

YOU HAVE 1 NEW TEXT MESSAGE

Gtcu. ?4u

1 dr, dukG? AAF I am concerned abt ya future. I wan2tlk 2u srsly abt w u r d w/ G. The Bible tls us G, w made us, I us & wan 2 b prt of r lvs. It is n a case of ywsyls w G. He w e1 2 acs His free gift o salvation. @teotd, w is ya e 4 n ling 2 G's cl? A3 God is w us. Do u ack Him or is it bau 4 u? GRWG. Dnt W8 2uham, nte or tmor. Ych a n I in Christ 2d.



Were you able to understand this? If we had to do all our communicating by text messaging, this is how it would look! It says:

Good to see you. I have a question for you: I wonder, do you know God? As a friend, I am concerned about your future. I want to talk to you seriously about what you are doing with God. The Bible tells us that God – who made us – loves us and wants to be a part of our lives. It is not a case of "you win some, you lose some" with God. He wants each one to accept His free gift of salvation. At the end of the day, what is your excuse for not listening to God's call? Anytime, anyplace, anywhere, God is with us. Do you acknowledge Him or is it business as usual for you? Get right with God. Don't wait until you have a minute, tonight, or tomorrow. You can have a new life in Christ today.

Our communication mode of today has reduced the English language to mere symbols and syllables. We are limited to how many characters fit in any given message when we text. Can you imagine if God was limited like this? But that is impossible *because* He is God. He is omnipotent (all- powerful, invincible, unstoppable, supreme), omnipresent (everywhere, all-pervading, universal) and omniscient (all- knowing, all-seeing awareness and knowledge).

God is speaking to us today, but you won't see a text message from Him. In the Old Testament, God spoke to his people through his chosen prophets. Whenever the King wanted to know something, he would request that the prophet consult God. In the New Testament, God has spoken to us through Jesus Christ (Heb. 1:2). Afterward he continued to speak through the apostles.

So how did God speak in the periods when there were no prophets or apostles? There was a great awareness of the written Word of God during Jesus' time on earth. In the absence of a prophetic voice, the people turned to the written word for divine insight. Today, the Bible is where we hear God speak.

There are numerous passages which employ a present continuing tense when citing Scripture (Matt. 22:43; Acts 2:17; 7:48; 8:34; Rom. 10:11–21; 15:12). God *speaks* to us (*present tense*) through his Word. In the Word, we find his thoughts and ideas, and as we study it and meditate on it, they become ingrained in us. We no longer need a voice, we have God's mind. The Holy Spirit helps us in this regard, to remember the word and apply it when we need it. Sometimes he causes certain scriptures to stand out at particular times. This is how God speaks to us today. God 'thinks' to us.<sup>1</sup>

The whole idea behind texting is to be quick and brief but still get your message across. In a way, God's message is like that – He made us, He loves us, He sent His Son to redeem us from our sin nature, and He is making a place for the redeemed to be with Him forever.

Texting can be fun, but communicating with God is imperative. AYL? (Are You Listening?)

<sup>1</sup>Adapted from <http://www.bibleissues.org/voice1.html>