

SPECIAL DELIVERY

MARCH 2022

The Bible reveals Jesus as Immanuel, God with us. Many people have seen how good God is after they have read about Jesus in the books of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. Others have had direct encounters with him through dreams, visions, angels or prophetic words. The Bible is filled with many such examples including the Christmas story characters of Zachariah, Mary, Joseph, the shepherds and the wise men. He shows us his personal care for individuals as he often calls people by name.

- Abraham, Abraham! - Genesis 22:11-13
- Jacob, Jacob! - Genesis 46:1-4
- Moses, Moses! - Exodus 3:1-10
- Samuel, Samuel! - 1 Samuel 3:1-10
- Martha, Martha! - Luke 10:48-52
- Simon, Simon! - Luke 22:31-32
- Saul, Saul! - Acts 9

When God sent Jesus to this earth, it was a dangerous mission, but He would supply all provisions and protection necessary to accomplish the destiny of Jesus as Savior of the world. Jesus experienced that on his earthly journey, for he was always aware of the Father's presence. The Lord says to all of us - 'I will never leave you nor forsake you'. He is the Good Shepherd who calls his sheep by name. - John 10:3,14. He has a purpose for our lives and will fulfill it as we simply yield to him in child-like trust.

It is assuring to know that God still speaks to us today in different ways to encourage us on our earthly journey. **One timely word from God can impact your life or that of another person.** One way God speaks to us is through prophetic words. Prophecy may be about the future and **foretelling**, which may give some direction or point to a destiny that God wants for us, but one must be cautious about acting on such words unless they are confirmation or a witness already in one's own heart. Prophecy is more often about a present situation or need and is **forthtelling**. It is a speaking forth something from the mind and heart of God for that person or group. (However, prophecy is not fortune telling, which comes from those in tune with the hidden world of the occult and psychics etc. God says that the hidden things belong to him - Deuteronomy 18:9-12, 29:29)

An Unusual Word From God

In September of 1990 I left the Southall Baptist church in West London where I had worked among the Indian community for several years. I joined a church planting movement called Ichthus Christian Fellowship which had about 32 congregations in SE London, I was assigned to work in one that was 60 miles east of London for the next 7 months until the following May. That particular congregation reminded me somewhat of the church in Corinth where liberty in the Holy Spirit and his gifts were prevalent. In

November we had a Sunday night worship meeting in a town hall where other churches gathered with us. The presence of God was there in a very tangible way. At the end of the meeting, people were invited to come forward if they wanted prayer for anything.

One of the members of my home group came forward to receive prayer from me. Georgina requested prayer for her husband Derek who was not a Christian. I paused for a bit and listened to see if God would show me how to pray. Right then one word surfaced to my mind and I told Georgina that I got the word..... **STRAWBERRIES**. Immediately she began to laugh and then said: "I came to the Lord in a strawberry field!!!" We then joined in prayer for the salvation of her husband Derek. He did come to the Lord about a year later!

Do you see what happened? We were in a setting where the Holy Spirit felt welcomed, there was unity among believers and Jesus was being praised and glorified in worship. It seemed easy to hear from God in that situation. He gave me a specific word of knowledge (strawberries), which was relevant to Georgina. I then prophesied (spoke forth that word) which in turn inspired our faith to believe God for Derek's salvation. **When Jesus shows us he knows about our circumstance, that means he also cares about it and desires to meet our need.**

(In that same meeting, another lady named Bridey came forward from the church with a message about me. She said that when Pastor T. first introduced me to her and her husband several weeks before on my first arrival there from London, she took notice that I had on this two-toned jacket. Almost a year before that, God had shown her that God was going to send an American to the church who was to become Pastor at the church. The first American to arrive would not be a good person, but the second American to show up would be the right one. She saw him wearing a two-toned blue jacket. I was that man.)

Weeks before, when I came to meet with Pastor T. and the other elder, it was decided that Pastor T. would take on the role of evangelist, Tom would do the counseling and I would take on the Pastoral role. However, over time Pastor T. seemed to become insecure and jealous. Since I was living with Pastor T. and his wife for the 7 month period, it became quite a challenging time for me. By the following May I returned to Ichthus in London to finish my course there for the rest of the summer. After all the details came out later about Pastor T., my team leaders in London told me; 'We feel like we should give you your money back.'

Although they did not return my course money, which was fine with me, it at least showed that they appreciated what I had endured during my time there. I will share more lessons from this story in another message.

About 3 years ago, one of my pastors in our church in NY state gave a message about encouraging others. For the next few days I kept hearing the following phrase in my mind, which I felt God wanted me to share with Julie, a single mom in our church who I sensed felt fragile and needed God's comfort.

A bruised reed he will not break - Isaiah 42:3a

As I prayed further during the week God gave me some additional scriptures which I felt he wanted me to share with her. At the end of the next Sunday church service I had a couple join me in prayer as we prayed for Julie. I spoke the above word over her and then shared excerpts from Isaiah 40:10-11 of how **Jesus rules with a powerful arm but also is a gentle shepherd who gathers his lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart.** When I had finished praying for her, Michelle shared what God had showed her about Julie. She said that just before I had given the word about Jesus carrying his lambs, she had a vision of Jesus carrying Julie in his arms along a beach. (Some people tend to get pictures from God at times whereas I generally get words for people.)

God is all knowing, all powerful and all caring. He uses his people to share glimpses of those things to those who will be blessed from it. People sometimes ask us what we do. For one thing, we could tell them we are in the Special Delivery business. We bring messages from the heavenly headquarters to specific persons.

Would you like to get words from God to share with others? You can start with asking God to fill you with the Holy Spirit. Jesus walked in the fullness of the Spirit and was always listening to what the Father had in mind. He was often **'moved with compassion'** for the hurting people of his day. He prayed to his Father and was given wisdom and power to move in the supernatural. In recent years I have prayed that God would make Isaiah 11:2-3 a greater reality in my life as it was with Jesus.

**And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him,
the Spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the Spirit of counsel and might,
the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.
And his delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.
He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
or decide disputes by what his ears hear. Isaiah 11:2-3 ESV**

The apostle Paul implores Christians to pursue the love God mentioned in 1 Corinthians 13 and then be eager to prophesy. This is meant to bring strength, encouragement and comfort to people - 1 Corinthians 14:4

Eagerly pursue and seek to acquire [this] love [make it your aim, your great quest]; and earnestly desire and cultivate the spiritual endowments (gifts), especially that you may prophesy ([a]interpret the divine will and purpose in inspired preaching and teaching).
1 Corinthians 14:1 AMP Classic

Preaching is **proclaiming** a message from God. **Teaching** is **explaining** God's words. Normally we think of this as being done in a public church service, but God also brings messages to individuals in various places and ways.

SPECIAL DELIVERY OF A ROYAL MESSAGE

Doug and Wendy have been special friends of mine for over 35 years. We have encouraged one another for many years. God has blessed us all with a hunger for 'Life in the Holy Spirit' for many decades. We had a new burst of faith and friendship connection when the 2014 Prayer Revival took place at a little country church in rural western NY state every Tuesday evening, which went on for several years there. God awakened dormant spiritual gifts in our lives as we gathered with a small group of young people who were mostly in their 20's, but there were others in their teens, 30's, 40's, 50's, 60's and 70's. I would later describe us all as the 'Tuesday Twelve.'

On a Wednesday morning in Florida in November 2018, I felt led of the Holy Spirit to send Doug the following e-mail to his home in Pennsylvania. Little did I realize that it would be a 'Special Delivery' message from God to Doug. Here is the actual message I sent. (I signed it using my middle name Elton)

SIR DOUGLAS

Nov. 28, 2018 9:20 AM

In England, some of their influential citizens have been knighted by the Royal family. eg. Sir Elton John etc. God has knighted his special servants too. So I am safe in calling you Sir Douglas. When we step into heaven, we will learn our new names.

John Elton

Doug later contacted me and said that on the night before I sent my message to him, he had been on his knees at home and had fervently asked the Lord several times:

'God knight me! God knight me! God knight me!'

God is so awesome. He sees us. He hears us. He sends special messages at just the right time to encourage us. God is not just powerful, He is compassionate and personal.

Several years ago I was in a meeting in Florida when Ken Gaub shared the following testimony. It is also included in his book entitled: **God's Got Your Number.** (After reading the following story, you may want to pause for a moment and simply thank God that he knows your situation in life and really cares about you. He wants you to believe that.)

A Story by Ken Gaub

Do you believe that God not only loves you, but knows where you are and what you are doing every minute of the day? I certainly do after an amazing experience I had several years ago. At the time I was driving on I-75 near Dayton, Ohio with my wife and children. We turned off the highway for a rest and refreshment stop. My wife Barbara and children went into the restaurant. I suddenly felt a need to stretch my legs, so I waved them off ahead, saying I'd join them later. I bought a soft drink, and as I walked toward a Dairy Queen, feelings of self-pity shrouded my mind.

I loved the Lord and my ministry, but I felt drained, burdened. My cup was empty. Suddenly the impatient ringing of a telephone nearby jarred me out of my doldrums. It was coming from a phone booth at a service station on the corner. Wasn't anyone going to answer the phone?

Noise from the traffic flowing through the busy intersection must have drowned out the sound because the service station attendant continued looking after his customers, oblivious to the ringing.

'Why doesn't somebody answer the phone?' I muttered. I began reasoning. It may be important. What if it's an emergency? Curiosity overcame my indifference. I stepped inside the booth and picked up the phone - "Hello," I said casually and took a big sip of my drink. The operator said:

"Long distance for Ken Gaub". My eyes widened, and I almost choked on a chunk of ice. Swallowing hard, I said, "You're crazy!" Then realizing that I shouldn't speak to an operator like that, I added, 'This can't be! I was walking down the road, not bothering anyone, and the phone was ringing....'

"Is Ken Gaub there?" the operator interrupted, "I have a long distance call for him". It took me a moment to gain control of my babbling, but I finally replied, "Yes, he is here." Searching for a possible explanation, I wondered if I could possibly be on Candid Camera! Still shaken, perplexed, I asked, "How in the world did you reach me here? I was walking down the road, the pay phone started ringing, and I just answered it on chance. You can't mean me."

"Well" the operator asked, "Is Mr. Gaub there or isn't he?" "Yes, I am Ken Gaub" I said, finally convinced by the tone of her voice that the call was real. Then I heard another voice say, "Yes, that's him, operator. That's Ken Gaub."

I listened dumbfounded to a strange voice identify herself. "I am Millie from Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. You don't know me Mr. Gaub but I'm desperate. Please help me".

"What can I do for you?" She began weeping. Finally she regained control. "I was about to commit suicide, I had just finished writing a note, when I began to pray and tell God I really didn't want to do this. Then I suddenly remembered seeing you on television and thought if I could just talk to you, you could help me. I knew that was impossible because I did not know how to reach you, I did not know anyone who could help me find you. Then some numbers came to my mind, and I scribbled them down."

At this point she began weeping again, and I prayed silently for wisdom to help her. She continued. "I looked at the numbers and thought, 'Wouldn't it be wonderful if I had a miracle from God, and he has given me Ken's number?'. I decided to try calling it. I can't believe I'm talking to you. "Are you in your office in California?"

I replied, "Lady, I don't have an office in California. My office is in Yakima, Washington."

A little surprised, she asked, "Oh really, then where are you?" "Don't you know?" I responded. "You made the call."

She explained. "But I don't even know what area I am calling. I just dialed the number that I had on this paper." "Ma'am, you won't believe this, but I'm in a phone booth in Dayton, Ohio."

'Really?' she exclaimed. 'Well, what are you doing there?' I kidded her gently, 'Well, I am answering the phone. It was ringing as I walked by, so I answered it.'

Knowing this encounter could only have been arranged by God, I began to counsel the woman. As she told me of her despair and frustration, the presence of the Holy Spirit flooded the phone booth giving me words of wisdom beyond my ability. In a matter of moments, she prayed the sinner's prayer and met the One who would lead her out of her situation into a new life.

I walked away from that telephone booth with an electrifying sense of our Heavenly Father's concern for each of his children. What were the astronomical odds of this happening? With all the millions of phones and innumerable combinations of numbers, only an all knowing God could have caused that woman to call that number in that phone booth at that moment in time.

Forgetting my drink and nearly bursting with exhaustion, I headed back to my family, wondering if they would believe my story. Maybe I better not tell this, I thought, but I could not contain it. "Barb, you won't believe this! God knows where I am!"

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