen 4:9

Elijah: What are you doing here?

11 So it was, when Elijah heard it, that he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood in the entrance of the cave. Suddenly a voice came to him, and said, "What are you doing here, Elijah?"
1 Kings 19:13
Once they had realized that they were not aligned to hear God, He placed them into a position to hear.

**Radio**

A simple illustration of hearing God would be radio waves. Years ago, you had to turn a knob to tune into a radio station. With the advance of technology, we no longer have to tune in but have the option to preset our stations. Hearing God is very similar.

He doesn’t suddenly start speaking, His word is already in the atmosphere, and it is up to us to tune in so that we are spiritually aligned to be able to hear.

You must find the right station.

**Keep Your Eyes Open**

God’s form is more desirable than His voice. His voice is the most important aspect of communication, but how will you know that it is His voice, without recognizing the “form” in which it comes?

He spoke these words regarding Moses:

5 Then the LORD came down in the pillar of cloud and stood in the door of the tabernacle, and called Aaron and Miriam. And they both went forward.

6 Then He said, "Hear now My words: If there is a prophet among you, I, the LORD, make Myself known to him in a vision; I speak to him in a dream.

7 Not so with My servant Moses; He is faithful in all My house.
8 I speak with him face to face,  
Even plainly, and not in dark sayings;  
And he sees the form of the LORD.  
Why then were you not afraid  
To speak against My servant Moses?"  
Num 12:5-8

God showed them the various means of communications, which I would dare to call "inferior communications."

He said, “I reveal Myself to the prophets by a vision and dream, but not so with my servant Moses. I speak to him face to face, and I show him My form.”

Form

Form— in the Bible means “appearance /figure/ image.”

Moses

Moses was able to hear God’s voice simply because he knew where it was coming from. A burning bush is not a very appealing form, but Moses recognized the burning bush and only once he turned aside and saw God’s form, did God speak to him.

Sight— Natural field of vision

Insight— An extension of vision; seeing beyond the natural Perception, which is "seeing the unseen or the invisible."

Moses saw the "invisible God." This means that he was able to see the form or the appearance of God BEFORE actually hearing the voice of God.
24 By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter,

25 choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin,

26 esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward.

27 By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king; for he endured as seeing Him who is invisible.

Heb 11:24-27

ELIJAH

He could not find God in the whirlwind, in the earthquake, or the fire because His voice was not in it.
Chapter 4

Recognizing His Form

The process of recognizing His form will result in a challenge because the vessel, method, or voice that God has chosen, may not be the method you desire.

An ANGEL for Gideon:

11 Now the Angel of the LORD came and sat under the terebinth tree which was in Ophrah, which belonged to Joash the Abiezrite, while his son Gideon threshed wheat in the winepress, in order to hide it from the Midianites.

12 And the Angel of the LORD appeared to him, and said to him, "The LORD is with you, you mighty man of valor!"

13 Gideon said to Him, "O my lord, if the LORD is with us, why then has all this happened to us? And where are all His miracles which our fathers told us about, saying, 'Did not the LORD bring us up from Egypt?' But now the LORD has forsaken us and delivered us into the hands of the Midianites."

14 Then the LORD turned to him and said, "Go in this might of yours, and you shall save Israel from the hand of the Midianites. Have I not sent you?"

15 So he said to Him, "O my Lord, how can I save Israel? Indeed my clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my father's house."

16 And the LORD said to him, "Surely I will be with you, and you shall defeat the Midianites as one man."

17 Then he said to Him, "If now I have found favor in Your sight, then show me a sign that it is You who talk with me."
18 "Do not depart from here, I pray, until I come to You and bring out my offering and set it before You." And He said, "I will wait until you come back."

19 So Gideon went in and prepared a young goat, and unleavened bread from an ephah of flour. The meat he put in a basket, and he put the broth in a pot; and he brought them out to Him under the terebinth tree and presented them.

20 The Angel of God said to him, "Take the meat and the unleavened bread and lay them on this rock, and pour out the broth." And he did so.

21 Then the Angel of the LORD put out the end of the staff that was in His hand, and touched the meat and the unleavened bread; and fire rose out of the rock and consumed the meat and the unleavened bread. And the Angel of the LORD departed out of his sight.

22 Now Gideon perceived that He was the Angel of the LORD. So Gideon said, "Alas, O Lord GOD! For I have seen the Angel of the LORD face to face."

23 Then the LORD said to him, "Peace be with you; do not fear, you shall not die."

Judges 6:11-23

An ASS for Balaam:

27 And when the donkey saw the Angel of the LORD, she lay down under Balaam; so Balaam's anger was aroused, and he struck the donkey with his staff.

28 Then the LORD opened the mouth of the donkey, and she said to Balaam, "What have I done to you, that you have struck me these three times?"
29 And Balaam said to the donkey, "Because you have abused me. I wish there were a sword in my hand, for now I would kill you!"

30 So the donkey said to Balaam, "Am I not your donkey on which you have ridden, ever since I became yours, to this day? Was I ever disposed to do this to you?" And he said, "No."

31 Then the LORD opened Balaam's eyes, and he saw the Angel of the LORD standing in the way with His drawn sword in His hand; and he bowed his head and fell flat on his face.

Num 22:27-31

THREE MEN for Abraham:

1 Then the LORD appeared to him by the terebinth trees of Mamre, as he was sitting in the tent door in the heat of the day.

2 So he lifted his eyes and looked, and behold, three men were standing by him; and when he saw them, he ran from the tent door to meet them, and bowed himself to the ground,

3 and said, "My Lord, if I have now found favor in Your sight, do not pass on by Your servant.

Gen 18:1-3

Lightning and thunder for Israel; A pillar of cloud, a burning bush, the river of Jordan, a Midianite;

Where is He?
After His resurrection, Jesus appeared to many people but they were not able to "hear" Him simply because they did not recognize Him. On the road to Emmaus He appeared to some of the disciples. They had no idea who He was and only invited Him to continue with them because of His words. Once their "eyes were opened" they said, "Did His words not burn in our heart?"

13 Now behold, two of them were traveling that same day to a village called Emmaus, which was seven miles from Jerusalem.

14 And they talked together of all these things which had happened.

15 So it was, while they conversed and reasoned, that Jesus Himself drew near and went with them. 16 But their eyes were restrained, so that they did not know Him.

17 And He said to them, "What kind of conversation is this that you have with one another as you walk and are sad?"

18 Then the one whose name was Cleopas answered and said to Him, "Are You the only stranger in Jerusalem, and have You not known the things which happened there in these days?"

19 And He said to them, "What things?" So they said to Him, "The things concerning Jesus of Nazareth, who was a Prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people,

20 "and how the chief priests and our rulers delivered Him to be condemned to death, and crucified Him.

21 "But we were hoping that it was He who was going to redeem Israel. Indeed, besides all this, today is the third day since these things happened.
22 "Yes, and certain women of our company, who arrived at the tomb early, astonished us.

23 "When they did not find His body, they came saying that they had also seen a vision of angels who said He was alive.

24 "And certain of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but Him they did not see."

25 Then He said to them, "O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken!

26 "Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into His glory?"

27 And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.

The Disciples' Eyes Opened
28 Then they drew near to the village where they were going, and He indicated that He would have gone farther.

29 But they constrained Him, saying, "Abide with us, for it is toward evening, and the day is far spent." And He went in to stay with them.

30 Now it came to pass, as He sat at the table with them, that He took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them.

31 Then their eyes were opened and they knew Him; and He vanished from their sight.

32 And they said to one another, "Did not our heart burn within us while He talked with us on the road, and while He opened the Scriptures to us?"

I do not believe that the disciples would have said that if their eyes were not opened to his form. **The words of God must burn in your heart for it to take course and bring about change.**

You must perceive where He is and recognize Him by **divine perception** and the unveiling of your eyes before His Words will ever **burn in your heart and have the correct affect on your life.**

**Stop listening and start looking.** Once you find His form, you will hear His voice.
Chapter 5

Frequently Asked Questions

1. How do you know the difference between God’s voice and Satan’s voice?

Satan has no creativity. His words cause confusion and self-examination. God's voice never does that. He always makes statements that defy our present state of affairs. Satan's voice demands that you "qualify" for the task, usually demanding the attention on yourself rather than the mission.

2. Is it ever an audible voice you hear or is it just a "knowing" that is in your heart?

In this manual, I deal with perceiving the "form" or "appearance" rather than his audible voice. God "appears" rather than speaks with a voice. Therefore, you will "know" before you "hear."

3. Will my sin block me from hearing the voice of God?

Sin does not block you from hearing, but rather it blocks you from recognizing Him when he appears. When the disciples were on the boat in the middle of the storm, they saw his appearance in the storm, but refused to hear because of their fear. He was speaking but their "sin" of fear blocked them from "seeing" Him. Remember that He almost passed them by because of this.
4. Do you consider our conscience to be or ever represent the voice of God?

Yes. Many times God has already spoken to us through our conscience and we ignore this because it is not audible. However, it is actually extremely audible.

5. Can a child carry the voice of God?

Yes. Throughout scriptures you will find the children carried the voice of God, specifically Samuel and David. On the battlefield, David "became" the voice of God.

6. Is God speaking all of the time, or does He stay quiet at times?

I believe that God has "already" spoken before we were born and it remains in the atmosphere or the Spirit world, until we access it. He will guide us to that place but it has already been established in the spirit and ready for us to hear.