

An aerial photograph of a mountain range. The foreground shows rugged, rocky mountain peaks with patches of snow. A deep valley runs through the center, containing a large, calm lake. In the background, more mountain peaks are visible, some partially covered in snow. The sky is clear and blue.

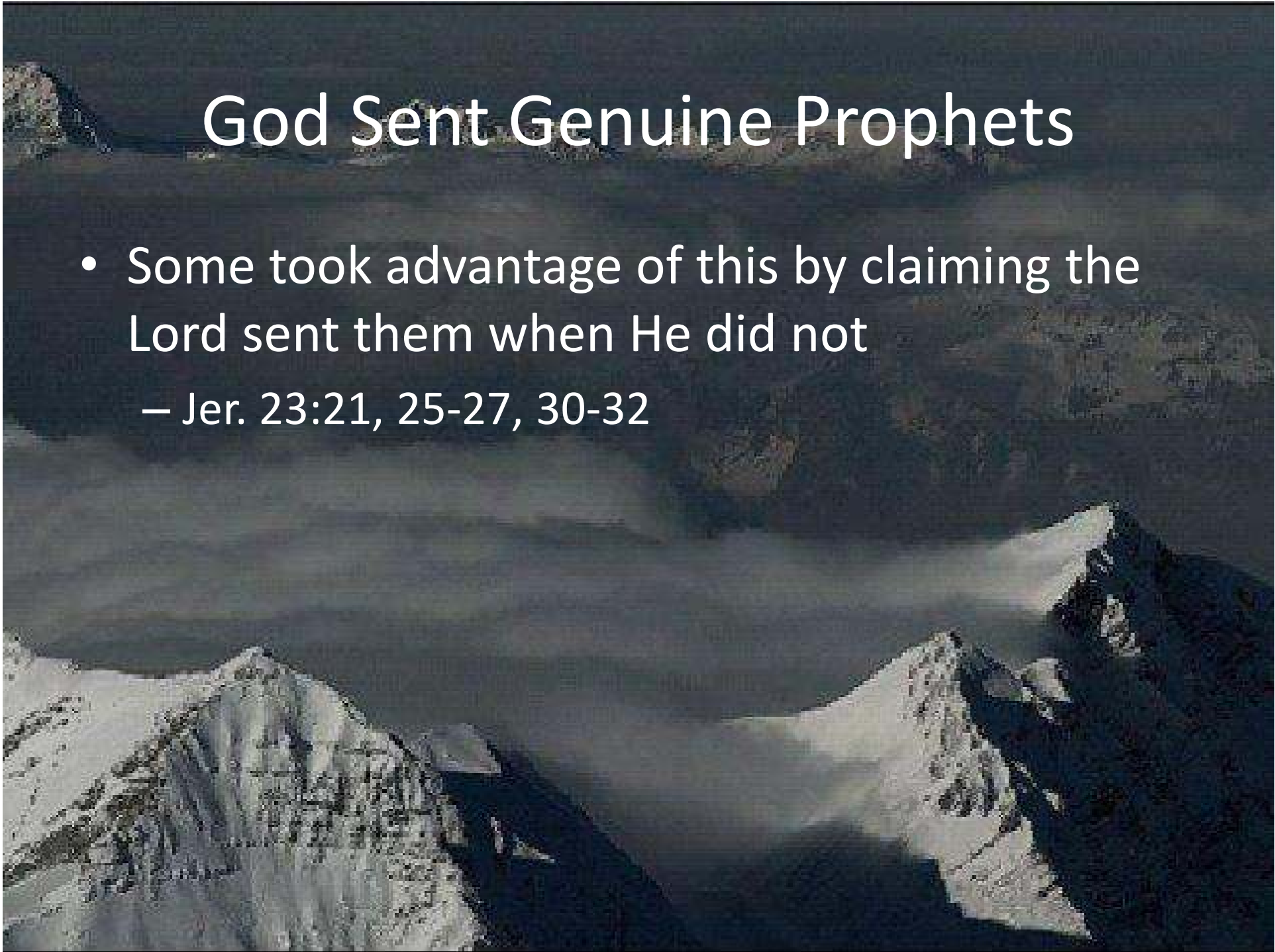
“God Told Me It’s Ok”

# God Sent Genuine Prophets

- 2Kings 17:13 - “Yet the LORD testified against Israel and against Judah, by all of His prophets, every seer, saying, Turn from your evil ways, and keep My commandments and My statutes, according to all the law which I commanded your fathers, and which I sent to you by My servants the prophets.”
- Jer. 7:25 - “Since the day that your fathers came out of the land of Egypt until this day, I have even sent to you all My servants the prophets, daily rising up early and sending them.”

# God Sent Genuine Prophets

- Some took advantage of this by claiming the Lord sent them when He did not
  - Jer. 23:21, 25-27, 30-32



# God Sent Genuine Prophets

- The ability to foretell future events with unerring accuracy distinguished true prophets from false
  - Deut. 18:21-22 - “And if you say in your heart, 'How shall we know the word which the LORD has not spoken?' 22 when a prophet speaks in the name of the LORD, if the thing does not happen or come to pass, that is the thing which the LORD has not spoken; the prophet has spoken it presumptuously; you shall not be afraid of him.”

# God Sent Genuine Prophets

- He allowed false prophets to do wonders to test Israel's faithfulness
  - Deut. 13:1-3 - “If there arises among you a prophet or a dreamer of dreams, and he gives you a sign or a wonder, 2 and the sign or the wonder comes to pass, of which he spoke to you, saying, 'Let us go after other gods' -which you have not known-'and let us serve them,' 3 you shall not listen to the words of that prophet or that dreamer of dreams, for the LORD your God is testing you to know whether you love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul.”
- This implies responsibility on the part of the hearer to discern between true and false prophets

# God Sent Genuine Prophets

- The penalty for falsely claiming to speak for the Lord was death
  - Deut. 13:5 - “But that prophet or that dreamer of dreams shall be put to death, because he has spoken in order to turn you away from the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt and redeemed you from the house of bondage, to entice you from the way in which the LORD your God commanded you to walk. So you shall put away the evil from your midst.”

# God Sent Genuine Prophets

- God made His will for man known in every age
  - Amos 3:5-7 - “Will a bird fall into a snare on the earth, where there is no trap for it? Will a snare spring up from the earth, if it has caught nothing at all? 6 If a trumpet is blown in a city, will not the people be afraid? If there is calamity in a city, will not the LORD have done it? 7 Surely the Lord GOD does nothing, Unless He reveals His secret to His servants the prophets.”

# How Does One Discern?

- If God speaks to him, he is a prophet. If he tells another what God said to him, he is claiming to be a prophet
  - Ex. 7:1-2 - “So the LORD said to Moses: See, I have made you as God to Pharaoh, and Aaron your brother shall be your prophet. 2 You shall speak all that I command you. And Aaron your brother shall speak to Pharaoh to send the children of Israel out of his land.”
  - Ex. 10:3 - “So Moses and Aaron came in to Pharaoh and said to him, Thus says the LORD God of the Hebrews...”

# How Does One Discern?

- New Testament prophets
  - Acts 13:1 - “Now in the church that was at Antioch there were certain prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul.”
  - 1Cor. 12:28 - “And God has appointed these in the church: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, varieties of tongues.”

# How Does One Discern?

- There were also false prophets, making it necessary to discern between them
  - 1John 4:1 - “Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world.”

# How Does One Discern?

- The gift of prophecy ceased when the divine revelation was completed and written
  - 1Cor. 13:8-10 - “Love never fails. But whether there are prophecies, they will fail; whether there are tongues, they will cease; whether there is knowledge, it will vanish away. 9 For we know in part and we prophesy in part. 10 But when that which is perfect has come, then that which is in part will be done away.”

# Can One Be Certain That God No Longer Speaks Directly To Men?

- The gospel was given to inspired men who wrote it down for us
  - 2Cor. 1:1 - “Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, To the church of God which is at Corinth, with all the saints who are in all Achaia”
  - 2Cor. 4:6-7 - “For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. 7 But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us.”

# Can One Be Certain That God No Longer Speaks Directly To Men?

- The gospel was given to inspired men who wrote it down for us
  - Eph. 3:1-5 - “For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for you Gentiles-- 2 if indeed you have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which was given to me for you, 3 how that by revelation He made known to me the mystery (as I have briefly written already, 4 by which, when you read, you may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ), 5 which in other ages was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to His holy apostles and prophets”
  - **2Peter 1:12-21**

# Can One Be Certain That God No Longer Speaks Directly To Men?

- The Holy Spirit revealed to them God's words
  - 1Cor. 2:9-13 - “But as it is written: Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man The things which God has prepared for those who love Him. 10 But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God. 11 For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God. 12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God. 13 These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual.”

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- They worked signs, wonders, and miracles to confirm the Divine message they brought
  - Mark 16:17-20 - “And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; 18 they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover. 19 So then, after the Lord had spoken to them, He was received up into heaven, and sat down at the right hand of God. 20 And they went out and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word through the accompanying signs”

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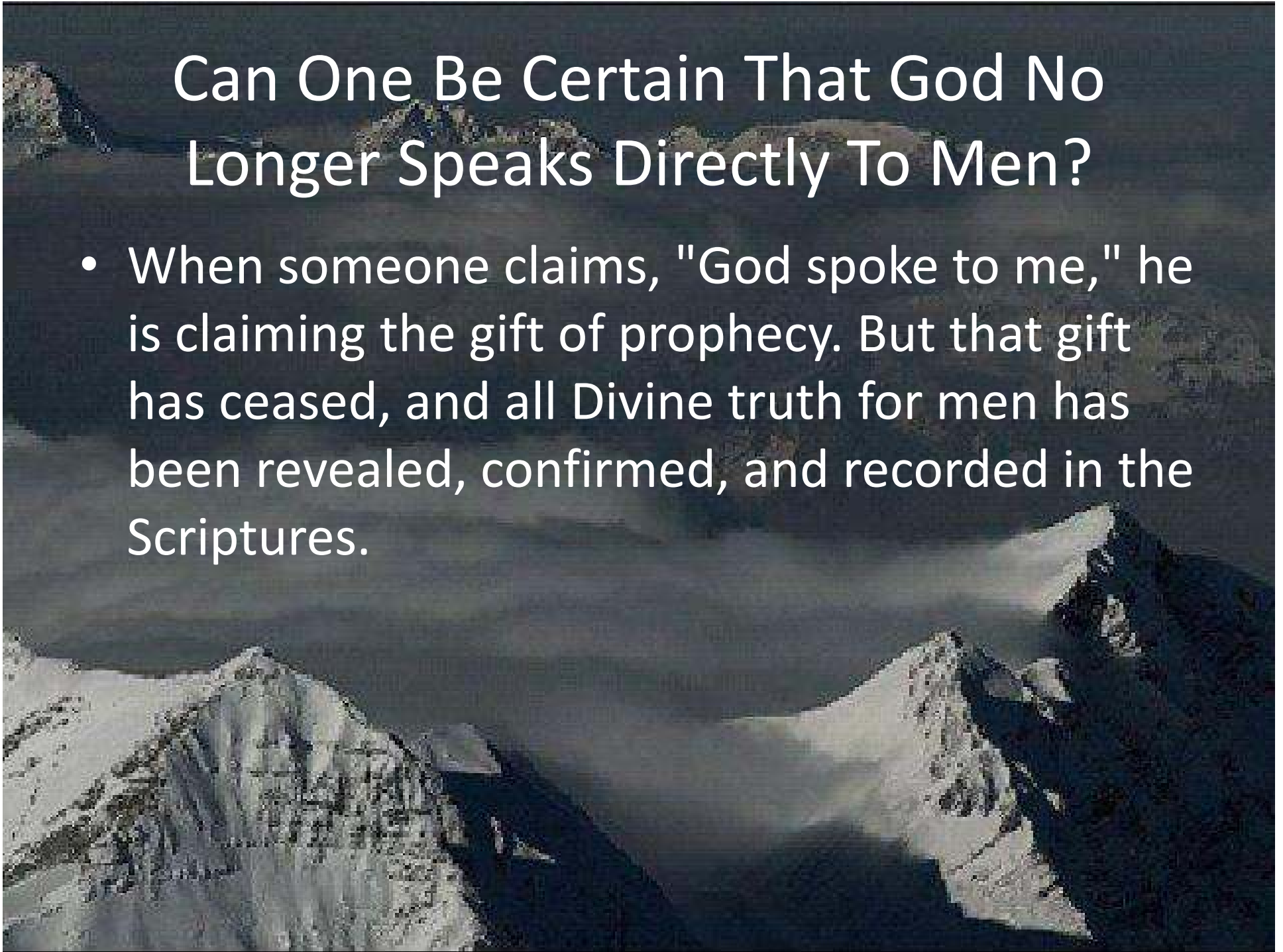
- They wrote down these inspired words in books. These books were gathered together in the Old and New Testament which comprise the Scriptures, the writings from God called the Bible
  - 2Tim. 3:16-17 - “All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.”

# Can One Be Certain That God No Longer Speaks Directly To Men?

- 2Peter 3:15-16 - "...as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given to him, has written to you, 16 as also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which untaught and unstable people twist to their own destruction, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures."

# Can One Be Certain That God No Longer Speaks Directly To Men?

- When someone claims, "God spoke to me," he is claiming the gift of prophecy. But that gift has ceased, and all Divine truth for men has been revealed, confirmed, and recorded in the Scriptures.



# Can One Be Certain That God No Longer Speaks Directly To Men?

- If one is having a hard time making a difficult decision, he can look for guidance from the Scriptures and pray for wisdom to do what's best – James 1:5 - “If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.”
- But he must not confuse his opinions or feelings for divine revelation. Divine truth doesn't come from a human mind; it's found in an inspired book. His feelings are just his feelings, and all they prove is that he feels that way.



Can One Be Certain That God No  
Longer Speaks Directly To Men?

- If God didn't write it down for you in His Bible by a real prophet, He didn't speak to you.