

The Voice of Reason

God has never blessed me with the gift of ecstatic utterance. As a youth, I observed with envy those who spoke in tongues, prophesied, and felt the presence of God to the point of ecstasy. For me, faith in God did not come easy. After a lifetime of disappointments, I have learned the hard way, in the school of hard knocks, that God is real. God has given me the gift of intellect, and this has enabled me to deduce from my personal experiences and careful study of many sources of truth, including the Scriptures, that God has always been with me through the good and hard times alike.

For me, the voice of God took the form of logic and reason. I would have preferred more drama and emotion, but the result is a rock-solid conviction in both my heart and mind that God is real and that everything He does has a righteous and loving purpose. I didn't have to throw my brains out the window to believe in the Gospel of Christ and His loving presence in my life. I appreciate the Scriptures more than would have been possible if I had clung to an irrational belief in Biblical inerrancy and literalism. Understanding the Scriptures as a human document has opened up to me truths that are completely missed by many so-called Bible-believing literalists. My understanding of both the humanity and divinity of God has helped me realize how precious we all are in His eyes.

It just occurred to me today that God actually has given to me a voice of prophetic utterance. As I write, words come to me as from another place. When I read back to myself what I have written, I don't recognize myself in those words. It's as though someone else were writing them. I am reminded of the words of Jesus when He said to His disciples, "*Do not worry about how you will defend yourselves or what you will say, for the Holy Spirit will teach you at that time what you should say.*" (Luke 12:11) I am crying as I type. Emotions are wonderful, but they should be the result, and not the basis, of our faith.