

GOD'S HOUSE OF PRAYER IS A HOUSE OF DIALOGUE

J.S. Boegl • House of Prayer Series #05

Let the Word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do in Word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him... Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving; meanwhile praying also for us that God would open to us a door for the Word, to speak the mystery of Christ... (Colossians 3:16, 17 & 4:2,3)

I. HEARING GOD

- A. We aren't born with the ability to hear the voice of God. We are dependent upon the Holy Spirit to give us the capacity to hear and understand the Word of the Lord.
The natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. (1 Corinthians 2:14)
- B. The Holy Spirit teaches us how to hear His voice and amplifies our capacity to hear *"the still small voice"* (1 Kings 19:12) in the "set apart place". This is what Moses and Joshua called *"the tent of meeting"* (Exodus 33:7-11)
1. One of the characteristics of a person who belongs to Jesus, who has entered into covenant with Him and is born again, is that she/he begins to hunger for the Word of God. Closely aligned with this is the ability to hear and know Jesus' voice.
My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. (John 10:27)
 2. The Holy Spirit faithfully and steadily cultivates our *ears that hear* and *eyes that see*. This is why Ephesians 1:17,18 is such a vital prayer for the Church.
"that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints..." (Ephesians 1:17, 18) (See also Luke 11:34)
 3. The Holy Spirit helps to learn to distinguish between His voice and our own; His thoughts and our thoughts; His ways vs. our ways.
"For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways," says the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts." (Isaiah 55:8,9)
"For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit." (2 Peter 1:20) [NIV]
- C. We have no cause to have confidence in our ability to hear the voice of God. However, we have every reason to have great confidence in God's gracious ability to speak, and communicate adequately to us.

II. THE WORD OF GOD

- A. We (particularly westerners) need to have our understanding of the Word of God transformed; from *Conceptualis* and *Potentialis* to *Realis* and *Substantia*. By nature, the Word of God is not merely conceptual. It's real and tangible. It's not merely potential power. It's substantive power.
1. The Word of God *is living and active* (Hebrews 4:12)
 2. The Word of God *grows, multiplies* and *prevails* (Acts 12:24 and Acts 19:20)
 3. The Word of God *runs swiftly* (2 Thessalonians 3:1)
 4. The Word of God *comes to us*; and *calls* us. (1 Samuel 15:10; Ezekiel 6:1 and 35 other places in Ezekiel; Zechariah 7:8)
 5. The Word of the Lord *endures forever*. (1 Peter 1:24-25)
- B. The Word of God is itself the most potent *and* tangible force in our universe.
1. Which is more tangible: that which is created? or that which creates that which is created?
 2. Dark Energy accounts for 68% of everything in the universe. Dark matter accounts for 27% of everything in the universe. Atomic matter accounts for less than 5% of everything in the universe.
 3. *Bara! Let there be light!* (Genesis 1:3) Have you ever wondered how God could have created light in v. 3 on day one, and not create the sun, moon and the stars until verse on day four?

4. Nuclear physicists tell us that at the core of all atomic matter are quarks. No one has ever seen a quark. But they know that that which animates and gives shape and form to quarks is what they call *phos*. *Phos* is the greek word for light. Light in the form of tiny micro-nuclear explosions is what forms the foundation of all that we can touch and see.
 5. Astro physicists now tell us that they know that the big bang theory is not an adequate explanation for the formation of our universe. What they're observing is not that the stars and galaxies are spreading out further and further apart, but that there is *dark matter* (which is actually a bad name for "invisible matter") that is forming *out of nothing*; growing up between the atomic matter and forcing it to expand further and further apart. This invisible matter is actually being formed out of nothing and increasing in proportion to atomic matter. Scientists call what they're observing *ex nihilo*, meaning out of nothing.
This is the very phrase that theologians use to describe how God created the universe.
 6. How does Genesis tell us that God creating *light*? It stands to reason that God's Word is even greater and more real than the light that it created.
- C. The Word of God is the manifest, tangible power of God calling, convicting, establishing, creating, leading, transforming, liberating and redeeming a curse-ridden humanity. The Word of God is the power within the Church, the prayer movement AND the preaching of the gospel! It's not mere philosophical ideas about a Biblical world-view. It's the power that established the world, itself!
In these last days (God has) spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds; who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the Word of His power. (Hebrews 1:3)

III. GOD'S INVITATION TO DIALOGUE

- A. The invitation to dialogue with the Lord is fundamental to the House of Prayer.
One thing I have desired of the Lord, that will I seek; that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in His temple. (Psalm 27:4)
- B. The good news is, no one wants this conversation more than God Himself. As the *Word of the Lord* comes to us the Holy Spirit woos us into an intimate *dialogue*; often giving us just enough information to entice us into *seeking, knocking* and *asking* (Matthew 7:7) for more. The Holy Spirit is a master suitor. He knows that if we can develop an appetite for the Word of God, we will press through most any adversity, and any interior resistance, to receive more.
- C. Jesus speaks about the phenomenal dynamic of dialogue in John 16:13-15.
"When He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will... glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you. All things that the Father has are Mine. Therefore I said that He will take of Mine and declare it to you."
- D. As we cultivate a lifestyle of engaging in this holy dialogue, we are literally infused with the very qualities of Jesus Christ through the speaking voice of the Holy Spirit.
We all, with unveiled faces reflecting the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another, which is from the Lord, who is the Spirit. (2 Corinthians 3:18)
- E. In Ephesians 4:15 the apostle Paul gives us a key to cultivating a mature, powerful, vibrant life of Christ-likeness. Speaking to the Church who has inherited the fabulous wealth of Christ, Paul encourages the believers that the means by which they may access this wealth is through speaking truth to one another. He writes:
"but, speaking the truth in love, (we) grow up in all things into Him who is the head - Christ."
(Ephesians 4:15)
1. The speaking of truth is not only a speaking of the way things are, but also a speaking of what is promised and a speaking of Who He is, and who we are in relation to Him. This is all part of ***speaking the truth.***
 2. The greek word for ***speaking*** is the word *dia-logos*. The greek word literally means "within, or through the word". *Dia-logos* is where we get our english word for *dialogue*.
- F. God knows that ***life and death are in the power of the tongue.*** (Proverbs 18:21) The Holy Spirit is zealous to give life to *us* and to those to whom we speak.

The Spirit is the one who gives life; human nature is of no help! The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and are life. (John 6:63)

- G. The Holy Spirit is inviting us into a divine dialogue with Himself and the Godhead. (In its purest form, this is the essence of what prayer is.) He is inviting us to do what He and the Father and the Son do, and *have* done for time and all eternity. *Speak the truth to One Another in love.* He knows that this is the way that we will *grow up into the Head - Christ*; or grow in Christlikeness.
1. Every example of where we hear God speak to God is filled with positive powerful declaration.
 2. I want the fire that exists in the heart of the Trinity in their combustible relationship to exist in me. Jesus promises me that the Holy Spirit will hear everything in heaven and then SPEAK it into my heart. That's power. When the Father spoke over Jesus it was like THUNDER! I want to be a son of thunder...
 3. In the place of prayer I learn how to speak "God".

IV. PRAY-READING THE WORD OF GOD WITH THE SPIRIT

- A. *The most* transformational dynamic in a believer's life is the activity of *pray-reading the Word of God*. Sitting at Jesus' feet with an open Bible and inquiring, dialoguing, listening and receiving does more to establish Christlikeness in our lives than any other discipleship activity. Dialogue is at the core of what it means to be a disciple. It's as we dialogue with the Holy Spirit that He increasingly conforms us to Jesus' image. ***He must increase, and I must decrease.*** (John 3:30)
"and the two shall become one flesh." ***This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church.***" (Ephesians 5:31)
- B. Making it practical: How do we engage in the activity dialogue with the Holy Spirit?
1. Position ourselves in an environment where we can be all present to the Lord - and He can be all present to us.
 2. Ask the Holy Spirit to instruct your heart, soul, mind and strength from the the Word of God. The Bible is the Holy Spirit's authoritative dialogue material. Reading, studying, searching out God's Word is always an invitation into dialogue with the Word-speaking God.
 3. Come into this conversation confidently, honestly; filled with assurance that whatever the Lord has for us, is better than what we have right now. ***"Behold, You desire truth in the inward parts, and in the hidden part You will make me to know wisdom."*** (Psalm 51:6)
 4. Invite the Holy Spirit, Who ***searches the deep things of God*** (1 Corinthians 2:9-13) to reveal the qualities of Jesus and His Kingdom, to our seeking hearts.
 5. As the Holy Spirit shows us these qualities in Jesus (Ephesians 1:17) we revel and thrill, and glory, and worship Him for what He's like. This is vital. This reveling engages our emotions and our heart increases in its longing for these qualities to be manifest on the earth - and in ourselves (1 John 3:1-3)
 6. Ask the Holy Spirit to give us these very same qualities of Jesus. As I sit in His presence, I actually say: ***"Holy Spirit, speak Your living Words to my heart."***
Examples: We see humility in Jesus and we ask for humility. We see love in Jesus, and we ask for love. We see power in Jesus, and we ask Jesus for power.
 7. With precisely the same power that God used to create 300 billion galaxies the Holy Spirit looks into the void of our soul and says ***"Bara! Let there be...!"*** (Genesis 1:14) and where there was once *nothing*, (*ex nihilo*) the Spirit speaks, and now manifestation of Christ's likeness is birthed in us.
 8. As we experience Him releasing these values into our souls we give thanks. ***Thank you, Holy Spirit!*** Those who have given themselves to this dynamic will naturally become a part of the universal chorus of Revelation 7:12 ***"Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom, thanksgiving and honor and power and might, be to our God forever and ever. Amen."***
- C. There are hundreds of words that the Holy Spirit longs to ***declare*** into the heart of the Bride. These Words are divine and have supernatural power to establish us in Christ, and fill us with vibrant Christlikeness.
EXAMPLES:
- ***Be holy, for I am holy.*** (1 Peter 1:16)
 - ***I have given them Your Word... so that the love you have loved me with may be in them, and I may be in them.*** (John 17:14, 26)
 - ***I will make you joyful in My House of Prayer.*** (Isaiah 56:7)
 - ***Have this mind in you that was also in Christ Jesus.*** (Philippians 2:5)
 - ***You are my hiding place; You shall preserve me from trouble; You shall surround me with songs of deliverance.*** (Psalm 32:7)

V. DISCIPLESHIP

- A. If I want to maximize the power of God speaking God into my life I need to give myself to a company of people who see the vision and are intent on SPEAKING GOD with each other - powerfully cultivating the vibrant image of Jesus in all aspects of my life. This is the furnace of discipleship.
Who is speaking the truth of God into your life in love, so that you **grow up in all aspects into Him**?
Who is committed to cultivating His power within you with Frequency? Longevity? Intentionality? Intimacy? and Intensity?

VI. WITNESSING

- A. Witnessing and evangelism is simply bringing our dialogue with/about God to the lost, and inviting them into it. This is one reason why prophecy, words of knowledge, encouragement and wisdom are so very potent in our evangelistic engagements. As we proclaim the Word of God into another person's life (believer or unbeliever) the Holy Spirit begins to establish a holy dialogue with the individual; one that reproduces the vibrant life of Jesus in the other person.

VII. END-TIMES

The day of the Lord is great and terrible; who can endure it? (Joel 2:11)

- A. The day of the Lord will be filled with great calamity (terrible) and it will be filled with great opportunity. The end times will combine the most severe persecution in the history of the world, with the most fruitful outpouring of the Holy Spirit in the history of the world.
- B. It's vital that we learn how to engage God in dialogue now.
1. In the heat of the end-times crises, how can we cultivate and maintain a vibrant life of Jesus in our own lives, and in the lives of others if we haven't already developed the muscle and the skill of dialoguing with God?
In the hour of great calamity you're not going to want to suddenly have to do something that's abnormal to your lifestyle. You don't want to have to learn to swim in the hour when your ship goes down in the Pacific.
Therefore, let everyone who is godly pray to You in a time when You may be found; Surely in a flood of great waters they will not reach him. (Psalm 32:6)
 2. ***"Who can endure it?"*** is a question designed to ask ourselves if we're willing to do the difficult, disciplined, preparatory work *now* that will enable us to endure and stand in fidelity to Jesus *and His purposes* through that ***terrible*** day?

And His Bride has made herself ready. (Revelation 19:7)