

1. **I BELIEVE THAT GOD EXISTS** (and that he rewards those who diligently seek him/Hebrews 11)...so the question is how do we do that? How do we tune in to God? (otherwise we live as practical atheists)
2. **I BELIEVE THAT GOD CREATED HUMAN BEINGS SO THEY COULD EXPERIENCE UNION AND COMMUNION WITH HIM AND THAT BY DOING THIS THEY COULD EXPERIENCE THE FULNESS OF LIFE** (Jesus said that he came that we could have abundant life)...so the question is how do we best cooperate and collaborate with the overarching divine purpose for our existence, and experience what God desires for us/Gospel to be understood against the backdrop of Eden
3. **I BELIEVE THAT GOD HAS A VOICE AND THAT HE DESIRES TO SPEAK TO US/Scripture commands us in numerous places to listen to the voice of God (prophetic messages to the churches in Revelation) (and his Word has the spiritual power to cause things to come into being (the Bible is the story of the speaking God...Jesus said my sheep hear my voice and they follow me/John 10)...so the question is how do we recognize and respond to that Voice?)**

God is speaking. Not God spoke, but God is speaking. He is by his nature continuously articulate. He fills the world with his speaking Voice....whoever will listen will hear the speaking [from] Heaven.

A. W. Tozer, *The Pursuit of God*.

4. **I BELIEVE THAT GOD SPEAKS IN A VARIETY OF WAYS TO HUMAN BEINGS AND WE MUST LEARN ALL WE CAN ABOUT THE DIVINE VOICE AND OUR CAPACITY TO HEAR IT...**so the question is, what challenges do we face in doing this and how do we overcome them?

Frequencies of the Divine Voice

- Nature (Romans 1)/many references in the Psalm 8 to the contemplation of nature drawing us to God/Matt. 6 ...consider the lilies and the birds...
- Incarnation of the 'logos'/Jesus (John 1/Hebrews 1)/the personal word of God/the visible image of God
- the inspired Scriptures, the written word of God which testify to the incarnation (all Scriptures are inspired...)/is the foundation for all our other listening! We need to be Scripture saturated! (Psalm 119) thru reading, studying and praying it.
- an audible voice (few experience this)

- dreams and visions/angelic manifestations (nothing to suggest that God has given up this kind of '3D communication' which has a particularly arresting quality). (Billy Graham, Angels/they are ministering spirits)
- gifts of the Holy Spirit/prophetic utterances, words of knowledge, words of wisdom/I don't believe they have ceased even if some persons don't want them or are ignorant of them
- inner voice, 'the still small voice' as it is known
- circumstances
- counsel of others/relationship of spiritual direction

Challenges

- metaphysical disequilibrium/ spirit and timeliness vs. flesh and blood in time and space
- Voice can be confused with 'the voices'/we're in a cosmic conflict/mistakes can be made despite the best of intentions
- importance of the preeminence of Scripture/testing the content of what is said/discernment is required
- seeking of confirmation/2 or 3 witnesses/seek the added confirmation of spiritual companions who are also seeking God/listening prayer groups can provide this
- developing a life of ceaseless prayer which is the best context for discernment (1 Thessalonians 5)/ holy habits to combat lifestyle of distractedness
- do we want to live a life in obedience to the will of God, confident in the character of God, that he can be trusted and that his purposes for humans are the best.

5. **I BELIEVE THAT IF WE CULTIVATE A PERSONAL CULTURE OF ATTENTIVENESS TO THE DIVINE VOICE WE WILL BEGIN TO REALIZE THAT GOD IS A GENEROUS SPEAKER AND THAT LIFE IS FILLED WITH HIS VOICE.**

What are we prepared to do at this point in our lives to make ourselves more