



God Is a Communicator

EXPERIENCING

GOD

Henry and Richard Blackaby

GOD

SPEAKS II

Session 6

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GOD SPEAKS TODAY

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU PRAY?

Most Christians are familiar with what Christ *has done* on the cross and what Christ *will do* when He returns in glory.

What may be less clear for some of us is the continuing **work that Jesus *is doing* for us now**

At Calvary, Jesus accomplished all that is needed for **our salvation**.

- But now in heaven, He is **applying all that He accomplished** to all who believe in Him.
- And He does this by **presenting us** to the Father as His own!
- He **brings you before the Father**, and **the Father sees us in Him.**



GOD SPEAKS TODAY

WHAT IS JESUS DOING RIGHT NOW?

The answer to that question is -- *Jesus Christ is interceding for us.*

- *Heb. 7:25: He is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.*
- *Rom. 8:34 Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.*

The word *intercede* (*entynchanō*) literally means , **to move or pass between** and confer with

- Thus having a high sense of intervention

It is to stand in the gap between two parties. This is what Jesus Christ is doing now!



GOD SPEAKS TODAY

He stands in the gap between us and the Father, bringing us to the Father and maintaining our relationship with Him.

- There is never a time when he is not **actively engaged in this ministry** on our behalf.

We have a great High Priest who carries our names on His heart into the presence of the Father.

- *Heb. 4:14 We have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God...*

In Christ, God receives us as someone who is clothed in His righteousness.

God hear us when you pray as someone redeemed by Christ.

- Even before we actively believed, we were the elect according to the foreknowledge of God



GOD SPEAKS TODAY

Not only is Jesus interceding for us, we are told in the Bible that the Holy Spirit intercedes.

○ **Rom 8:26-27** “Likewise the Spirit also **helpeth our infirmities**: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the **Spirit itself maketh intercession** for us **with groanings which cannot be uttered**.²⁷ And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, **because he maketh intercession** for the saints **according to the will of God**.

□ **Helpeth** = **synantilambanomai** which means to come to one's aid who is carrying a load

This **Intercession of the Spirit** is the belief that the Holy Spirit helps and guides believers who search for God in their hearts



GOD SPEAKS TODAY

Notice, the Spirit “maketh intercession for us with groanings (**sighing**) which cannot be uttered”

○ I.E., He speaks which cannot be expressed in our ***impotent inarticulate utterance***.

○ As we struggle to articulate the desires of our hearts and find that **our deepest emotions** are most **inexpressible**, we ‘groan’ under this felt inability.

○ The Holy Spirit **interprets our prayers to God** and “makes intercession for us in accord with God’s will.”

Note there are three “groans” in Rom. 8:22–26:

(1) all **creation** groans, v. 22;

(2) the **believer** groans awaiting Christ’s coming, v. 23; and

(3) the **indwelling Spirit** groans as He intercedes for us, v. 26.



GOD SPEAKS TODAY

Perhaps too much of **our praying is of the flesh**—long, beautiful, “pious” prayers that glorify man and nauseate God (Isa. 1:11–18).

Paul indicates that the **most spiritual prayer** could be a wordless groan that comes from the heart!

○ “**Sighs too deep for words**” is the way one translation renders v. 26.

The Spirit makes intercession for us, the Father searches our hearts and knows what the Spirit desires, and this He grants to us.

○ The Spirit always prays in **the will of God**.

○ What is the will of God?

○ That believers might be conformed to the image of Christ (v. 29)



GOD SPEAKS TODAY

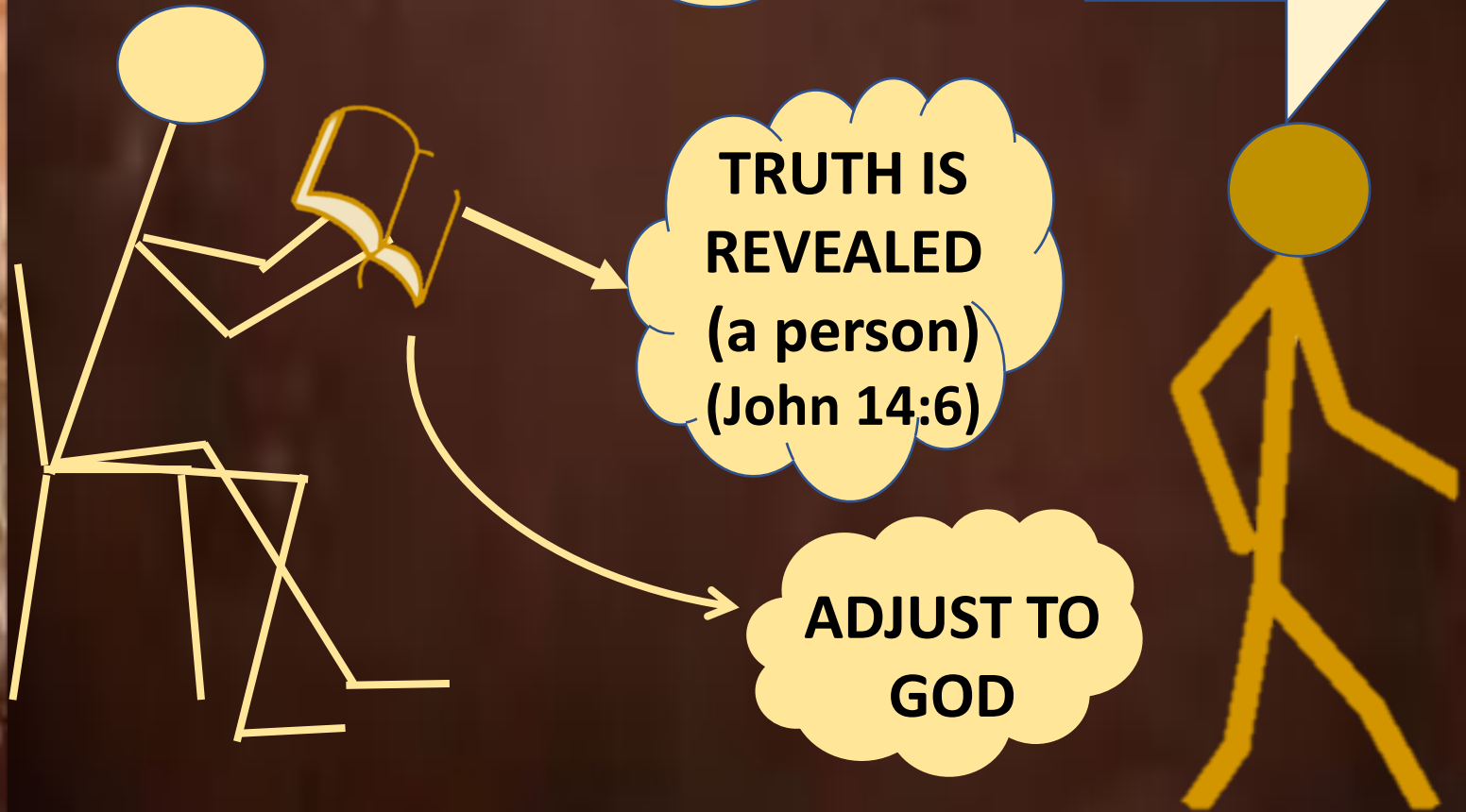
HE IS THE
"SPIRIT of
TRUTH"
(John 16:13)

**HOLY SPIRIT
(a person)**

**OBEYING
GOD'S
WORD**

**TRUTH IS
REVEALED
(a person)
(John 14:6)**

**ADJUST TO
GOD**





OBSERVATIONS FROM THE VIDEO

- ❑ God speaks to us through Scripture, and the Holy Spirit takes the word of God and applies it to our lives – HE DOES NOT WRITE MORE SCRIPTURE
- ❑ The more you know someone, the better you can tell when and what they are speaking to you
- ❑ God also speaks through circumstances:
 - ❖ An event in life thru which God chooses to speak
- ❑ Many times as believers, we respond to circumstances the same way that the world does
 - ❖ We use the **“Open Door Test”** – If God open....
 - ❖ We try to pragmatically look at the **pros and cons**
 - ❖ Will God look at the list the **same way we do?**
[Moses had all the reasons not to go to Pharaoh]
[But going is right because God said go]



OBSERVATIONS FROM THE VIDEO

- ❑ God will never introduce something into our lives that is a substitute for a walk with Him
- ❑ Just because the door seems closed to us, does it mean that it is closed to God?
- ❑ Don't get discouraged when it seems a door is closing, perhaps God has better in store
- ❑ God also speaks through His people -- I Cor. 12: 12-31 refers to the church as a body
 - ❖ Each part of the body has a different function
 - ❖ As a Christian we must ask God which functional role has designated for us
 - ❖ Important that we function as a body to get the proper perspective of actions
- ❑ It is an exciting thing to know that Almighty God is speaking, but are we hearing Him?



GOD SPEAKS TODAY

The manner in which God *conveys the COURSE* and *CONTENT* of His work is spoken to man

Some factors regarding God speaking:

- A. He speaks despite our FAILURES (Gn. 3:8)
- B. He speaks BLESSINGS & JUDGMENT (Ex. 15:26)
- C. He speaks to PRESERVE our relationship (Dt. 5:25)
- D. He speaks directly or thru a SURROGATE (Dt. 18:15)
- E. He speaks to effectuate PROMOTION (Dt. 26:14)
- F. He speaks CLEARLY to solicit our OBEDIENCE (I Sam 15:20)
- G. He speaks POWERFULLY & MAJESTICALLY (Psl. 29:3)



GOD SPEAKS TODAY

- Psl. 95:7 For he is our God; and we are the people of his pasture, and the *SHEEP of his hand*. To day if ye will hear his voice (Heb. 3:7-11)

Even when we have day to day expectations of God's leading, we must learn to **RESPOND** to His directions on the basis of our **LOVE** relationship

Out of that love relationship, the Bible gives a lot of detail about how we can expect Him to **DIRECT**, what kinds of **EXPECTATIONS** He has for us, and how He expects us to **REACT** like Him with people we encounter.

Our response to God is best understood from the **SHEPHERD / SHEEP** motif which is used over 200 times in the Bible.



GOD IS SPEAKING RIGHT NOW

What have you **HEARD** about sheep?

1. Sheep aren't INTELLIGENT Sheep are not known to be smart or cunning animals when it comes to safety (I Cor. 3:19)
2. Sheep are DIRECTIONLESS - Sheep are prone to wander and get lost easily (Isa. 53:6)
3. Sheep are VULNERABLE and need protection Sheep, like people are spiritually weak and need protection (Matt. 10:16)
4. Sheep become RESTLESS. There are two major reasons why sheep become restless: hunger and bugs (Psl. 23:2)
5. Sheep need plenty of WATER. In the Bible regions, the shepherds had to water their sheep regularly (John 7:38)
6. Sheep can not GET UP on their own. If they fall down ("cast down"), they must have a shepherd to lift them up



GOD IS SPEAKING RIGHT NOW

I don't know how you view prayer, but to me it is my response to the revelation and **unfolding of God's heart into mine**

- Our prayer meeting with God should be like a cordial conversation with a friend
- This meeting should never be a monologue with one person talking and the other (God) just listening

One great place to start a prayer practice with God is through the Psalms; particularly the Davidic Psalms which characterized the prayer life of David.

*Psl. 109:4 says In return for my friendship they accuse me, **but I am a man of prayer.***

- This Psalm of David was **quoted by Peter** as he spoke about Judas (**Acts 1:20**; Psl 109:8)
- Prayer was the **essence of David's life** and genius



GOD SPEAKS TODAY

This time of intimacy provides access to God where we can find all that the heart of God has in store for us

- It is the means by which we hear God's thoughts
- It is the medium thru which we hear about God's gifts
- It is a time when we give God our adoration in worship
- It is an occasion when we can express our love to God
- It is the highest expression of our dependence on God
- It is a time for compassioned requesting without demands
- It is a season to teach patience to our souls
 - **Ps. 131:2** Surely I have calmed and quieted my soul, Like a weaned child with his mother; Like a weaned child *is* my soul within me.
- **Prayer is the method** by which we learn to comprehend what God speaks in His word



UNDERSTANDING THE STUDY

- Prayer moves what we know from our heads to our hearts
- Prayer refocuses unites the fragmented parts of our hearts
 - Psl. 86:11 David prayer that God give him an undivided heart

We must commit our selves to resting by the still waters where we have been led by the Shepherd

- Often, we are like Jacob— Gen 28:16 “surely the Lord is in this place ... and I was not aware of it.”
- Repeat with me: *The Lord is my helper and I will not be afraid* (Heb. 13:5-6)

Listen with intentional concentration past the clamor of the visible and the audible and speak the words of Ezek. 34:14 ‘*I will lie down in good grazing land, and there I will feed in a rich pasture*’

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