

The Whispers of God

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All Scripture quotations, unless otherwise noted, are from the King James Version. Italics for emphasis are ours.

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INTRODUCTION

Picture with me a couple in a crowded room, and the husband leans over to his wife to whisper in her ear, "I love you with all my heart." Now, that's something he could easily say out loud. But he wanted it to be just for her, so he whispered into her ear.

God often does the same thing with His people. There are things He wants to communicate quietly to our hearts. He desires to have our attention and focus. No matter what we are going through, God has a word in season for us.

As this booklet will show, the things communicated in stillness and quietness are so precious. God longs to draw us near to Himself so that His whispers can be heard in the midst of the world's roar: "Be still, and know that I am God."

Chapter One

A HEART THAT HEARS

“Give ear, O ye heavens, and I will speak; and hear, O earth, the words of my mouth.

“My doctrine shall drop as the rain, my speech shall distil as the dew, as the small rain upon the tender herb, and as the showers upon the grass:

“Because I will publish the name of the LORD: ascribe ye greatness unto our God.

“He is the Rock, his work is perfect: for all his ways are judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is he” (Deuteronomy 32:1-4).

In this passage, the word “doctrine” refers to instruction, learning to think with God categorically and precisely. The Hebrew text of verse one makes it clear that God is saying, “Give ear—pay attention—and I will speak quietly.” The key is to hear God whispering. God whispers so we will draw close to Him to listen and hear the

precious thoughts of His heart.

In these verses, God mentions that He uses His whispers to draw our attention to Him. If you whisper to me, I obviously have to come closer to you to hear what you are saying. God whispers, bringing us closer to Him and to the meaning of the thoughts in His heart. In Deuteronomy 32, God is not shouting. He is not raising His voice. He is not even speaking in a normal tone of voice. He is whispering.

To be able to hear the whispers of God means to be so filled with His nature that even His whispers can be understood. Think about it. When was the last time you heard God whispering to you? When did you last hear God's still, small, inaudible voice impressing your spirit with the precious thoughts of His heartbeat?

Filled with His Spirit

I hear the whispers of God when I am filled with God's Spirit, walking in His love and having the mind of Jesus Christ. My old sin nature is, practically speaking, co-crucified with Christ. I can have the most intimate relationship with Him—one in which I hear His whispers.

In this relationship, I can talk to God. There are no distractions. Nothing comes between us.

How many times have you said yourself, “The best that I know, God told me this.” I am not speaking of hearing an audible voice. But Jesus did say in John 10: “My sheep hear my voice and follow Me.”

There is such a misunderstanding today about hearing God’s voice. Again, I am not saying we hear His audible voice. The Holy Spirit does, however, communicate the thoughts of God, Who is invisible. Deity speaks from heaven and communicates in whispers. These thoughts come through His Word and through the inspiration of the Word, into the human spirit. This is the way God whispers.

One Vision, One Voice

“These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brethren.

“And in those days Peter stood up in the midst of the disciples, and said, (the number of names together were about an hundred and twenty)” (Acts 1:14-15).

Peter and the disciples all got up, but Peter spoke for the group. They all stood, but Peter did the talking. They were of one mind. This is happening today. We see it in our church as we

share such oneness, bearing fruit throughout our city and around the world. We see with our eyes the substance of the vision God gave to us nearly fifty years ago.

Over the years, God has given us certain visions about the future of our ministry, visions that I have shared with the members of our church. He confirmed these visions by giving them to others. That is why we have had so much oneness among so many co-laborers. As fervent believers who have internalized God's Word as much as I have, those visions became theirs as well. It is all done in the corporate body aspect of oneness.

God has made it possible for believers to become one body—a corporate organism, knit together in love (Colossians 2:2, 19). When we are focused on Christ and governed by His precepts, we will have the same vision because we have heard the same voice.

Chapter Two

PEACE THAT PASSES UNDERSTANDING

God communicates with Christians in whispers, regardless of their level of faith or their stage of growth. He is moved by our faithfulness to obey and to receive from Him by hearing His Word. So, He whispers and reveals His heart to us.

Have you heard from God today? If you went to a Bible class or listened to a message from God's Word, you heard from God. You hear from God through your pastor and through other teachers. You can hear from God through your own vertical relationship with Him. You hear from God through godly friends when you fellowship in the Spirit. And, you can hear from God in the midst of diverse circumstances. You can hear from God when there is peace in your heart—where there once was no peace at all.

A young man in prison is now transformed

because of God's whispers. True and godly sorrow caused him to repent and has renewed this man's mind and his commitment to God. He has been hearing God whisper to him in the midst of the noise of the prisoners, in the midst of the projections from hell. In a terrible situation, he is communing with God and revealing faith rest in spite of the storm.

God's whispers keep us peaceful. They quiet our souls. They supply us with the proper language of communication. Tears are another language God uses. They express more than words could say when they are shed in the compassion of divine love.

Overcoming Bitterness

One day I was driving alone, thinking about a problem, when God spoke to my heart.

"Do you love Me?" He whispered.

"Yes," I said. Instantly, I was broken by His gentleness. He had caused me to look to Him and not the problem. I pulled off the road, and God inspired me to write this song:

*I was searching in my heart;
I found Christ, sin had to part.
God gave me a brand-new start!*

*I praised the Lord, I praise Him now.
His Holy Spirit will teach me how,
And tonight, my knees will humbly bow.*

*I love You, Jesus,
Yes, I love You, Jesus.
I love You with all my heart.
I will worship, I will sing,
Souls to Christ I will bring
To the altar, where You'll do Your part.*

So often, Christians will react with negativity against someone who has offended them. This happened to a good friend of mine. Someone had said some terrible things that caused him to react with anger. He came to me for counsel because he could not get over the bitterness he felt, and it was affecting his walk with God.

Together, we considered how Satan throws so many things at God's people just to rob us of our joy. We cannot change people and we cannot change one thing about the past, but when Christ is the issue, nothing else matters. We have a God who loves us, who never changes, who has promised that He will never leave us nor forsake us.

We can't have fellowship with bitterness. And according to James 1:20, the wrath of man interferes with the righteousness of God being formed in our lives. But when we set the Lord before us, looking unto Him and loving Him with all our hearts, the bitterness will go.

That man wept because he felt so terrible for reacting. The whispers of God brought him out of his bitterness completely. The following week, while running errands, he saw the person who had offended him. Tears came to his eyes, and he smiled and said hello. It didn't matter whether or not the other man responded. The bitterness was gone.

Chapter Three

BE STILL AND KNOW

There have been times when my wife and I have been weeping as she goes through a painful time with her physical weakness. She always comes through and says, "I totally trust God. His quietness and confidence shall be my strength."

In the midst of those times, God whispers to us: "Be still and know that I am God."

Terrible feelings of fear come upon our emotions sometimes, especially when one of our loved ones dies. Sure, we know that they have gone home to be with the Lord. But at first, we feel very frightened. I have experienced this, having lost my first wife, my mom, my dad, and many friends and loved ones. Yet, we come through it and receive His peace. The one thing that always happens is that God comes through and whispers, "Be still, be still. I am God."

Some parents have been going through great

trials with their children. I am really praying for these families. They are faithful families. One of the mothers came to me and said, “All I have been hearing from God is ‘Quietness and confidence is your strength’ and ‘Be still and know that I am God.’ I trained my boy up right and I trust that he will come back.”

“For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us” (Romans 8:18).

It is very unusual to be still when things are difficult. There is pain. Your body is absolutely hurting, and the pain will not go away. God doesn’t seem to be there, but He is—and He has a plan. It is a perfect plan. He is inside of you. And for every moment of pain you go through as a believer, He will recompense you with a blessing in eternity (Hebrews 6:10).

Those who are blind and those who are deaf receive grace and provisions for their condition here on earth. God will be just, and ultimately they will be rewarded with a measure of grace throughout all eternity for the way they faced obstacles and were overcomers in this life.

From Failure to Fellowship

"In those days, and in that time, saith the LORD, the iniquity of Israel shall be sought for, and there shall be none; and the sins of Judah, and they shall not be found: for I will pardon them whom I reserve" (Jeremiah 50:20).

"He hath not beheld iniquity in Jacob, neither hath he seen perverseness in Israel: the LORD his God is with him, and the shout of a king is among them" (Numbers 23:21).

God communicates to us so many doctrines from His Word. One precious doctrine is this: Failure is never final with the Lord. There isn't a person alive who has never tasted failure before a holy God. Perhaps it has been a long time for some of you, but at one time you have tasted bitter failure. Sometimes this failure just would not go away. You rebounded, but then the failure would come right back. Yet, as you have kept getting up and going on with God, you have seen the failures begin to decrease.

The only thing that has ever gotten anyone through his failures was hearing God's still, small voice whispering, "I love you just as much as I ever have. I desire your fellowship so deeply."

My failures cannot change the love of God. What I am losing is my fellowship with Him. His love never changes, but when I fail, I am not giving Him the opportunity to express His love for me. Though His love and desire never stop coming toward me, He cannot act in me through divine initiations, because my guilt and self-consciousness are in the way.

The fact that God always loves me just the same is motivation to draw near to Him. His love becomes such an incentive to come out of my failure and to reestablish my fellowship with Him.

One of the hardest things for many Christians to believe is that God really does forgive us. The standard He gave us is found in Matthew 18:22: We are to forgive seventy-times-seven times for the same identical sin committed in the same day. Can you remember a day when you committed the same sin 490 times? Maybe you can, but God will never bring up that memory. He paid for every instance of sin.

Whenever we fail, God is faithful and just to forgive us. Why? Because He wants to keep the lines of communication with Him open. He wants to always be able to whisper to us, "Be still and know that I love you no matter what."

CONCLUSION

God longs to speak to our hearts. He wants to be heard in the midst of all the things that are going on in our lives. He especially wants us to hear Him in our failures. Let us not drown out His whispers.

We cannot reiterate it enough: Our past is gone. No one has a right to bring it up. God—the final Judge—cannot find any evidence against us. This is one of the most releasing things we can think about. Memorize verses that relate to the Finished Work of God's forgiveness. (To begin with, read Psalm 86:5, Jeremiah 31:34, 1 John 1:9, and Micah 7:7-9, 19.)

We can study to be quiet and let the confidence of His love fill us. In this quietness, we can enjoy all that He has given to bless us. So whether it is in our times alone or times of fellowship, times of sowing in tears or times of reaping with great joy—in all of these things, He will give us peace so we can hear the whispers

of God.

Dear Lord, thank You for always giving us a provision to draw near. We pray that You would waken our ears "to hear as the learned," as You said in Your Word. Teach us to draw nearer to You each day, so we can always hear Your still, small voice that tells us which way to go. In Jesus' name, Amen.