

Communication with God

I have always been a 'believer' in God, but until I discovered a method of direct communication, I'm afraid I still had a tiny doubt about the existence of God.

Year in and year out I said my prayers, read some religious books and from time to time went to church.

I was christened Church of England, attended a Methodist Church, but felt more comfortable about being non-denominational.

I was very interested in learning about other religions. Incidentally, the original meaning of the word 'religion' means 'bind' or 'bring together'.

Sadly fundamentalism and man made doctrine have forced religions apart.

In my late 20's I began to wonder if there was more to prayer than a feeling of inspiration, which can easily be one's own feelings, rather than from God. It seemed impossible to distinguish the two. Many people feel that they are inspired or guided by God, yet this can only be opinion, no matter how strong.

I had been wondering about a particular point for sometime, i.e. whether a particular course of action was right or wrong. I genuinely did not know the answer. "There must be a way of receiving direct answers from God," I thought. Then an idea occurred to me (by God?). if

I prayed for something specific to happen at an exact time, then the answer was YES.

So I knelt and prayed several hours in advance so that God would have plenty time to arrange an event.

To my amazement and joy, something did happen. I sat and watched the clock. As the minute pointer came towards the specific time, the doorbell rang! Considering that I did not get many visitors at that house (perhaps one a day) for this to happen at exactly the minute that I had prayed for, was hardly likely to be coincidence. However, it could be, so I prayed in the same way the following day, for something to happen at a different time. Marvellously, at the exact time I had requested, the phone rang! We normally had only one or two calls a day, so for one to be at the EXACT moment was highly unlikely.

This is when I started to feel the wonderful presence of God in my life. A God that would guide me personally for the rest of my life, even on very minor issues, which shows the extent of the love of God, considering the millions of people on earth, and major events taking place.

For a few days afterwards, I prayed for something to happen at different times and at exactly that time (sometimes to the second) it did. It was crystal clear that the answer to my question was 'YES'

One day I noticed something quite specific happened two minutes after the time I had requested, then I noticed that

the clock was two minutes slow!

I never asked God what to do, that would not be right. I let God choose the event.

I then started to choose other questions to pray for. I also realised that I should pray for two times, one for YES and one for NO.

I got an answer from God every time. I found that whenever I genuinely did not know the answer to a question or situation, or the situation was too important to make my own decision, then God guided me. However, if my question was mainly curiosity, then I did not receive an answer.

I also found that I must give God plenty notice of questions, i.e. pray several hours in advance, in fact the longer the better. Unless the question is urgent, it is not fair to God to request a quick answer.

One day I prayed for an answer to a particular question and nothing happened. Without going into details, the previous day I had done something wrong. I apologised to God and requested forgiveness and prayed for an answer to my question again. God forgave me and answered.

On one occasion I noticed something happened in between the YES and NO times. I soon discovered that some questions do not have a definitive answer and God was guiding me 'PERHAPS' or 'SOMETIMES'.

I may choose 'on the hour' as 'YES', five past as 'PERHAPS' and ten past as 'NO'. I later added the opposite times of the clock face for some guidance i.e. thirty, thirty-five and forty minutes for 'YES, PERHAPS and NO', this maybe less restrictive for God, or helpful if urgent guidance is needed.

God then led me to the next type of guidance. I was waiting for a phone call and could not decide the answer to give the person calling. As the phone rang I glanced at my watch, and noticed that it was exactly ten minutes past the hour (to the second!). I felt that God had guided me instantly, without praying (i.e. NO). I did however, pray again to confirm this. Incidentally, it is very important to have an accurate watch, whilst seeking this type of guidance.

Of course coincidences do happen and with important issues, it is sensible to be cautious about following such guidance, but experience will reveal which events ARE guidance. If something repeatedly happens at one of your chosen guidance times it is more likely to be guidance by God than coincidence.

God then led me to another type of guidance. I was about to do a certain task one-day when the phone rang. Afterwards, I tried again but a visitor arrived. In fact every time I tried to start the task something seemed to prevent me. This happened too many times to be coincidence and I realised that God was guiding me not to go ahead. It later turned out that to do so would have been disastrous!

So if something repeatedly prevents or encourages you from doing or saying something, it MAY be guidance from God. What happens may just be minor. Don't expect thunder and lightening to happen, as you are about to make a small mistake! However, sometimes the amount of guidance is related the size of the issue at hand.

I know someone who noticed that it started raining the moment they left the house to attend an appointment. It had otherwise been a fine day. On each subsequent appointment it briefly rained at exactly the moment he left the house. Would God really influence the weather to guide someone? Of course God CAN, since he is omnipotent. Co-incidences can only be co-incidence for so long. Eventually the point is reached when these events must be guidance.

I sometimes wonder if ancient civilisations, who thought that God was pleased with them when the weather was good and annoyed with them when the weather was bad, had some truth in their beliefs after all ! Perhaps over the millenium we have become less tuned in to our Divine Creator instead of more.

Everyone knows in their heart that God exists and tries to guide us through life, even if this feeling is almost at a subconscious level. This is why people who are "non-believers" often turn to God in moments of despair. My father was one such person. One day when he was very old and frail, I heard him quietly say "God do'nt let me suffer".

All my life it has amazed me how God can care so much about every aspect of every individual on the planet.

Of course God has given mankind freewill to do good or bad and many of the bad things that happen to people are manmade. If God corrected every mistake or bad event, how would the human race ever learn from its mistakes and make progress in morality and medicine etc.?

An example of this was featured in a TV documentary, when a young boy died of an illness. “How could God let that happen?” said some people. The mother of the boy felt that he had not died in vain. She started a charity to research the illness, and this eventually resulted in MANY lives being helped and saved.

God helps the human race help itself.

The presence of God is a marvellous feeling. God does not want us to be self-conscious though, and it soon became apparent, through guidance that God wants us to pursue our everyday lives as ‘normal’, and fulfil our destiny.

Fulfilling our destiny is, after all, what our life on earth is all about, and through guidance God will help us achieve this. We are all meant (to the best of our abilities) to make the world a better place to live in, but God has a particular vocation for all of us. Our destiny may be something, which we are good at, or may be something that God knows we will BECOME good at.

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