

**THE QUESTION OF THE WEEK**

“The word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.”

(Luke 3: 2)

How did God actually speak to John the Baptist? Better yet. How does God speak to you? Or me? I am half way through my 74th year on this planet. In that time, I have spent a lot of time in prayer. In that time, I can count on one hand the number of times that I can relate where the Lord spoke to me in a voice that sounded like it had come immediately to my ears external to myself even though it was spoken internally. In each case I can still recall what the Lord said to me.

- 1) “It has been given.”
- 2) “All the resources necessary to complete this project have already been allocated.”
- 3) “Do not be afraid to be holy.”

And one time Mary said: “Bring everyone to Jesus.”

Being able to hear the Lord speak is helped when we spend time in quiet and silence. But most of the time I do not hear such allocutions. Others may but it is a pretty much not the normal way God speaks to me. The typical way is much more subtle than that. Most frequently there is this sense that grows within me. The Lord’s Spirit abides within me, within my soul. I get a sense, not clearly or completely, but a sense that the Lord is inclining me in a particular direction or towards something or away from something. A sense. Not always a full-fledged feeling but a prompting towards or away from something or someone. As I have become more experienced I have become more adept and more attuned in interpreting these various promptings and how to respond to them. But the Lord definitely wants to communicate with each of us—directly.

The Lord is subtle but not so subtle that he doesn’t know how to make his presence felt. If the Lord wants you to do something He can be pretty clear in his promptings and in the sense that is generated from deep within you. The most important thing about all this is that I (and you) have a conviction that the Lord really is talking to us, really is striving to communicate with us, really does want you to know what is on his mind and in his heart. So, a simple question. Do you believe the Lord works this way and will speak to you? That is the question of the week.