

Why God Speaks

October 4, 2018

God wants to speak to His children.

"Many of us are so occupied with the much or the little that we have to say in our prayers, that the voice of the One speaking from the Mercy Seat is never heard. It is not even expected or waited for."

—Andrew Murray, The Inner Chamber, Moses and the Word of God

Exodus 33:7-11 ESV

7 Now Moses used to take the tent and pitch it outside the camp, far off from the camp, and he called it the tent of meeting. And everyone who sought the LORD would go out to the tent of meeting, which was outside the camp.

- *Not only did this protect the people from being destroyed in judgment, but it also proved who was determined and committed to seeking the Lord.*

Exodus 33:3 ESV

3 Go up to a land flowing with milk and honey; but I will not go up among you, lest I consume you on the way, for you are a stiff-necked people.

Exodus 33:7-11 ESV

8 Whenever Moses went out to the tent, all the people would rise up, and each would stand at his tent door, and watch Moses until he had gone into the tent.

9 When Moses entered the tent, the pillar of cloud would descend and stand at the entrance of the tent, and the LORD would speak with Moses.

10 And when all the people saw the pillar of cloud standing at the entrance of the tent, all the people would rise up and worship, each at his tent door.

11 Thus the LORD used to speak to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend. When Moses turned again into the camp, his assistant Joshua the son of Nun, a young man, would not depart from the tent.

- *We need to come to the Church, with the same reverential fear, awe and eager anticipation.*
- *Joshua wouldn't depart - how all-consuming and addictive is the voice and presence of God!*

Numbers 7:89 ESV

89 And when Moses went into the tent of meeting to speak with the LORD, he heard the voice speaking to him from above the mercy seat that was on the ark of the testimony, from between the two cherubim; and it spoke to him.

1 Kings 19:11-13 ESV

11 And he said, "Go out and stand on the mount before the LORD." And behold, the LORD passed by, and a great and strong wind tore the mountains and broke in pieces the rocks before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind. And after the wind an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake.

12 And after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire. And after the fire the sound of a low whisper [aka "a still, small voice"].

13 And when Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his cloak and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. And behold, there came a voice to him and said, "What are you doing here, Elijah?"

- *God did not want to impress or scare Elijah with the wind, earthquake and fire - He wanted a relationship with Elijah.*
- *The miracle of God answering by fire before 450 prophets of Baal did not sustain Elijah's soul - He needed to hear God's voice - He needed a relationship with his Heavenly Father.*

Isaiah 30:20-21 ESV

20 And though the Lord give you the bread of adversity and the water of affliction, yet your Teacher will not hide himself anymore, but your eyes shall see your Teacher.

21 And your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, "This is the way, walk in it," when you turn to the right or when you turn to the left.

- *"...when you turn to the right or when you turn to the left..." is speaking of a continuous flow of conversation.*

"The presence of God is the concentration of the soul's attention on God, remembering that He is always present."

—Brother Lawrence, The Practice of the Presence of God

"Such communion with God is meant to be ours during the whole day, whatever our condition or circumstances. But its enjoyment depends upon the reality of the communion we have with God in the inner chamber. The power for maintaining close and glad fellowship with God all day will depend largely upon the intensity with which we seek to secure it in the time of secret prayer." —Andrew Murray, The Inner Chamber, The Doors Shut

John 10:14 ESV

14 I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me.

John 10:27 ESV

27 My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.

John 15:15 ESV

15 No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you.

John 16:12-15 ESV

12 I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now.

13 When the Spirit of truth comes, He will guide you into all the truth, for He will not speak on his own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak, and He will declare to you the things that are to come.

14 He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

15 All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

Hebrews 8:10-11 ESV

10 For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days...

11 And they shall not teach, each one his neighbor and each one his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest.

1 John 2:27 ESV

27 But as his anointing teaches you about everything, and is true, and is no lie--just as it has taught you, abide in him.

"Brother Lawrence insisted that, to be constantly aware of God's presence, it is necessary to form the habit of continually talking with Him throughout the day. To think that we must abandon conversation with Him in order to deal with the world is erroneous." —Brother Lawrence, The Practice of the Presence of God, First Conversation

"When the habit of inwardly gazing Godward becomes fixed within us, we shall be ushered into a new level of spiritual life..." —A.W. Tozer, The Pursuit of God, "A New Level of Spirituality"

God bases relationship on knowing and intimate fellowship (communion).

John 17:1-3 ESV

**1 When Jesus had spoken these words, he lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you,
2 since you have given him authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him.
3 And this is ETERNAL (*aiōnios* - without beginning and end, never to cease, everlasting) LIFE (*zoe* - absolute fullness of life belonging only to God), that they KNOW you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.**

KNOW (*ginosko* - come to know, learn to know, to become known, experiential knowledge, Jewish idiom for carnal knowledge between a husband and wife, example: Matthew 1:25 "...but knew her not until she had given birth to a son.")

Revelation 3:20 ESV

20 Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me.

EAT (*deipneō* - to sup, to take the evening meal, Thayer's Greek Lexicon "I will make him to share in my most intimate and blissful contact.")

Man bases relationship on doing and performance (achievement).

John 6:28-29 ESV

**28 Then they said to him, "What must we do, to be doing the works of God?"
29 Jesus answered them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent."**

Matthew 7:21-23 ESV

**21 Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.
22 On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?'
23 And then will I declare to them, 'I never knew (*ginosko*) you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.'**

Philippians 3:4-8 ESV

4 though I myself have reason for confidence in the flesh also. If anyone else thinks he has reason for confidence in the flesh, I have more:

5 circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee;

6 as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

7 But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ.

8 Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing (*gnosis - noun form of the verb ginosko - the act of knowing*) Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ.

Man uses his works and performance to validate his self-worth and importance.

Matthew 7:22 ESV

22 On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?'

Philippians 3:4-6 ESV

4 though I myself have reason for confidence in the flesh also. If anyone else thinks he has reason for confidence in the flesh, I have more:

5 circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee;

6 as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

God judges man's works to validate the relationship.

James 2:26 ESV

26 For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also faith apart from works is dead.

John 14:15 ESV

15 If you love me, you will keep my commandments.

John 15:14 ESV

14 You are my friends IF you do what I command you.

Get the relationship right, and the works will be right, because relationship gives God the access He needs to change our hearts.

2 Corinthians 3:17-18 ESV

17 Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.

18 And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed (*metamorphoō - to change, transform, transfigure*) into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.