

4. Words. Revelation. Bible. Living by the Holy Spirit.

Words.

I don't know if you have ever realised this – that God DOES by SPEAKING.

1. He **CREATED** by speaking. "And God **said**: let there be light..."
2. He **MAINTAINS** the earth and the cosmos by speaking. Heb 1:3 *"The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word."*
3. Jesus did most of His **HEALING** by speaking. *"All the people were amazed and said to each other, 'What words these are! With authority and power he gives orders to impure spirits and they come out!'"* (Luke 4:36).
4. Luke 4:32 *"And they were astonished at his doctrine: for his word was with power."*

Of course, He also DOES. But very rarely. Normally, God operates by SPEAKING.

Revelation.

The word REVELATION means "The opening of a curtain". God gives understanding of divine and heavenly things by putting that specialist knowledge into man's mind. That is called REVELATION.

1. 1 Cor 2:14, *"The person without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God but considers them foolishness, and cannot understand them because they are discerned only through the Spirit."* There is a total cut-off of understanding between Adam's race and Jesus' race. They are **incapable** of understanding God.
2. Luke 10:21, *"At that time Jesus, full of joy through the Holy Spirit, said, 'I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and **REVEALED** them to little children. Yes, Father, for this is what you were pleased to do.'"*
3. Paul the Apostle. Gal 1:11-12, *"I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that the gospel I preached is not of human origin. I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it; rather, I received it by revelation from Jesus Christ."*

The Bible.

The Bible is a collection of things that God has said and done throughout the centuries. But it is Sieved. It is Selected.

People wrote down what He was saying. So, the whole Bible is inspired. 2 Peter 1:21, *"For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit."*

2 Tim 3:16, *"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,"*

BUT, the Bible is NOT to be read like you read a novel. It is NOT an album of ideas. It is NOT a source for doctrine. It is NOT a behaviour manual. David Pawson: "Truth is not a proposition. It is a Person." So what is it?

IT IS THE HAND-TOOL OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.

The Holy Spirit inspired it. Now, the Holy Spirit has to interpret it and open it to us.

So what do we do?

1. First, we pray – “Open my eyes, Lord, that I may see Jesus.”
2. Second, we read the passage that *God* wants us to read.
3. Third, we ask the Lord to REVEAL to us the truths He wants us to know as our eyes run over the page(s).
4. The Holy Spirit will teach us ALL THINGS. John 16:13, “*But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth.*” That includes heavenly truth, of course. But it also includes domestic truths, marriage truths, engineering truths, scientific truths, directional truths, ministry truths, everything. ALL Truth. In Jesus are “*hidden ALL the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.*” (Col 2:3).
5. Those thoughts will come in a haphazard manner, illogical from our perspective.
6. They will come from Jesus via the Holy Spirit. Then the Holy Spirit will remind us of everything that Jesus has taught us. John 14:26, “*But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.*” Lk 11:28: “*He replied, ‘Blessed rather are those who **hear** the word of God and obey it.’*” It does not say “Blessed are those who **read** the word of God and do it.”

Living by the Holy Spirit.

“Walking in the Spirit” is the new and living way that Jesus has opened up for all mankind. It replaces “Living by Law”, the perfection of which none of us can ever accomplish. It also replaces “Living by the Bible”, which many Christians do if they read what the Bible says and do it, without talking with Jesus first. People can easily live from their own strength and will - by simply reading their Bibles and doing. That way is sin, because “*Everything that is not of faith is sin.*” (Rom 14:23).

Conservative Evangelicals – those who have not yet been filled with the Holy Spirit - read the Bible and obey it in their own strength. That is sin. ALL must be by the Spirit, and none of it by us. We only obey what God is asking us to do.

So, God is going to guide us.

He is going to tell us what to do in every moment of time.

He does it by injecting thoughts of goodness into our minds. The RIGHT THING to do is put inside our minds. Every moment. By God’s spoken word. Matt 4:4 “*It is written: “Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.”* This is living by THE TREE OF LIFE.

It is WALKING BY THE HOLY SPIRIT. Here is a fast overview of what the Holy Spirit does:

We are born into the spiritual family of God by the Spirit (John 3:6). We live by the Spirit (Rom 8:5). We walk in the Spirit (Gal 5:16). We pray in the Spirit (1 Cor 14:15). We speak in the Spirit (1 Cor 2:13). We worship in the Spirit (John 4:23-24). We sing in the Spirit (1 Cor 14:15). We have the mind of the Spirit (Rom 8:6). We are led by the Spirit, “*for all who are led by the Spirit are sons of God*” (Rom 8:14). The Spirit guides us (John 16:13). The Spirit is our strength (Acts 1:8). He is the Spirit of wisdom (Eph 1:17), the Spirit of truth (John 16:13), the Spirit of revelation (Eph 1:17). Through the Spirit we overcome fleshly desires (Gal 5:16). We cast out demon spirits by the Spirit of God (Matt 12:28). The Spirit helps us in our weaknesses (Rom 8:26). We have access into God by

the Spirit (Eph 2:18). We are being renewed in the spirit of our minds (Rom 12:2). God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of love, power and self-control (2 Tim 1:7). The Spirit sanctifies us (makes us more holy) (2 Thess 2:13). If we live by the Spirit we are delivered from the supervision (and bondage) of man's law (Gal 3:25). We develop the fruit of the Spirit in our natures (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control) (Gal 5:22-23). The Spirit is the guarantee of our inheritance (Eph 1:13-14). He is exactly like Jesus (John 16:13-15), who will never abandon or forsake us (Matt 28:20, John 14:18). The Spirit has power (Acts 1:8). The Spirit talks to us (1 Cor 2:11-12). He is the Spirit of holiness (Rom 1:4). The Spirit cleans us up (2 Cor 7:1). He is the Spirit of meekness and humility (Phil 2:1-4). There are also supernatural gifts from the Holy Spirit that enhance our ministries (1 Cor 12:7-11).

He is received by FAITH. And it must be done. The man whose house was built upon a rock was the man who **heard** Jesus' words, and **did** them. (Matt 7).

1. God DOES through SPEAKING.
2. God gives REVELATION.
3. The BIBLE is the HAND-TOOL of the HOLY SPIRIT.
4. Therefore, WALK IN THE SPIRIT, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.

(Dick Bell).