

My 'personal bible'

One way of describing the Bible is to say that it is a book that tells of how God has 'spoken' with a people over a long period of time.

The Bible tells how God 'spoke' through a wide range of things:

Nature
Special people
Ordinary people
Extraordinary events
Ordinary events
Illness
Suffering
pain
Death
Birth
Children
Animals
Astrology
Dreams
History
Stories
Poetry
Music
meals
Laws
Particular places
Relationships

You could no doubt add to this list.

I believe that in addition to ‘the Bible’ we each have access to what I call our ‘personal bible’, the ways that God has ‘spoken’ to us through our life.

Go through the above list and make your own list containing the ways that God has ‘spoken’ to *you* at some point in your life. Only list what lies within your experience. So If you agree that God can speak through dreams, but God has not so far spoken to you through a dream, don’t put dreams on your list.

It may be that other categories come to you as you make this list, of ways that God has ‘spoken’ to you, but which are not in the Bible. [like photographs and posters]. Feel free to add them to your list.

When your list is finished [it will never be really finished, you can always add to it] then, next to each category, note down a specific example. So if you’ve written music on your list, next to it write the name of a particular piece of music through which God had spoken to you.

Now you have what I call your own 'personal bible'

One of the amazing things about the Bible, is that the words in it continue to speak to us, centuries after they were written. They seem to stay alive. Like coals, even when they seem dead, you can breathe on them and bring them back to life. This is what the preacher tries to do every Sunday morning in their sermon: making the Bible's words live for us anew.

Well the same is true for the things you've written in your personal bible. You will find that if you revisit the things in it, they will continue to speak to you. So listen again to that piece of music; revisit, in your imagination if you like, that special place; imagine your self with that person who was so important to you. You might like to revisit one of the things in your personal bible each day, on a regular basis. I think that you will find that God continues to speak to you through them. It may well be that God is saying something different to you now than what you sensed God saying at the original time. It may

be that in a time of trouble, you could name your trouble to yourself and to God, and then revisit something in your 'personal bible' and see if God is saying something to you through it about what is on your mind. This often works for me.

Try it. I have a personal bible, with memories of moments when God spoke to me, poems that have touched me deeply, pictures that I value, and various 'bon mots' and prayers that are important to me. I read parts of it each day, after I've said my prayers and read my Bible. Its my greatest treasure.

If you want to talk more about this ask for me at the desk,

Henry Morgan