

Notes for the Ones Called-Out to Meet

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Expect Communication From God

by Dan Trygg

“In many portions and in many ways God previously was speaking to the fathers by the prophets. In these last days, He has spoken to us through a Son, who He placed as heir of all things, and through whom He made the ages.” Hebrews 1:1,2

“When Jacob awoke from his sleep, he said, ‘Surely Yahweh is in this place, and I did not know it.’¹⁷ He was afraid and said, ‘What an awesome place this is! This is none other than the house of God. This is the gate of heaven.’” Genesis 28:16-17

“One thing have I desired of Yahweh, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of Yahweh all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of Yahweh, and to inquire/seek/meditate/consider in His dwelling-place.” Psalm 27:4

It is amazing to see how many of the people in the Bible were impacted by an experience of God in some way. God *spoke* to Noah, and told him to build an ark (Gen. 6:13ff.). He *called* Abram to leave his father’s house and go to a place He would *show* him, promising a seven-fold blessing (Gen. 12:1-3). God Almighty *acted on his behalf* in life situations, and *revealed Himself* in an awesome covenant-making experience (Gen. 15). God personally *appeared to* Isaac and Jacob to extend the covenant of Abraham to them, and through their descendants (Gen. 26:2-5; 28:10-17). After the Israelites had gone to Egypt, Yahweh *appeared to* Moses at the burning bush to *call* him to his mission (Ex. 3,4), and at numerous times throughout the wilderness journey. He *spoke* to Joshua, and *worked miraculously* on his behalf in crossing the Jordan, and in defeating the enemies of Israel (Josh. 1,3,4,6, etc.). He *sent the Angel of Yahweh* to *call* Gideon to go out to battle the Midianites, and *empowered him* with His Spirit (Judg. 6). He *encouraged him with signs*, and *amazing personal revelation*, so that his faith was strengthened to enable him to obey the voice of Yahweh (Judg. 6:36-40; 7:9-15), and turned him into the valiant warrior He initially called him. He *revealed Himself* to the boy Samuel, and established him as a credible prophet (1 Sam. 3), making him a central figure in the transition from the time of the judges to the choosing of king Saul, and the anointing of David as king. He *communicated* to David His promise to place a descendant of his to be king over Israel forever, and one who would build a house for Him (2 Sam. 7:11-15). We see in David’s life, and through his writing in the Psalms, the intimacy he cultivated and enjoyed, in his relationship with God. God used *prophetic spokespeople*, as well as *personal encounters*, to communicate with the kings in David’s line. **The scriptures are full of God’s interactions with people. There would be no spiritual history to record, if this were not true.** The writer to the Hebrews said it well, “In times past, God spoke in many portions and in many ways...” (Heb. 1:1).

After Solomon, most of the recorded instances we have of God’s communication with the kings of Israel came through prophetic spokespeople. We are given glimpses of *the divine call* which some of them received, and how God *personally worked* in their lives. Often it is just said that “*the word of Yahweh came to*” them. We know little of their personal life history, until they came on the scene in response to God’s call. At times, however, we do have a record of their call, or of some of the revelations which they received. For example, **we have a record of Isaiah’s call to be a prophetic spokesperson for God** in chapter 6 of his book. He *saw* Yahweh sitting on His throne, high and lifted up. The train of His robe filled the temple (so, obviously He was much larger and greater than that mere earthly building could contain). Fiery angels were stationed above Him, continually crying out, “Holy, holy, holy is Yahweh of Armies, the entire earth is full of His glory.” The earth shook at the voice, and the temple was filling with smoke. Isaiah cried out, “Oy! I am ruined (destroyed, cut off), because I am a person of unclean lips, and I dwell among a people of unclean lips, because the King, Yahweh of Armies, I have seen with my eyes!” Then one of the fiery angels flew over and touched his lips with a burning coal taken from the altar, saying, “Your iniquity is taken away, and your sin is forgiven.” Then he heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” Isaiah immediately responded, “Here am I, send me!” What a powerful encounter, and call to service!

In Jeremiah’s case, it is *not* recorded that he *saw* anything, but he *definitely perceived* the “word of Yahweh”. “*The word of Yahweh came to me* saying, ‘Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I have appointed you a prophet to the nations’” (Jer. 1:4-5). Like Moses, like Gideon, and like so many others, **Jeremiah tried to say he was unqualified**, “Alas, Lord Yahweh! Look, I don’t know how to speak, because I am just a youth.” Ever feel that way? *God’s answer* to Jeremiah may be instructive to you. “Everywhere I send you, you shall go; and all that I command you, you shall speak. Do NOT be afraid, for *I AM WITH YOU* to deliver you” (1:6,7). This is the virtually the same message that Yahweh spoke to Moses, centuries before, and to so many of us who have felt unqualified. What did God tell Moses? “Yahweh said to him, ‘Who has made man’s mouth? Or who makes him mute or deaf, or seeing or blind? Is it not I, Yahweh? Now then go, and I, even I, will be with your mouth,

and teach you what you are to say” (Ex. 4:11-12). See the repeated message: **God will enable us to do what He calls us to do, even if we don't see how, or are not confident about it.** This includes *both parts*: Hearing and receiving instruction, as well as carrying it out.

Now we have a greater and more complete revelation granted to us through His Son, Jesus. **A key component of our salvation is that Jesus opened the way of access to the Father** in a manner that goes far beyond what people under the Old Covenant were encouraged to expect. Not only has He removed all barriers to fellowship with God, but He encourages us to draw near. **We are encouraged to engage with God**, ...to bring Him our concerns, and the needs of those around us. **He also has given us His own Holy Spirit, whose very purpose is to teach and lead us in the will and purpose of God in our lives.** Through His ministry in our lives, God continues to speak to His people in many portions and in many ways, ...ways that are meant to be more anticipated, expected and consistent than was the case for so many over the centuries. He is sent to reveal to us all that the Father desires to give us, and we can see His very personal guidance and direction in the people of the early church (1 Cor. 2:12). We are to learn to walk in or with the Holy Spirit (Gal. 5:16-26). That requires an awareness and communication with Him that is very real and personal.

What about you? Have you had encounters with God that you can recall? How did He communicate with you? Was it a “word from the Lord”? Was it a growing awareness? Was there a dream, or a vision? Was there a still, small voice within your mind? **The way in which God communicates with you is not so important as the fact that He communicates with you, ...the awareness you have that He is, ...and the responsiveness you express in return.** **Are you looking for God to communicate with you? Are you asking Him to? Are you expecting it? Are you looking for ways in which He may be reaching out to you? Are you acknowledging it, ...or owning that it is Him?**

For me, **I begin every day asking for God to speak to me. I am looking for Him to, ...and I am expecting Him to do so.** I start *looking* and *expecting* when I sit down to read my Bible. I underline what speaks to me, and when I am done, I will go back over what I underlined. I look to see if there are patterns, or common themes, ...or some truth that really stands out for me, ...or something that seems to be God's message to *me* for that day. **Then, as I go about my day, I ask for God to lead me, ...to direct my steps, ...to make me aware of His Presence and activity in my life. I thank Him whenever I see it.** I thank Him when He provides some serendipitous blessing, or I can recognize a divine appointment. One of the most common experiences I have is when I am meeting with someone, and the study notes that I have brought along to read fit amazingly with the opening check-in conversation I had with the person I am meeting. It happens all the time. **I also see it consistently when God provides resources to meet needs, ...mine or for other people. That happens all the time, as well.** I also can recognize that through these timely provisions God is encouraging *me* to risk, to trust, and to sacrifice. He continually shows me that He is taking care of me when I am obedient. **I see Him at work when He gives me the right words to say, or helps me put together a teaching. I also recognize the unusual favor He gives me with people.** I am amazed that people I hardly know will open up to me to share their heart. I know it is not normal, ...and I know it is nothing that I have done. It is *God*, ...and I see it over and over again, and I am amazed! **Many times, God will lead me by simply drawing my attention to something.** I find my eyes being drawn to look at something, ...something that I am not really aware of..., but my eyes and my attention keep drawing me there. Sometimes it feels almost like a “pull” of some kind. Often, I initially resist it, or I don't understand it, but if I look, I can sometimes recognize what is going on. **I have learned to watch for signs or indications in people's behavior, or what they say, that show to me the presence and working of the Holy Spirit in that person's life.** Often, when I point them out, they can recognize the same thing, and are encouraged to look for more of God's activity in their lives.

In John 6:45 Jesus says, “and they shall all be taught-ones of God”. **God wants to communicate with us.** He wants to teach us. It is part of our heritage as His servants (Isa. 54:13-17). He wants to make us aware of what He is doing. **He wants us to recognize what He is doing around us, and also what He is doing within us.** He wants to teach us and lead us by His Holy Spirit. **How can we be taught by or led by the Spirit, unless we learn to recognize and respond to His working in our lives or experiences?** One of the encouraging truths from John 6:45 is that, *if we came to believe in Jesus, we were taught by God, and we were able to recognize the truth about who Jesus is!* If *that* is true, then somewhere, somehow, our spiritual receptors *are* working and discerning truth. **If I am able to recognize and discern truth there, I probably also can in other scenarios, by virtue of the Spirit's working.**

What are you doing to cultivate your communication with God? Jesus Himself would **get alone**, off by Himself, so that He could **invest unhurried time** to interact with His Father. We see David doing the same thing, in Psalm 27:4. He would **take time to worship** and ponder the wonder and delightfulness of God, and then spend time listening, meditating and inquiring of Him. And, of course, Jesus called the Holy Spirit “the Helper”. The word He chose literally means, “the One invited alongside”. **Ask.** The Spirit desires to be asked. We receive when we ask. The Greek indicates ongoing, continual asking. **Develop a mindset to ask and look for God's communication to you.**