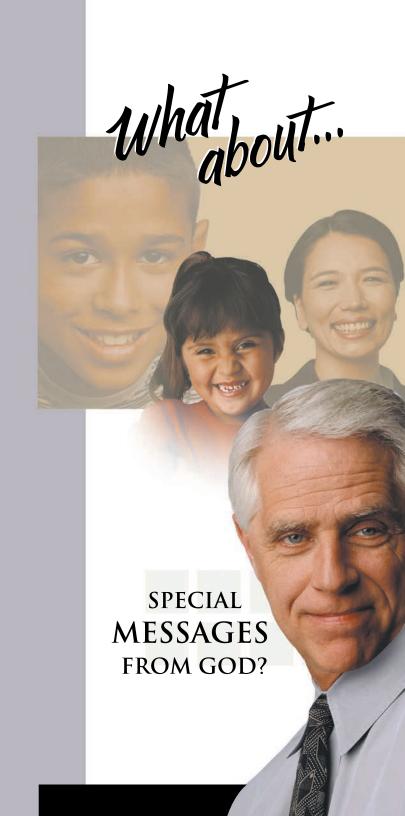


"DOES THE SPIRIT
SPEAK TO PEOPLE DIRECTLY,
APART FROM THE BIBLE?"



WELS Commission on Evangelism Northwestern Publishing House Milwaukee, WI • www.nph.net



What About...Special Messages from God?

"God's angel appeared to me."

"God told me."

"The Spirit spoke to me."

God assures us that the Spirit's voice speaks in the Bible. In fact, the words of the Bible are the very words of God, the Holy Spirit.

But do we long for more? Do we desire special messages, guidance beyond what God has given in the Bible?

All of us are tempted to think that God hasn't told us enough. We want to know more. We want to know which choice to make. We want to know what the future holds for us. When loved ones die, we want to know what they experienced and if they are all right. The world is full of uncertainties, and we long for God to give us answers to our questions.

But does the Spirit speak to people directly, apart from the Bible?

God never makes such a promise. As a matter of fact, God warns us not to consult mediums, place our hope in the signs of the zodiac, or trust visions. He wants to protect us from those who claim to have special messages directly from him. Don't be deceived. In the Bible, God has told us everything he wants us to know.

The most important thing God wants people to know about is the work of Jesus Christ. That is the Bible's central message. God tells us how he saved sinners by sending Jesus to rescue us from guilt and death. God speaks in the Bible so that "you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name" (John 20:31).

Of course, God doesn't tell us everything we may like to know. But that's all right.

Remembering the great love of God for us in Jesus, we know that God is always acting for our good—even when he doesn't tell us everything we want to know. Our heavenly Father will not fool us or trick us. In the Bible he tells us all we need to know and then asks us to trust him for all the rest. He won't disappoint us.

God tells us about Jesus in the Bible. There's nothing more important to know than that.

"God has told us everything he wants us to know"



