

ANSWERS

(Απεκρίθη / ἀπόκριμα)

A separation or distinction. An answer of God providing strong confidence.

"But the voice answered me again from heaven" – Acts 11:9. Recently, a teenager came up to me and said, "Pastor, I've tried talking to God and waited for His answer but nothing's happened. I wonder if anyone is listening." I'm sure we've all felt like that at some time or other! When needing answers from God, ask yourself this... "What kind of answers are you expecting?" Are you looking for something extraordinary or spectacular that would let you know God has heard you? Because if you do, the chances are it may not happen that way! The problem with seeking signs and the spectacular is that you may eventually get discouraged, and as a result, you will have a hard time believing that God does answer prayer.

In the Old Testament, God used some extraordinary ways of talking to people – even a donkey spoke (Numbers 22:28). But today, the answers you are looking for are in His Word, and all you have to do is study it. God is not a man that He should lie (Numbers 23:19). Therefore, take God at His word and know that lasting success doesn't start with you. It starts with God. And it all begins when you say, "Yes Lord, I'm taking you at your word." God isn't asking you to make a promise that you can't keep. He is asking you to receive a promise that only He can keep.

There are times when we don't hear God's answers because we are too impatient. We don't wait long enough for the reply. We treat Him like some "instant answers" website. Often we forget who God really is! He is the Almighty God, the great I Am, the all-sufficient One, Master and Ruler of all. There are people who only talk to God when they want something, or when they are in trouble. They fail to comprehend that God is always there, and He wants to spend quality time with them. I'm sure you've noticed that the better you know a person, the easier it is to communicate with that person. In the same way, the better you know God, and the closer you are to Him, the more you will understand His plans and purposes for you. That's the secret to getting the right answers.

Don't just sit back and think that you can't hear God. Don't shout at God from some great distance, like a stranger. Draw near to Him and He will draw near to you! Invite Him to be so close to you that you can feel His divine breath on your life. Then, you will start to hear His voice and His answers will be very personal. Remember God doesn't need to use spectacular 'special effects' to communicate. He has given us His Spirit, and the Holy Spirit is more than capable of navigating through the storms of life. Concerning the Holy Spirit, Jesus said in John 16:14, "***He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you.***"