

THE GOD WHO SPEAKS

The Bible contains hundreds of occasions when ordinary men received a personal “revelation” or a “word from the LORD”. Each of these words was primarily an invitation to participate in knowing and experiencing that particular spiritual reality or destiny.

We too hear that same ‘SPEAKING GOD’ but far too often we are merely excited by the word and fail to see it as an invitation from God to implement that particular word in our lives. The ‘revelation’ or the ‘new word of God’ is the doorway to a new and intimate real-life experience with the Living God. That ‘revelation’ is NOT the full scope of the word; it is a calling to a new experience and a fuller knowledge of the life of God in that newly highlighted area.

It was in light of these facts that Paul wrote, *“¹² So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling; ¹³ for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.”* [Phil.3:12-13]

Paul had pointed out in the preceding verses that Jesus had laid His life down in utter determined obedience to the Father. [Phil. 3:5-8] So then with unusual urgency Paul begs the readers of his letter, the disciples of his day, to also be resolute in their determination in following Christ’s example.

In the passage Paul specifies that God is at work within you and me to accomplish His good pleasure in and through us, and He is constantly revealing that desire through His now word and fresh revelations by the Spirit.

The appropriate response is embracing those revelations with fear and trembling; because God *“is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.”* God is neither expecting nor desiring a lackadaisical response to His word and His work! In His very great love and mercy HE DOES SPEAK TO US AND HE DOES REVEAL

HIS MYSTERIES. It is an awesome thing that God not only desires to communicate with us but He is continually speaking to mankind. Only atheists and religious fools think that God has not spoken for thousands of years, yet often - those who do hear Him disregard Him and His voicebut they do so at their own risk.

Still, in love He continues to reach, speak, nudge, and call. He again and again calls out *“Here I am, Here I am”*, just as He did 2500 years ago to the people of Israel when He said, *“I permitted Myself to be sought by those who did not ask for Me; I permitted Myself to be found by those who did not seek Me. I said, ‘Here am I, here am I,’ To a nation which did not call on My name. ²I have spread out My hands all day long to a rebellious people, Who walk in the way which is not good, following their own thoughts....”* [Is.65:1-2]

Israel failed to hear and heed His call then and it was painfully costly to the whole nation of them. He still calls, He still speaks, even more clearly for He has promised that in the New Covenant *“...they will all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them,” declares the Lord. . . [Jer.31:34]* And *“I will pour out My Spirit on all mankind....”* [Joel 2:28] *“I will give you a new heart, and I will put a new spirit in you. I will take out your stony, stubborn heart and give you a tender, responsive heart. ²⁷And I will put my Spirit in you so that you will follow my decrees and be careful to obey my regulations.”* [Ezekiel 36:26-27] But in spite of these great promises and provisions we often fail to hear or heed His voice, because we are also those who are *following their own thoughts....”*

We are living dangerously when we take a fresh revelation from God and park it on a shelf for future reference or for others to see rather than bring it back to God [*with fear and trembling*] so that He can work it into our lives. Often we put Him off because we are more interested in *“following our own thoughts”* rather than His. Still, love drives Him to reach again to us. Again and again He says, *“Here I am, Here I am...”* and He waits to hear us respond with... *“Here I am, LORD, Here I am...”*

His patience and love and faithfulness is incredible..... butbut for those who do not *“receive the love of the truth, [...eventually...]”* ⁴¹ *“...God will send upon them a deluding influence so that they will believe what is false, ¹² in order that they all may be judged who did not believe the truth, but took pleasure in wickedness.”* [2 Thess.2:11-12]

That very real danger exists, but Grace still abounds. God still reaches; mercy is abundant and we celebrate that reality as we *“draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need...”* [Heb.4:16]

*And working together with Him, we also urge you **not** to receive the grace of God in vain for He says, “AT THE ACCEPTABLE TIME I LISTENED TO YOU, AND ON THE DAY OF SALVATION I HELPED YOU.” Behold, **now is “THE ACCEPTABLE TIME,”** behold, **now is “THE DAY OF SALVATION”**—* [Heb.6:1-2] *Today, if you hear His voice.....do not harden your hearts as they did... Heb.3,4]*

WHAT A GLORIOUS PRIVILEGE IT IS
TO HEAR FROM GOD!

