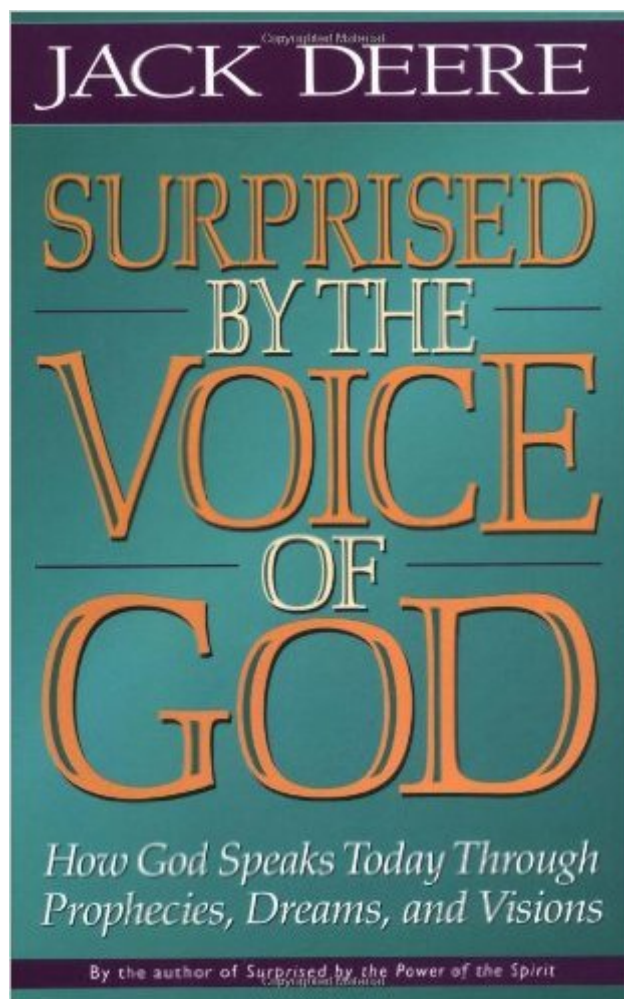


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Surprised By The Voice Of God



Synopsis

Surprised by the Voice of God takes you to the Bible to discover the variety of creative, deeply personal ways God still communicates with us today. You'll learn how God speaks with people apart from the Bible, though never in contradiction to it. Jack Deere first describes the ways God revealed his thoughts to first-century Christians. Then he tells why God continues to speak to us using the same methods. Finally Deere tells how accurately God speaks through prophecies, dreams, visions, and other forms of divine communication. With candor, sensitivity, and a profound understanding of Scripture, Deere identifies our hindrances to hearing the Holy Spirit and calls us beyond them to a more intimate relationship with God. Filled with fascinating stories and personal accounts, Surprised by the Voice of God is for all who want to walk in the dynamic scope of Christianity.

Book Information

Paperback: 384 pages

Publisher: Zondervan; Revised ed. edition (October 1, 1998)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0310225582

ISBN-13: 978-0310225584

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 1.1 x 8.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 12.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (88 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #51,095 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #8 inÂ Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Theology > Fundamentalism #65 inÂ Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Theology > Salvation Theory #133 inÂ Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Christian Denominations & Sects > Protestantism > Pentecostal & Charismatic

Customer Reviews

I have been a Christian for over forty years. I have always been taught and believed that God speaks today ONLY through the Bible. In a gracious and loving way, Dr. Deere makes the inarguable case for a God Who speaks in MANY ways today, even as He has since the Creation. I can't find words to express how important this teaching has been to my personal relationship with God through the Lord Jesus. The potential for growing intimacy and open, two-way communication with my loving Lord fills me with hope, encouragement and excitement. I am in full-time Christian ministry (pastor of a small evangelical congregation) and I desperately needed this fresh word from God. It has been humbly and articulately presented in a very down-to-earth, yet intelligent fashion

by this gifted and devoted brother in Christ. All who have--or LONG to have--a passion to KNOW the Lord Jesus, MUST read and prayerfully consider the teachings of this tremendous book.

I was taught that God only speaks through his Word. Period. It was up to us, as reasonable beings to read, understand and discern the will of God. Thus, God's will was reduced to Scriptural principles to follow. It was a safe way to live the Christian life. It was all so reasonable. It was all up to me to read. It was up to me to understand. It was up to me to discern Gods will. Evidently, those who hear God's voice were to be locked up in rooms with padded walls where men in white coat would take care of them. Then I read Surprised by the Voice of God and my theological world was turned on its head. Subtitled, How God Speaks Today Through Prophecies, Dreams, and Visions, this is a thoughtful analysis of how God speaks to us today. Now, I know that some of you reading this review are saying: That Pastor Bob has just went over the deep end. Perhaps I have. But if going over the deep end means having a closer more intimate relationship with my God, so be it. But before you slam this review, go to your local Christian bookstore and speak a peek at Chapter 17, Confessions of a Bible Deist. Go ahead, the clerk will not mind. It is Deeres contention in that chapter that much of evangelical thought (his included) has more incoming with deism than Biblical Christianity. The deists worshiped human reason, the Bible deists of today worship the Bible. With a lawyers wit, Deere thoroughly examines evangelical theology and presuppositions in light of the Word of God. It is a delightful, life-changing read. Put this one on you A-list.

I just finished reading Surprised by the Voice of God for the second time and it won't be the last! As someone coming from a similar church background as Jack Deere, I found it extremely helpful that this was foremost a biblical treatment of the topic and THEN the author's opinion and experience. I also appreciated the balance of instruction on how God speaks and the warnings of possible "Prophetic Pitfalls." I consider this an essential book for anyone who desires to hear from God.

I've read both this book and his previous one, and find in them a well researched, well balanced, and well reasoned approach to the impact of the Spirit in the modern church. I approached this study with a great deal of skepticism, and was impressed by his depth of research, as well as balanced criticism of the traditional biblical research which denied that any of the Spirit's supernatural influences have a place in the church. I've found most of the criticism I found of his books online to be either out-of-context quotes or biblical quotes, or from people who seem to have strong prejudices against even attempting to examine this issue to see if there is truth. Overall,

Deere strongly emphasizes - repeatedly - the pre-eminence of scripture over revelation and prophecy, and that the Gifts should all lead to the building up of the body or the reaching of the Lost for Christ's glory. To be honest, it is hard to discount his arguments, in that his main point is that the Spirit can and does have a real work in the life of the Body - and isn't simply a vague "doesn't really have any impact in a Xian's life" force. It is obvious from any in-depth research of scripture and historical Xianity, that Christ and the apostles all supported and believed in an active role for the Spirit in the Church. I myself am going to seek that role in my own life.

How long we have cheated ourselves of being open to the workings of God's awesome Spirit in our lives. This book isn't a showcase for shenanigans. Indeed not. It is an honest and benevolent description of how we can experience the encouragement, comfort and joy of the Holy Spirit. I very much admire how Mr. Deere admonishes us all to keep in the Word, and how he provides guidance on how to test false spirits and false prophecies that spring from pride and self-interest. God is working in a dynamic and loving fashion in His Spirit. Open yourself to exploring that blessing. Mr. Deere's book lovingly shows you how to do so.

Not only is Dr. Deere a good teacher, he's also a good writer. This book is full of insight, and is certainly worth more than one reading - just like his first book. Yet it's easy to read, entertaining and hard to put down, so much that I've endured a few blurry-eyed mornings due to having stayed up reading too long! Apologists like Deere, Fee and Grudem make a strong case for Charismatic/Empowered Evangelicals to be the biblical norm and the New Testament model. It should be said that the previous reviewer's interview snippet is highly misleading. The internet is full of witch hunters, prowling like lions, seeking to devour whom they can by ruining reputations. The false accusation that Deere "doesn't know what the Gospel is" is an old one. Look up the Vineyard Position Papers on the www for the full story. We should examine and weight all the evidence (and put it in situational context in this case!) before judging someone. Personally, I think Deere showed great restraint. Someone else might have socked the questioner with a punch in the nose!

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