

WHY
doesn't
GOD
Speak to me?

LYNN HARDY



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Books in the Believers' Boot Camp series:

Volume One

WHY DOESN'T GOD SPEAK TO ME?

Volume Two

KEYS TO AUTHORITY FOR EVERY BELIEVER

Volume Three

**DESTROYING CURSES IN THE COURTS OF
HEAVEN**

(Available in the Fall of 2017)

Volume Four

ROADMAP TO HEAVEN

(Forthcoming)

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Believers' Boot Camp Series

People think of boot camp as a place you train for combat. Any veteran will tell you that basic training is about three things:

- Knowing what weapons are available
- Learning how to use those weapons
- Receiving orders and following them

Believers' Boot Camp series, published in 2016–2017, is a collection of books I authored, which teach us how to hear more clearly from God with the goal to ready ourselves for a face-to-face meeting with our Lord, Jesus. The series reveals the “weapons and tools” God has given us and how to use them, so we can bring God’s kingdom to Earth. Each book in the series focuses on a single topic to clearly define one tool or weapon from our Heavenly Father.

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The series uses the Word of God to reveal all that He has given us through Jesus. The Bible is our instruction manual and the Holy Spirit is our guide to understanding it. “Why Doesn’t God Speak to Me?” explains the basics of how and why God speaks and shows you how to hear more from your Commander in Chief.

May God flood the eyes of your heart with understanding so that you can know and understand all that He has for you.

The Unsatisfactory Answers

For years my husband persisted in asking me, “Why won’t God just say ‘hi’ to everyone on the planet? You say that He is love, and that people go to Hell for not believing in Him. It seems like if He really loved us that much He would at least say ‘hi,’ then we would *know* that He is real.”

In response to his constant questioning I dutifully gave each answer as it had been given to me:

- It would eliminate the need for faith.
- He can’t because of our sin.
- He speaks when it is necessary.
- It would violate our free will.

My husband’s tenacious, logical mind kept him from being satisfied with any of

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these. He complained, “I keep asking to hear from Him and He has yet to say a word!”

I was left with only one thing to say, the last resort for most Christians: “I guess there are some things we just won’t know until we get to Heaven.”

Until recently, being left in the dark about this didn’t bother me like it did him, but with good reason: I was on the opposite side of the coin. Within a year of renewing my relationship with the Lord, He had spoken to me in an audible voice. I had been instantly, miraculously healed of medically documented, serious conditions numerous times (a deviated septum, torn rotator cuff, bulging disc causing mind seizures). I had also seen angels and demons on many occasions (See “Angels Believe in You” for these testimonies, FREE on Kindle, Nook and my website).

In the summer of 2016, my perspective on hearing from God changed when I read a book about a woman, let us call her Judy,

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who began seeing Jesus when she prayed and worshipped Him in her bed each night. For two weeks, the Lord would take Judy to a garden in Heaven that was created specifically for her. After reading a few of the amazing accounts of the unique, unforgettable way the Lord taught Judy important lessons, I put the book down consumed with frustration.

My journey with the Lord, documented in “Angels Believe in You,” may make for an interesting read, but the truth of the matter is that it was years of painful lessons and failures. It took me more than a decade to learn what the Lord had showed her in two weeks with half a dozen trips to Heaven! “Lord,” my heart cried, “why did I have to go through all that? You have told me that I’m supposed to visit You in Heaven... why couldn’t You have brought me sooner? Then I wouldn’t have had to go through all that pain?”

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“Blessed is he who believes and does not see,” I remembered Him telling His disciples.

Those words put the matter to rest for me, but being on the other side, however briefly, made the issue of not hearing from God much more real to me. The more I thought about it, the more the typical reasons just didn’t make sense.

One night, a cry came out from the very depths of my soul, “God, none of these things explain why a loving God would let so many people suffer in Hell for all eternity... I must know who You are! Why don’t you speak to them?”

Over the next five hours, God used pieces of what I had learned about Him over the years to solve the puzzle that has plagued both Christians and non-Christians for generations. First, I stated my arguments concerning why none of these answers lined up with the Word of God (Bible) and who I knew Him to be. Then He showed me why He does and doesn’t speak to people.

NEGATING OUR FAITH

Often whenever I would talk to other Christians about why God seems to talk to some people and not others they would say, “Believing in God takes faith. If He just spoke to people, they wouldn’t need faith to believe in Him.” As a new Christian, this seemed to make sense. However, the more I read the Bible, the less confidence I had in this answer.

The story of Abraham contradicts this answer. Here is the shortened version of the classic Bible story of the man who is said to be the spiritual father of every Christian:

God spoke to Abram, the son of an idol maker: people considered these clay idols to be representative of actual gods – they would pray to them. I think it is safe to say that Abram didn’t know God at this time. Then, one day, God spoke to him and said, Abram, go away from your father’s people and your

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country and I will make a great nation of you.

Abram eventually became Abraham who is called the father of our faith because he believed God and this faith in God was counted as righteousness: right standing with God. (Genesis 15:6, Romans 4:3-6)

This story shows that hearing God speak does not mean instant belief and faith. The fact that Abraham had faith gave him right standing (righteousness) before God. If faith came instantly, there would be no reward for having it – faith would be the natural result of God’s voice. This means that hearing God speak to you doesn’t eliminate the need for faith.

SIN SEPARATION

But your iniquities (knowingly sinning) have made a separation between you and God, and your

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sins have hidden His face from you, so that He will not hear. (Isaiah 59:2)

This verse is used to justify why God doesn't speak to some people. They claim that God is separated from us because of our sin; that God's holiness cannot tolerate sin. Let us look at these two issues one at a time:

- **Sin Separates us from God:** There is some truth in that. Jesus came to bridge the gap by taking all sin upon Himself and giving us His perfect life so that we can be reunited with our Creator as He originally intended (2 Corinthians 5:21; Hebrews 2:9). Yet, God still spoke to Abraham even though there was a separation. This means sin doesn't keep God from speaking to us when He wants. If you look closely at this verse, it says God will not hear us, hear our prayers, it doesn't say we cannot hear Him. Also consider the fact that if God couldn't

speaking because of sin, this would mean sin was more powerful than God.

▪ **Sin cannot be in the presence of God:**

This is not supported by the Bible, quite the opposite. There are three very good examples of this:

1. The Book of Job begins with Satan being in Heaven before the throne. Satan is evil; sin incarnate. If Satan can be before God talking with Him about Job, then God can speak to people who are in sin. (Job 1:6-12)
2. The story of Abraham illustrates this point: God spoke to Abraham while he was still with his father who made idols – I sincerely doubt he believed in God and was without sin when God first spoke to him. (Genesis 12, Joshua 42:2)
3. Paul, who wrote most of the New Testament, was originally called Saul. Then one day, while he was pursuing

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Christians to torture and crucify them, Jesus appeared to him. I'm pretty sure it was a sin to be killing Christians.
(Acts 9:1-12)

It is apparent that God can speak to us even if we don't believe in Him and while we are in sin. Yet, why doesn't He speak to more people who are lost or don't believe in Him? Surely a simple "Hello" in an audible voice would give people a heads up that He is real so they could find Him and Jesus easier.

VIOLATING FREE WILL

I have also heard, and repeated to others, that if God spoke to everyone it would take away our free will to believe or not believe in Him. We would know for sure that He existed, thus having faith in Him is no longer an act of our free will. This isn't accurate at all when it is presented this way, however

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free will does play into why God doesn't speak to some people.

When I began really pursuing God with my whole heart to answer this question, the first thing He did was take me step-by-step to fully understand what exactly free will is. It was shocking how little I actually comprehended when I began to examine the concept. It was easiest to understand once I looked at it from the beginning of the history of man.

Adam and Eve

Jewish commentary in the “Tellaḥim” – commentary on the Book of Psalms – ties Psalm 139:16 to Genesis 5:1. “Your eyes saw my unformed substance, and in Your book all the days were written before ever they took shape.” It continues, “This is the book of the generations of the offspring of Adam.” These ancient rabbinic writings indicate this verse refers to a council God, Jesus, and the

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Holy Spirit had before the world was created. God showed Adam all the generations that would come from him: The prophets, teachers, and great men and what each would do. Adam knew the number of their days and the steps they would take. If God has a book with our destiny in it, do we even have free will? A book may hold the destiny for which we were created yet it is up to us to fulfill it. (Follow me on Amazon to be notified about a future book about the Courts of Heaven which explains the books in Heaven. It will FREE.)

Prior to creation, God had lots of servants – a Heavenly host including the angels. Then He wanted children – a family. In order for this new creation to have free will, they had to have a choice and He had to give them the authority to make it. God made Adam and Eve perfect and complete, just like Him. He placed them in a perfect garden He created and gave Earth to them:

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God said, Let Us [Father, Son, and Holy Spirit] make mankind in Our image, after Our likeness, and let them have complete authority over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, the [tame] beasts, and over all of the earth, and over everything that creeps upon the earth... And God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful, multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it [using all its vast resources in the service of God and man]; and have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, and over every living creature that moves upon the earth.” (Genesis 1:26 & 28 AMPC)

*This is quoted from an Amplified translation of the Bible:

- Brackets surround phrases and words that were added to help explain the meaning of the original text.
- Parenthesis and dashes (–) signify additional meanings included in the original words

Adam and Eve were supposed to make more humans to increase the size of God’s

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family. He gave mankind control and He gave them a choice in the form of a tree. If they wanted more than what He gave them, there was the tree of knowledge, which contained intimacy with everything, even that which wasn't God. He warned them not to eat from it. He knew if they disobeyed Him there would be a separation between Him and mankind. In time it would mean death, not only to Adam and Eve but also to many who came after them. Adam and Eve knew and talked with God, yet they still had the free will to choose.

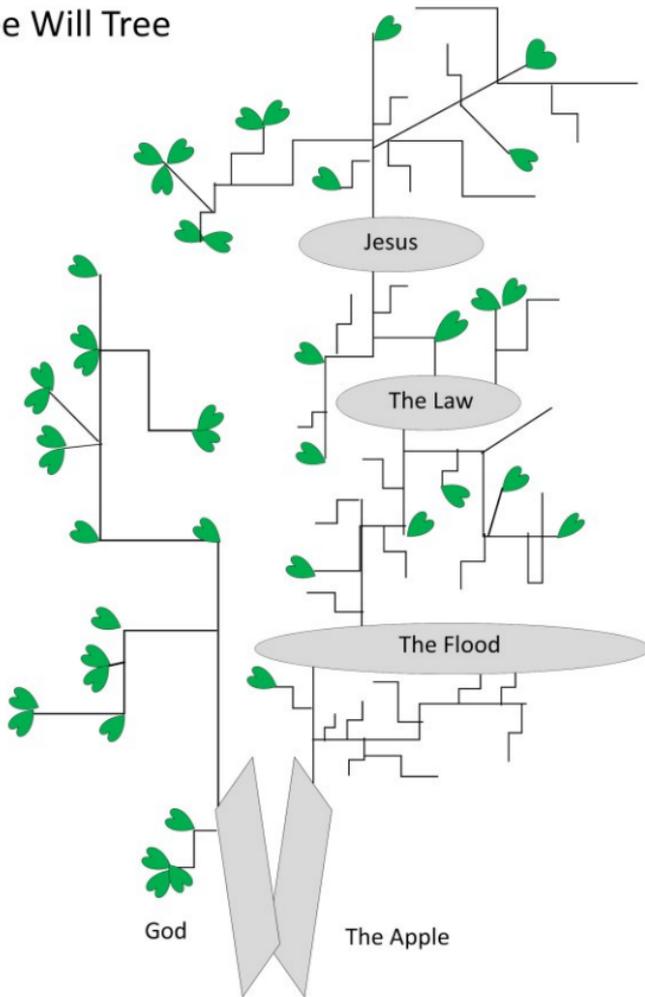
Think of the destiny of man like a tree with a V-shaped trunk. One side of the trunk leads to branches (our lives) filled with leaves (people who eventually become children of God). If they chose not to eat from the tree of knowledge, every branch would lead to a leaf (a child of God) because they would still be connected to God. There would be no sin and no separation from God.

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The other side of the trunk is the path that was chosen when Adam and Eve ate the fruit from the tree of knowledge. It is a cluster of live and dead branches. Live branches (people living out the destiny God planned for them) lead to paths God intends for us and produces many leaves (children of God) along the way. Withered branches with no leaves are people who never become part of God's family, whose lives are lived without considering the destiny God created them for.

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Free Will Tree



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This is why it says:

The Lord regretted that He had made mankind on the earth, and He was [deeply] grieved in His heart. (Genesis 6:6)

God is all knowing, but we have free will. He knew that Eve might be tricked and Adam would follow his wife away from the original path and the destiny He had for them. God also knew exactly what it would cost to repair the damage: the life of His son Jesus.

It is important to note that before Adam and Eve made their choice, they had complete authority over the Earth; it was given to a human man and woman with a physical body. (Genesis 3) Satan had to be in a physical body (of a snake) to get that authority from them. Although neither Satan nor Lucifer was named in the aforementioned verse, Ezekiel 28:13 tells us

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that Satan was the anointed cherub sent to Eden.

After Adam and Eve were tricked, Satan became the ruler of this world.

Satan, who is the god of this world, has blinded the minds of those who don't believe. (2 Corinthians 4:4)

God prepared a human body for Jesus so that through His obedience unto death, He could take back all authority under Heaven and Earth.

Hence, when He [Christ] entered into the world, He said, Sacrifices and offerings You have not desired, but instead You have made ready a body for Me [to offer]; (Hebrews 10:5)

Jesus approached and, breaking the silence, said to them, "All authority (all power of rule) in heaven and on earth has been given to Me." (Matthew 28:18)

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There is a great battle in the spiritual realm, two sides fighting to influence man so that their will can be done on Earth. One is an interloper and one is the King. This is why free will is so important. There are major events that must occur for God to achieve what He set out to obtain: an eternal family in Heaven. There are branches that must be in place to lead to the next necessary element. Before time began, God knew if the path of the tree of knowledge was established, there would be a series of necessary events throughout time that would have to occur in order to bring humanity back to Him.

This is basic to the idea of free will. The choices we make determine not only how fruitful our lives are here on Earth, but what branches are open to us in the future. Knowing God exists doesn't change the fact that you still have the right to choose to do it His way or not. Adam and Eve walked and

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talked with God, yet they still chose to do what God had told them not to do.

God is all-knowing. He knew exactly what the consequences were of this act of free will: how many souls would be lost and what it would take to get the family He wanted with sin in the world taking so many from Him. This is why their disobedience grieved Him so. He gave Adam free will and they chose the path that would be so much harder for mankind. At that moment, He grieved for every lost soul that was to come.

The Lord regretted that He had made mankind on the earth, and He was [deeply] grieved in His heart. (Genesis 6:6)

ONLY WHEN NECESSARY

A televangelist once asked God why He had spoken to Oral Roberts, Kenneth Hagen, and several other mighty men of God, yet Jesus had never appeared to him. God's answer came in the small, quiet voice of the

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Holy Spirit, “I give to man what is necessary. If the journey is going to be long and hard they will need to hear directly from me to complete the task.”

This answer satisfied me for many years. After all, God spoke to me and it was fifteen years before I even knew why He said what He did and how it was coming to pass in my own life. During that time, it was hard to hold onto the promise He had given me, year after year. I could definitely understand how hearing his audible voice gave me the strength I needed when it would have been easier to just give up.

Although this answer is true, it still doesn't explain why some people die without the opportunity to know God even exists. Why would a loving God not speak to people before they perish? Surely it was “necessary” for them to hear His voice?

Why God Doesn't Speak

We see through a plethora of Bible stories that God speaks to select individuals, regardless of the state of their relationship with Him or their sin: Abraham, Moses, and Paul are three of the most well-known. Why doesn't He speak to more people? I needed to know about free will, Satan, judgment, and the attributes of God to fully understand this concept. Of these four, the judgment of God and who He is are the key components.

GOD IS...

God is love, yes, but God is also just. (2 Thessalonians 1:6) The Bible refers to him as the Just Judge. Being just means being fair. Knowing this is critical to knowing why God speaks to some people and not to others.

The key to understanding why God doesn't usually speak to us in demonstrative

ways stems from the fact that many Christians do not believe that God judges them. Most Christians are familiar with the grace of God and believe that, as Christians, we are free of God's judgment. Like most things, there is some truth in that, but we need to know the full truth.

JUDGMENT FROM GOD

Let us establish a few things about Heaven so that we can better understand the concept of judgment:

God created man in His image. We are made in the image of God and are 'like God.' (Genesis 1:27) "Like God" doesn't mean we are the *same* as God, but it does mean that we share much in common. A flower is like a tree: both need water and sunlight and both have leaves and roots. But a tree is much bigger, much grander than a flower and it can provide shade to flowers.

Since we are like God, doesn't it make sense that Earth is 'like' Heaven? Wouldn't God put us in an environment similar to His? All accounts

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from people who have visited Heaven tell us that it resembles Earth; it is just so much more.

The Bible tells us that there is an organization to Heaven. His word literally talks of God's court and Jesus as our advocate or counselor.

Courts of Heaven

Enter His gates with thanksgiving; go into His courts with praise. (Psalms 100:4, NIV)

Thus says the Lord of hosts, 'If you will walk in My ways [that is, remain faithful] and perform My service, then you will also govern My house and have charge of My courts, and I will give you free access [to My presence] among these who are standing here. (Zechariah 3:7)

Many people assume that Psalms 100:4 is referring to a courtyard, an entryway into a dwelling. The Hebrew used here could be translated as courtyard, playground, or King's court. Isn't courtyard usually a singular place? This usage of "courts" is plural. There are levels to the courts of

Heaven, which will be discussed in another book; this lends to the fact that this verse could very well refer to a courtroom.

Regardless of where you stand on Psalms 104, there are additional verses that refer to God's court and also refer to Him as Judge.

God is Judge

A stream of fire came forth from before Him; a thousand thousands ministered to Him and ten thousand times ten thousand rose up and stood before Him; the Judge was seated [the court was in session] and the books were opened. (Daniel 7:10)

...and to the general assembly and assembly of the firstborn who are registered [as citizens] in heaven, and to God, who is Judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous (the redeemed in heaven) who have been made perfect [bringing them to their final glory]. (Hebrews 12:23 AMPC)

Jesus is our Advocate

The Greek word *paraklētos* is defined as one who pleads another's cause before a judge, counsel for defense.

...and to Jesus, the Mediator of a new covenant [uniting God and man], (Hebrews 12:24 AMP)

My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. (1 John 2:1 NIV)

Satan is the Adversary

The Hebrew word Satan literally means adversary, accuser, in a courtroom setting: prosecuting attorney.

Then I heard a strong (loud) voice in heaven, saying, now it has come—the salvation and the power and the kingdom (the dominion, the reign) of our God, and the power (the sovereignty, the authority) of His Christ (the Messiah); for the

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accuser of our brethren, he who keeps bringing before our God charges against them day and night... (Revelation 12:9 AMPC)

Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour. (1 Peter 5:8 KJV)

The Bible also tells us that we have been justified and saved from God's wrath by the blood of Jesus. (Romans 5:9) However, just as we are saved by the blood, we have to accept it, claim it, and submit to His authority: it isn't automatic. We don't get to go to Heaven because we know Jesus is the Son of God. Even the demons know this and they tremble at His name. (James 2:19) We have to take Jesus as Lord – the word "lord" means owner. Likewise, we have to appropriate our justice by the blood of Jesus.

There are specific guidelines in the Bible about how to operate in the courts of Heaven. I go into great detail about how these courts operate and how to be

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victorious every time in the courts through the blood of Jesus in a forthcoming book about the Courts of Heaven (It will be FREE on Kindle, Nook, and my website). Jesus took all the wrath of God upon Himself. However, He never said He destroyed the courts, only that we have victory through Him. Since the courts of Heaven are still there, then judgments are still coming from God.

The judgment of God became crystal clear when I began to look into the life of a man of God, let us call him John, who had a strong gift for interpreting dreams and visions – he stopped counting the interpretations at 46,000. John also had a real gift for teaching.

I was diving into everything I could find from his teachings when I discovered that he had recently passed away at the age of sixty-four from a rare form of cancer. “How could this be? His ministry prayed for hundreds if not thousands who were instantly healed. He had been to Heaven twice... he had such

amazing gifts! How could a sickness strike him down when the Bible tells us that it is God's will for us to have a long, full life?" (Psalms 91:16, John 10:10)

The Holy Spirit urged me to look into this. There were three items that revealed why John left at such an early age and it perfectly explains judgments from God.

First

He was taken to Heaven and before the throne of God. John explained that he spent minutes thrusting his hands out before him defensively, screaming "Aaaahhhh" in terror because of the tremendous power of God. When he returned, he railed at God for three days, "God, why do you let people suffer? With one tiny drop of your power I could walk up to every hospital in the city and command them to come forth healed in the name of Your Son!"

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God's answer was a strong and firm voice, "I long to give gifts to men more than men long to receive gifts from me, but I don't want to give men a gift that I will have to judge them for later. You, John, could not handle the adoration of man that would come with what you ask."

After learning this, I began to wonder what could have brought a judgment from the courts of Heaven that could remove a man at such an early age when he had seen God face-to-face. Then I heard about his miraculous trip to Jerusalem.

Second

One week before John was to leave to guide a group on a trip in Israel, his business partner, who was handling the finances and travel arrangements, left town and took all the money the people had given for their trip with him. John felt God wanted him to do the responsible thing and make good on the

promise that was given to the twenty-two people who had trusted him with their money so he took out a loan for \$50,000 to pay for the promised trip.

Back in the 1980s, this was more than three times his annual income. Because of this, John was quite irritated and not acting very godly as they visited Jerusalem. That night two angels appeared beside his bed. Each angel grabbed one of his arms as they said, “The Lord has need of you, come with us.”

John looked back over his shoulder as he was being hauled bodily from the room. His wife lay asleep on the bed—his body was not next to hers. He knew that this was actually happening to his physical body, it was not an out-of-body experience.

The two angels took him through the hotel wall, and time and space bent around John, as it seemed like they were traveling hundreds of miles per hour. With a thud, he landed on a street paved with stones. The

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first thing that hit him was the smell. John had only been queasy once in his life, but the intense odor of animals and their feces mixed with overpowering human body odor was enough to gag him—he thought surely he would die from the stench alone.

Gone were the pajamas he was wearing; now John was dressed in robes that reached down to his sandaled feet. A corded belt held the robes together. He knew instantly that he was on Market Street in Jerusalem in the time of David. He also knew that he had to go up one side of the street and tell everyone three things: Saul's reign would soon end, David would be the next king, and David would restore Israel to greatness again.

Not knowing what else to do, John went to the first person and relayed what God had told him. Even though he thought in English, when he spoke it came out in Hebrew. When the person responded, he heard them speaking in Hebrew, but understood in English what they were saying. He received

many types of answers. Some said, “Yes, yes, we know, Saul killed thousands and David killed tens of thousands” or “long live King David!” Some people asked if he was a prophet and wanted to talk to him, but he quickly excused himself and got on with the job God assigned to him.

While making his way from person to person, John’s thoughts were going wild: How will I support myself here? I could be a carpenter... but do they even have saws yet? What will my wife do? I will be “that pastor who deserted the tour group in Israel in the middle of the night!” She won’t be able to collect life insurance... how will she support herself?

All this went through his head as he did what he knew was his job from God. As he neared the end of the street, across the way was a small auburn-haired young man. A golden glow surrounded him that extended out by about eight inches. The young man motioned toward him, “Come here!”

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John looked around and quickly realized that the soon-to-be-king was addressing him.

David approached him and they met in the middle of the street where a cart being pulled by a donkey passed them by. David had dark auburn, wavy hair and a face that would be the envy of any male model. He stood less than five-feet tall and probably weighed one hundred pounds at the most.

David took John's hands in his own tiny, child-size hands and said, "I know whom you are and I know why you are here and I will see you again."

When the future king released his hands, John was whisked again through time and space. He landed in his jammies on his bed, bouncing with the force. His wife woke and mumbled, "Do you feel the presence of God here...it is so strong!"

The next morning, John reluctantly shared what happened with his tour group. He said they looked at him in fear, like they were

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sure he was a cult leader. Their tour guide arrived a short time later. He was very excited and insisted, “There is a brand-new exhibit, first time ever to be seen here in Jerusalem. We must go there.”

The tour group wanted to go; reluctantly John agreed to see that instead of a unique site in the Holy Land, Magdala. At the lowest level of the exhibit was the newly unearthed Market Street from the time of David—it looked exactly as John described it. The group was convinced that John’s trip was real.

After John described this event on the television show, he admitted that he still didn’t understand what the purpose of this trip was, why God sent him back in time to old Jerusalem. To me, the meaning and the purpose were easy to understand. I didn’t realize that it was the Holy Spirit who was making the meaning transparent, even while he was telling the story.

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Over the next few days, I gave the information about reason for the trip to David's Jerusalem to three different people, verbatim, just as I had discovered each piece. I asked if they knew what God was trying to tell John. All three had no idea what John was supposed to gain from the trip. At this point, I realized it was wisdom from the Holy Spirit that had brought the purpose of this experience to me. This was the beginning of the explosion of the gift of dream interpretation from the Holy Spirit.

Purpose: John was struggling with how to financially achieve what God had assigned him to do because his business partner had stolen the funds. God gave John a very powerful example of His provision:

- He took John to somewhere he couldn't get to by his own means: Jerusalem in David's time.
- He miraculously provided for John while he did God's work: He spoke and

understood Hebrew and was dressed for the job.

- After the job was over, God provided for John: there was no need to worry about a job or his family, God had taken care of everything.

God had stepped into John's life in a powerful way to give him a living parable: an example that he should have applied to his entire life. The final revelation as to why he was judged became clearer to me as I looked further into his ministry.

Third

I began looking for more information about dream interpretation from John's ministry. I saw an episode on YouTube where John was given a word from another pastor, encouraging him to train others in dream interpretation so what he is doing isn't lost when he dies. John made an agreement with God: if God would show him

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how to train others in what he did by instinct, then John would train others to interpret dreams from God.

John appeared on many Christian programs, had his own TV show, and had many books published. In addition to these, he offered a class, both online and in person. Sounds like he was doing good work, right? He really was. His work was good and shouldn't be discounted in any way, but there was one major issue that caused judgment to come from the throne of God that gave the enemy a chance to take John out.

Here was a man who heard from God regularly, saw and spoke to angels in the flesh on more than a dozen occasions, he went to Heaven more than once, and he went bodily back in time. John was able to interpret thousands of dreams for others, yet he still didn't understand why God sent him back in time to Old Jerusalem and I believe that cost him his life. Much like the dreams

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Joseph interpreted for Pharos, when it is revealed by the Holy Spirit it seems simple.

Freely you have received; freely give. (Matt. 10:8 NIV)

Jesus sent out His disciples to do his works with these words. Yet everything John had been given from God was for sale, and was not cheap. Some of the harshest reviews of his books were that all the information needed to interpret dreams was not included in these books that promised to teach you about dream interpretation. To get all the information, you had to sign up for the classes: each was \$140. This is not God's way.

I am convinced that charging for these materials resulted in a judgment from the throne of God – Satan was allowed to bring the cancer to John. God doesn't bring sickness, Satan does. Given that most preachers and evangelists charge for learning materials (even if at a more

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reasonable rate) why were the consequences for John so severe?

When I discovered that John died on my birthday, I knew God had revealed the meaning of his trip to Old Jerusalem to me for a reason. It was only weeks later that God downloaded the contents of this book to me in a prayer session with him that lasted from 11 p.m. to 4 a.m. the next morning. Knowing why John was taken from the Earth at the young age of sixty-four was a critical piece to the puzzle.

...From everyone to whom much has been given, much will be required (Luke 12:48 AMP)

God is just and fair. When God speaks to someone, He gives the enemy equal access if judgment should occur. The more God speaks to a person, the more severe the consequences. Look at Moses as an example:

The Bible tells us that he spoke with God face-to-face, not just in dreams and visions like other prophets. God moved a lot in

Moses's life. Many people think it was because Moses struck a rock in anger instead of just speaking to it that he was no longer eligible to enter the Promised Land. If you look at what Moses said right before he hit the rock, there is a bit more to it.

Then he and Aaron summoned the people to come and gather at the rock. "Listen, you rebels!" he shouted. "Must we bring you water from this rock?" (Numbers 20:10)

The word "we" is not in caps. Moses isn't talking about how God will bring water for the people; he is claiming partial credit for the miracle of bringing the water from the rock. Moses had lost sight of the who amazing the miracle was and by whose power it was being done. When used by God, we must be careful to always point to the source of the miracle.

Even so, it seems a bit harsh... all he did misspeak in a single sentence and strike out in anger. This one act caused him to lose out

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on the promise land. But this was fair. God gave Moses much and expected him to do *exactly* what He told him to do.

This is why God only gives people what they need. In the case of John, I believe God wanted to use him as an example. John referred to himself as a type of Jonah personality. He was reluctant to do what God called him to do.

God knew John's strengths and weaknesses. God knew that giving away his information about dreams and visions for free would be hugely challenging to this man who had been such a successful businessman. I believe that God used John's death every bit as much as he used John's life. The Holy Spirit revealed what John's trip meant so that in this particular time in history we could know that judgment from God is something that is still happening and what effects the severity of each judgment.

We should not discount what John brought to us about dreams and visions. Just because a man who is being used by God dies at a relatively young age doesn't

mean we should try and discredit what God brought to us through them. Yet we should try and learn as much as possible from their life, as well as their death.

Healing ministers from all over the world were praying and believing in faith for him, yet still he died. John taught and brought insight into the authority we have through Jesus, yet he died. John's death provided a living example: If a judgment exists, nothing else works against it until you take care of it in the courts of Heaven. Also, it helps to explain why God does not move powerfully and demonstratively in certain people.

Imagine, if you will, this scenario: In Heaven, God is on the judgment seat. The court is called into order. The prosecutor, Satan, steps forward, "Your Majesty, I bring charges against Joe Smith. Three days ago, You, Yourself, spoke to him and said, 'I am God!' and since then, Mr. Smith has violated the commandment of using your name in vain as he said, 'God d*mn' three times. He has not apologized for this use of Your name. Because of this violation, I demand the right to send (sickness, accident, or attack)

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against (him or his children); removing the blessing you have given him.”

If you do not know about the judgments of God or the courts of Heaven, how can you defend yourself? When you don't show up to defend yourself in court the prosecutor (Satan) automatically wins. God has no choice but to let Satan have access to you or yours.

This is one of the reasons why God doesn't speak to every person. It wouldn't be a loving, kind thing to do. It would give the enemy too much power over each person.

Why God Speaks

The question still remains, “Why does God talk to some people more than others? How does God choose who to speak to?” It is undeniable; God does speak and move more in the lives of some “chosen” people.

For many are called (invited, summoned), but few are chosen. (Matthew 22:14 AMP)

One thing about this passage always troubled me. The Greek word used for “many” is *polys*; there is a Greek word for “all;” *pas* which is not used here. Why not? Does this mean that there are some who are not called by God? Not at all! The word *polys* means “most”. Most are called and only a few are chosen.

The definition of the word used for “church” in the New Testament is “called out

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ones.” All Christians are members of the church and are called. The amplified version explains that the original Greek word for “called” means, “invited and summoned.” You can ignore or reject an invitation or a summons, but being chosen is different.

“Chosen” brings to mind memories of a schoolyard pick for sports: Everyone wanted to be chosen, and if you weren't it must have been because you weren't good enough in some way. When we are talking about the “chosen of God” this couldn't be farther from the truth. A better example would be someone who is chosen to disarm a bomb – they have some necessary skills, but if they do the job wrong, the consequences could be disastrous. They could lose an arm (a necessity) or even their very life.

As we stated earlier:

- ✓ Man had authority
- ✓ Satan took authority
- ✓ Jesus got it back

It wouldn't have been fair or just for God to just step in and 'fix' everything. It had to be done through a physical body; that is the system the Earth has been created for. All Christians on Earth are referred to as "the body" of Christ. It is through us that Jesus wields the authority He took back from Satan. God uses this system by speaking to prophets who are called "the mouthpiece of God." They say what God tells them foretelling future events. Because His prophets accept and declared these events, it gives God the authority to move upon "chosen" people to make these events happen.

There are three main distinctions to being chosen:

- You are created and placed in a specific place for a unique purpose.
- Benefits from God are more apparent in your life.
- Consequences of sin are severe.

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A few Biblical examples are:

Moses

Purpose

- leading God's people out of Egypt
-
- Benefits
- saved from the Nile and raised in Pharaoh's home
- spoke with God face-to-face
- God worked signs and wonders through Him

Consequences

- didn't get to enter the Promised Land because he said, "...shall we bring forth..." taking part of the credit for bring forth water.

Samson

Purpose

- freeing God's people from Philistines

Benefits

- angel appeared to mother to give instructions not to cut his hair
- was unstoppable in battle
- spoke with God face-to-face
- had incredible physical strength

Consequences

- Samson indulged himself with women. One of these women, Delilah, was paid to find out where his strength came from and make him weak. Delilah found out that his strength was linked to his hair. She cut his hair while he slept and handed him over to his enemies his enemies blinded him and made him a slave

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Nebuchadnezzar

Purpose

- he was used to bring God's rebellious people into captivity

Benefits

- expanded the boundaries of the Babylon empire, rebuilt temples
- received dreams from God and messages from God's prophet

Consequences

- went crazy and was forced out of his palace where he lived like an animal eating grass for seven years until he finally acknowledged God's authority

Being chosen by God may seem glamorous and fun, but only when God moves strongly through your life. The Just Judge takes all

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His demonstrations and gifts of information into consideration should Satan bring charges against you. Judgments from the Throne of God will give Satan a chance to bring severe consequences if we do not heed what God has moved to reveal.

From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked.
(Luke 12:48)

As with Nebuchadnezzar, you don't even have to be a particularly good person to be chosen for a task. He was proud and obnoxious, believing that all the victories he achieved as he enlarged the Babylonian empire was due to his own greatness. How many billionaires or kings have there been that were every bit as bad as he was yet, all of these arrogant, pompous, successful people don't go crazy.

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Nebuchadnezzar was used by God, and tried to take personal credit for his success instead of acknowledging God. Because God is kind, He sent dreams to warn Nebuchadnezzar of the coming judgment and Daniel, a prophet, to interpret the dreams. It was a full year later when the king unveiled a statue to his own greatness. In the middle of his speech, he went mad just as the dream foretold.

Not all chosen by God come to a horrific end. King David was chosen by God, and he shows us how to avoid or lessen judgment when we are chosen:

King David

Purpose

- Make Israel a powerful nation
-
- Benefits

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- Though he was very small in stature, he killed a lion and a bear.
- He killed Goliath with nothing but a sling.
- God saved him when King Saul tried to kill him.
- He became King of Israel.

Consequences

- He fell in love with a married woman and got her pregnant while her husband was leading David's army in battle. David then arranged a withdrawal of forces causing her husband to be killed in battle.
- When God's prophet, Nathan, told David that God was going to give all his wives to someone close to him (meaning David's rule would be overthrown), David repented – he confessed that he had sinned and regretted that sin in his heart. God mitigated the punishment and only the son who was conceived in the adultery died.

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To me this seems less and less like “pick me, pick me,” and more and more like, “please don't let me touch the wrong wire!” Being chosen has its benefits, but with it comes a lot of responsibility.

This begs us to question, who are His “chosen?” Why does He have them? There are two main factors that determine who God chooses. It is all tied to free will and God being just.

FREE WILL

God wants us all to know Him, but has limited His own influence to ensure free will. He could have appeared at the tree of knowledge and stopped Eve from eating the fruit, but then it would have interfered with her free will. She had to be allowed to choose something other than Him. Likewise, we have to have the opportunity to choose to know Him and accept Jesus for ourselves.

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This is why God “chooses” people for specific tasks. This limits His influence everywhere else as He pours it into the lives of those He has “chosen.” God moves upon these individuals, propelling them to use more of the authority He intended for us to have all along in order to fulfill the destiny He has planned. The “chosen” people can then reveal Him to the world and help more people find Him and avoid Hell.

Free will gives us the right to choose. We have the right to accept His plan or reject it. With “chosen” people, He designs them for a particular job and influences their life, lining up their destiny. God sends others to speak into their lives until they are on the path designed for them. Few who are “chosen” can ever escape their destiny.

God sent a storm upon the ship Jonah used to try and escape. When Jonah jumped overboard to save the ship from being destroyed, God sent a giant fish to swallow him. After being in the fish three days,

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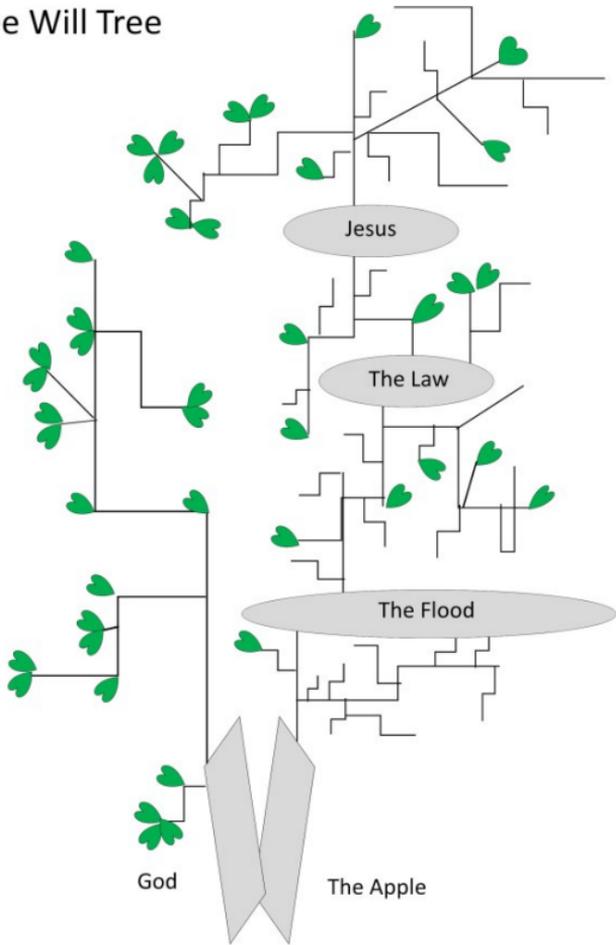
Jonah finally decided to do what God had called him to do.

“Chosen” people are assigned tasks that will lead to key events as represented in the branches of the free will tree.

Remember the picture of the free will tree?

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Free Will Tree



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There are many minor events that need to occur to lead to a major branch that **MUST** occur. Think of the twists and turns in the branches as the smaller events. In the case of the birth of Jesus, a few major turns close to the main event would be:

- **First turn:** there had to be a descendant from the right tribe
- **Second turn:** who remained a virgin until her wedding day
- **Third turn:** whose soon-to-be husband would accept the call to raise a child that wasn't his.

All these conditions needed to be in place before Mary could conceive the Son of God. Many things affected each of these turns. These are minor events that needed to be in place for God's plan for mankind to come forth.

When people use their free will to do their own thing, not thinking about the

destiny God has for them, it can affect two things:

1. when and how these branches are formed
2. how many people hear about God and are saved through His Son, Jesus

This is why Jesus said, “No man knows the day or the hour, not even the Son” when asked about the time of His return when He would establish His eternal reign on Earth (Matthew 24:26). As we exercise our free will, the necessary branches to reach more people and bring about necessary events may be delayed in forming.

God is the only being who knows all things. He has seen all possible paths and choices each person may make and knows that certain key events will occur, but much of the timing is up to us. Which branches will be developed determine the exact timing. Satan thinks he can keep it from happening all together, but God has seen the end and

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has reassured us that His plan will come to be.

God knows and has spoken about some key events that need to occur so that the greatest number of people will come to know Him and be saved from the hands of the enemy. The closer a person is to a key event and how important their task is to a key event, the more God will use His influence to make sure that person completes the necessary task. These are the “chosen” people that He speaks to as He works in their lives. The Bible tells us He formed us in our mother’s womb for a particular purpose. (Jeremiah 1:5) He places us in a time that He planned before He created Adam, and equips us for a specific job. Chosen people are God’s precise tools created for a key task.

GOD IS JUST

I have heard people compare man and the Earth to a chess game with man acting

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as its pieces, the Earth as the board, and God as someone who plays the game simply for the enjoyment of manipulation. Like many things, there is some truth in this analogy. An analogy that reflects the disposition of God would be this:

Satan snuck on board a ship and took control (convincing Adam and Eve to eat the apple) from His captains (Adam and Eve). Immediately the ship began sinking (death and sin came into the world). God, the owner of the ship, knows some will not make it to safety. As a loving owner, He attempts to direct both captains (God's people: Christians) and sailors (all mankind), giving them information to help them to decide which vessel doors will open to save as many people as possible. Each section is well equipped with escape hatches (Jesus), but if the sailors on the boat haven't been trained, some may never find them.

The enemy is still aboard the sinking ship and has access as well. He attempts to

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open and shut doors to kill as many people as possible. Fortunately for us there are no limits to God's knowledge or His power. If we will listen to Him and draw close so that He can pour His power out through us, more will be saved. In the end, we can be reassured: He wins!

How to Hear from God

God chooses to whom He will speak audibly for the reasons explained in the prior chapters. However, this doesn't mean that God will not speak to you. There are many ways God speaks to people, but the top three are:

1. Through His Word (the Bible)
2. A small quiet voice
3. A louder, internal voice

Before we describe other, less frequent ways God speaks, let us clearly define these three and clarify what it is we can do to hear from God in these ways.

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HIS WORD

Before we can be sure that we are hearing from God in the other ways God speaks, we need to know who He is. The way we find this out is by reading the Bible; the inspired word of God written as the Holy Spirit instructed its writers.

If we don't believe that the Bible is the absolute truth, it is hard to hear from God through it and know when we are hearing from God. There are two main arguments challenging the contents of the Bible as not being absolute truth: the implausibility of the stories and the possibility that it was put together by a government for a political agenda. Let us address these issues to help strengthen your faith in the Word of God.

Impossible Stories

Some of the stories in the Bible may be hard to take at face value. A few are:

- the parting of the sea
- manna from Heaven appearing each day to feed God's people when they were in the desert
- a prophet outrunning a king's chariot

These scenarios sound impossible. The story I found the hardest to believe is the account of Joshua battling the Amorites. He prayed and asked God to hold the sun in the sky until all his enemies were slain. According to the Bible, the sun and moon stayed in the sky for about an extra day.

If we think about this logically, it seems impossible. This would cause tidal waves and earthquakes and all kinds of natural disasters. Despite the seeming implausibility

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of this, there is evidence that this actually happened:

- In the ancient Chinese writings there is a legend of a long day. The Incas of Peru and the Aztecs of Mexico have a like record, and there is a Babylonian and a Persian legend of a day that was miraculously extended. Another section of China contributes an account of the day that was miraculously prolonged, in the reign of Emperor Yeo.ⁱ
- Sahagun, the Spanish savant who came to America a generation after Columbus and gathered the traditions of the aborigines, wrote that at the time of one cosmic catastrophe the sun rose only a little way over the horizon and remained there without moving; the moon also stood still.ⁱⁱ

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Since there is proof that God held the sun and moon in the sky for two days, it makes all the other stories in the Bible seem easy for God to do.

Political Agenda

King James was known to be more academic than most other monarchs; he was fluent in Greek, Latin, French, English, Gaelic, as well as Italian and Spanish. He was known as an evangelist of the true gospel and an excellent writer, which many credit to his success as king. He even wrote Christian meditations for his people and his court.

King James assembled the best translations and linguists in the world: fifty-four men who were all known to be devout Christians. It was a collaborative effort with each translation sent to all the others where it could be checked and questioned. The final

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version was published seven years after the translation committee was first formed.ⁱⁱⁱ

Since the creation of the King James Version, many other translations have been created and go back to the original writings. One of my favorites is the Amplified Version. It bridges many of the issues involved in translating Greek, Hebrew, and Aramaic. English isn't as specific as many other languages, so the Amplified Version gives the implied or assumed meanings of the passages in brackets and any additional meaning of words our English language doesn't have a specific word for in parenthesis.

The accuracy of the text in the Bible has been established in two separate sources, as it should be:

...Every fact shall be sustained and confirmed by the testimony of two or three witnesses. (2 Corinthians 13:1)

Dead Sea Scrolls

The Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered in 1947 and 1956. These ancient documents date back to the third century BC. They were thought to be transcribed by the Essenes, a Jewish sect devoted to historical accuracy.^{iv} The scrolls were wrapped in linen and stored in clay pots. As these ancient relics were translated, it showed that the text of the Bible, created hundreds of years later, was accurate. The words of the King James Bible are the same words found in the Dead Sea Scrolls, proving the accuracy of the original documents used to create the Bible.

Ezekiel Plates

“Ezekiel Plates” are stone tablets believed to have come from the burial tomb of the

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prophet, which is located along the Euphrates River. Reportedly these plates were found more than one hundred years ago when a visitor to the tomb noticed a stone tile had fallen off the inside of the wall. On the reverse side of the stone was ancient raised writing. Until this time, the true nature of these plates was hidden. Other tiles were removed to find more inscriptions completing a set of sixty-six plates.^v

When comparing these plates to the book of Ezekiel, the only differences were the use of the first person “I” instead of Ezekiel and the use of the first names of the kings and leaders in the book.^{vi}

Hearing through the Word

We have established that the Bible's content is true, no matter how unbelievable it may sometimes sound, and that it has been accurately translated. Now we need to

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appropriate what the Bible tells us about God and put the promises it contains to work for us. The first step in hearing from God through the words of the Bible is by asking Him.

If any of you lacks wisdom [to guide him through a decision or circumstance], he is to ask of [our benevolent] God, who gives to everyone generously and without rebuke or blame, and it will be given to him. (James 1:5)

For the Lord gives [skillful and godly] wisdom; From His mouth come knowledge and understanding. He stores away sound wisdom for the righteous [those who are in right standing with Him]. (Proverbs 2:6-7)

These are two of the many verses that promise God gives wisdom to those who ask. God likes it when we quote His words back to Him and He is delighted to give us gifts.

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Use these two verses in a simple prayer something like this: “Father, I ask that you grant me wisdom to understand what I am reading. Help me find out more about You, Your Son, and the Holy Spirit.”

A prayer like this will open the way for God to bring wisdom and understanding to you through the Bible. This is the beginning of learning to hear from God. There are two keys that will help you in understanding of what you are reading.

First

“Study and be eager and do your utmost to present yourself to God approved (tested by trial), a workman who has no cause to be ashamed, correctly analyzing and accurately dividing [rightly handling and skillfully teaching] the Word of Truth.” (2 Timothy 2:15)

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If the Word can be analyzed correctly, it can also be analyzed incorrectly. How do we know we are getting the right meaning? It is all about the context: remove the text surrounding a scripture you can get easily conned. Ask yourself these questions:

1. Who is this directed at?
2. Why is it being said?

In the case of Jesus speaking, ask yourself whom He is talking to? If it is before going to the cross, is He talking to Jews about the law and trying to get them to realize that they cannot fulfill it on their own? Or is He speaking prophetically about how it will be in the future?

Second

Who does this passage apply to? There are three groups of people in the Bible:

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Do not cause anyone to stumble, whether Jews, Greeks, or the church of God—. (1 Corinthians 10:32)

1. Jews – God's chosen people
2. Gentiles or Nations – those without a relationship with God
3. Church – the entire body of Christ, literally translated “called out ones”

Not all verses are about you as a Christian, but all Christians can learn from every word recorded. We must, however, know whom it is talking about so we can see how to apply it to our lives.

To hear more from God and to realize when we are hearing from Him, it is vital that we increase our knowledge. God isn't the only voice you may hear when you are looking for more information. There are three sources that can bring us knowledge:

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1. Our minds
2. The enemy
3. God

The more we know about God through reading His word, the easier it will be to discern what is bringing us knowledge. It may just be your own human reasoning, which may seem good at the time. In the end, this will lead to frustration:

The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. (1 Corinthians 2:14 ESV)

A “natural” person is one who has not yet accepted Jesus as Lord – it is our natural reasoning without God helping us. Taking Jesus as Lord should not be done lightly. The word “lord” means owner: a landlord is the landowner. It can also mean hereditary

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right or preeminence to whom it is that service and obedience is due. Other places in the Bible, it refers to those who have taken Jesus as Lord as “bond servants.” These are willing slaves to a master. This means we agree to do things His way, not our way, to put Him first in all things.

I, personally, don't have a problem with this. After all, He is God; I'm pretty sure He knows what is best. If you have not yet accepted Jesus as your Lord, owner, and Savior – your only way into Heaven – it is easy to do so.

...because if you acknowledge and confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord [recognizing His power, authority, and majesty as God], and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart a person believes [in Christ as Savior] resulting in his justification [that is, being made righteous—being freed of the guilt of sin and made acceptable to

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God]; and with the mouth he acknowledges and confesses [his faith openly], resulting in and confirming [his] salvation. (Romans 10:9-10)

Saying the words is easy, but meaning them is what matters. The thief who hung on the cross next to Jesus made this simple statement, “Jesus, remember me when You come into your Kingdom.” That simple confession, because he believed what he was saying, was enough for the thief to be forgiven and see Jesus in Heaven. It is a heart matter – deep down, what you believe beyond a doubt – which you state out loud, saying what you believe with words. To take Jesus as Lord, declare the following out loud:

Dear Father,

I believe that Jesus Christ is Your only begotten Son, that He came down to our Earth in the flesh and died on the cross to take away

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all of my sins. I believe that Jesus Christ rose from the dead on the third day to give all of us eternal life.

Lord Jesus, I accept You as my personal Lord and Savior. I now ask that You come into my life and live with me for all of eternity. I thank You that all my sins are forgiven because of the blood You shed for me.”

If you believe what you say and mean it with your whole heart, then you are under the protection and blessing of Jesus. If you cannot yet say this prayer and believe it with your whole heart, begin reading the first four chapters of the New Testament: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. Before you begin, ask God to grant you wisdom and reveal Jesus to you. Come back and say this prayer when you KNOW these things with all your heart.

The second voice that will try and speak to us is the enemy of God. Satan even

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appeared to Jesus in the desert when He was fasting. Each time he tempted Jesus, he used the word of God to do it. (Matthew 4:1-11, Luke 4:1-13) Our best defense against this is a good relationship with God, which is developed by spending time with Him, including reading what is written about Him.

The third input of information comes from God. You will read a verse and it is like a light goes on in your head – it all makes so much sense! This is when the Holy Spirit, our teacher, is opening your eyes and helping you to understand the things of God.

“However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you...” (John 16:13 NKJ)

“But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things...” (John 14:26 NKJ)

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THE SMALL QUIET VOICE

When Jesus returned to Heaven He said it was better for us that He leave so He could send the Holy Spirit who would teach us, guide us, and write the laws of God on our hearts (John 16:17, Jeremiah 31:33). Our heart is not the thing that pumps our blood, it is what we cannot live without, our spirit. This is the breath of God that is our eternal being.

We get the term “born again” from the time Jesus said, “I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit.” The word Spirit is capitalized because it is the Greek word for the Holy Spirit of God.

This is further explained once Jesus had risen from the dead and appeared to hundreds of people. Spending 40 days with

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His inner circle and His disciples Jesus breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit.” (John 20:22) Jesus always did what He saw His Father doing (John 5:19): God breathed on Adam, Jesus breathed on His disciples.

The later books of the Bible explain what occurred and that it was for everyone who believes in God:

In Him, you also, when you heard the word of truth, the good news of your salvation, and [as a result] believed in Him, were stamped with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit [the One promised by Christ] as owned and protected [by God]. The Spirit is the guarantee [the first installment, the pledge, a foretaste] of our inheritance until the redemption of God’s own [purchased] possession [His believers], to the praise of His glory. (Ephesians 1:13-14)

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Now it is God who establishes and confirms us [in joint fellowship] with you in Christ, and who has anointed us [empowering us with the gifts of the Spirit]; it is He who has also put His seal on us [that is, He has appropriated us and certified us as His] and has given us the [Holy] Spirit in our hearts as a pledge [like a security deposit to guarantee the fulfillment of His promise of eternal life]. (2 Corinthians 1:21-22)

The Holy Spirit is one of the greatest promises of God. Everyone who has taken Jesus as Lord is “sealed” by the Holy Spirit. The root of the Greek word used here is, *sphragis* it means impression made by a signet ring: That by which anything is confirmed or proved. After Jesus breathed upon them, He instructed them concerning the Holy Spirit:

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For John baptized with water, but not many days from now you shall be baptized with (placed in, introduced into) the Holy Spirit. (Acts 1:5)

The disciples had taken Jesus as Lord and had been sealed with a promise placed upon them by the Holy Spirit. To do the work Jesus had for them, they needed more power, direction, and guidance from the Holy Spirit:

But you shall receive power (ability, efficiency, and might) when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you shall be My witnesses in Jerusalem and all Judea and Samaria and to the ends (the very bounds) of the earth. (Act 1:8)

Many people refer to this as the “baptism” of the Holy Spirit. The meaning of the Greek word *baptizo* is to overwhelm, immerse, saturate. The Holy Spirit is a gentleman; He is gentle and many times

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doesn't move upon a person with strength until He is invited. When you are baptized by Him, you are immersed or filled to overflowing. For this reason, many of the salvation prayers include a part about receiving the Holy Spirit. Have you been overwhelmed by the Holy Spirit so that He can guide you and use you for the work of the Father? If you aren't sure, you can ask for Him right now:

Heavenly Father,

Your Son declared that when He went to Heaven He would send the Holy Spirit to us. I ask now, Father, for the Holy Spirit to come and live in me in my heart and fill me to overflowing. Holy Spirit, I welcome You, speak loudly to me and teach me. I ask all this in the name of my Savior, Jesus. Amen.

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You can also ask for a pastor of a church to pray for you to receive the Holy Spirit. But once we accept Jesus as our Lord, each of us has the right to do this for ourselves. By accepting the Holy Spirit inside you, He becomes one with your spirit, which makes you a whole new being that never existed (on the inside). This is what Jesus was talking about when He said we have to be “born again.”

Mixing two things together, like a sperm and an egg, creates a new being: a little baby. When you add the Holy Spirit to your spirit, you become a son of God: “son” is often used to refer to all mankind meaning both men and women. (Romans 8:6)

Once you have invited Him in, the Holy Spirit can speak to you. The most common way He does this is in a small quiet voice (1 Kings 19:12). I heard from Him for years and didn't know what was going on (See “Angels Believe in You,” it's FREE). After I came back

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to God and asked Him into my life, the voice inside my head – some would call it our conscience – seemed to get really smart. Everything it said would come to pass.

Like me, you may already be hearing from the Holy Spirit and not know it. Are there times when information comes that you have no way of knowing? Do you find yourself saying, “I just knew that was going to happen!” This is one aspect of a word of knowledge — a gift of the Spirit. The Holy Spirit, who knows everything, brings you information that you have no natural way of knowing (more on this later). Want to hear more from Him?

In all your ways know and acknowledge and recognize Him and He will make your paths straight and smooth [removing obstacles that block your way]. (Proverbs 3:6)

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The next time there seems to be zero chance of rain and the small quiet voice in your head says, “Bring an umbrella,” when the rain comes, say, “Thank you, Holy Spirit for telling me about the rain...” This strengthens your relationship and the light on your path will increase.

Once, when my daughter was taking a math test, she would look at the answers before she began and a voice would tell her which of the four multiple-choice answers was right. As she worked out the problems, she was amazed that each time the answer was the one she heard in her head. The Holy Spirit was training her to hear and recognize His voice.

If you are married, many times the Holy Spirit will use your spouse to train you. A thought will come, sounding just like you: “Don’t say that...” If you ignore the thought, a seemingly innocent remark will lead to an argument. Learn to acknowledge the real

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Person behind the voice that sounds just like you. This gives Him more authority to speak to you.

God uses this way of speaking to people most often because it doesn't give the enemy access to us. Satan can project thoughts into our head, but he cannot read our thoughts. Only God knows our thoughts (Luke 16:1-13, Psalms 139: 2-4, 1 Chronicles 28:9, Matthew 12:25). By limiting His influence in our lives to our thoughts where Satan cannot perceive what God is doing, Satan has less to bring to the courts of Heaven that will increase the penalty when judgments are given. It mitigates the consequences of our actions in the courts of Heaven.

When angry, do not sin; do not ever let your wrath (your exasperation, your fury or indignation) last until the sun goes down. Leave no [such] room or foothold for the devil [give no opportunity to him]. (Ephesians 4:26-27 AMPC)

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Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour. (1 Peter 5:8 KJV)

A LOUD INTERNAL VOICE

On rare occasions, the Holy Spirit will speak loud enough that you know the thought didn't come from you. It can be a strong mental voice, sometimes close to a shout. As you acknowledge the guidance of the Holy Spirit, when the issue is critical, He may choose to speak to you this way.

The more you draw close to God – especially once He reveals His plan for your life to you and you begin walking toward that destiny – the more He will speak to you in this strong voice. In the winter/spring of 2017 I plan to release “Roadmap to Heaven” which will discuss this topic at length. (It will be FREE too)

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God loves variety: just look at how many different types of flowers He created. In the language of the people God used to reveal Him to the world, there is no word for coincidence. Everything is a sign or message and it is up to us to figure out whom it is from and what it means. The ways in which He speaks to us are too numerous to count. Some of the most common ones are:

1. Word of knowledge
2. Word of wisdom
3. Dreams
4. Visions

Word of Knowledge

This is a gift of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 12:7-11). As stated, often it is about your life or your relationships. Sometimes the Holy Spirit will tell someone else something they can't possibly know

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about you. It may be a single word, or a sentence.

A word of knowledge should always confirm something that God is already placing in your heart. If someone gives you a word from God that does not connect with something in your life, it could be that the person is speaking from his or her own spirit, or has missed who it is the word was meant for.

For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable [for He does not withdraw what He has given, nor does He change His mind about those to whom He gives His grace or to whom He sends His call].
(Romans 11:29)

When God gives gifts, He doesn't take them back. If someone gives you a word from God and then asks you for money or something of value, this is not God's way.

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This person may have a gift from God, but he may not be using it for His glory.

Think of the gift of a word of knowledge like a satellite dish. It is a gift of being a receiver of information. The person with the gift can tune it in to God and receive information from Him, or they can tune it in to the enemy forces and hear from them.

Satan doesn't know everything, but he is leading a rebellion against God and one-third of the angels are following him (Revelations 12:4). Since he is a spiritual being, he and his forces can speak directly to our mind. There are demons assigned to each and every one of us; they listen and report. If one was standing by when you said something or your father said something, they can use this information to try and draw you away from God. People who are using this gift to talk to spirit guides are just speaking to demons that can imitate or repeat things they have seen or heard. This gift can be

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used for tarot cards, palm reading, or any other type of divining that doesn't give glory to God or Jesus.

Word of Wisdom

Another type of gift of the Spirit is a word of wisdom. God will speak about a future situation and show you how to deal with it. The Holy Spirit may tell you to say something to someone else about a future situation so that they will know what to do when the time comes.

Satan does not know the future, but he does have a good network. If there is talk of something being complete at a certain date, or if something has been put in the mail and is on the way, he may use this information to imitate this gift.

The bottom line is: does what you receive line up with what you know is true about

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God from the Bible? Does it encourage, help, correct, and lift up? These things are of God.

Does a message or word condemn you, making you feel worthless or like you aren't good enough? These aren't messages of God. If there is any question about where it has come from, put it before the Lord and ask Him for wisdom concerning it.

Dreams and Visions

The Book of Acts is a continuation of the Book of Luke. If you read this as one account it flows like this: Right before He ascended to Heaven before their eyes Jesus breathed on the disciples and said, "receive the Holy Spirit," and told them to go to Jerusalem and wait for the Holy Spirit to come upon them with power. It was on the day of Pentecost when they were all gathered in a room together that the Holy Spirit came in, literally rattling the windows like a mighty wind. It

looked like tongues of fire upon their heads as the Holy Spirit settled on them.

The whole group spilled out into the streets with such demonstrations of God's power that thousands of people accepted Jesus as Lord and became Christians. Peter said: "‘And it shall be in the last days,’ says God, ‘That I will pour out My Spirit upon all mankind; And your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see [divinely prompted] visions, and your old men shall dream [divinely prompted] dreams.’" (Acts 2:17)

This is a chronological list of what will come into the life of a Christian.

1. **Prophecy** – Sons and daughters shall do this. Everyone who is a child of God through Jesus is a "son and daughter." We are sons of the Most High (Romans 8:6). This also refers to their spiritual maturity. Sons and daughters are

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children, so even new Christians can prophecy.

In 1 Corinthians 14:1 it states: “Earnestly pursue love and eagerly desire spiritual gifts, especially the gift of prophecy.” It is clear that God wants us all to prophesy.

2. **Visions** – these are received by young men not newborn Christians. They have fed their spirits reading the Word and pursued teachings on the Word that helps them grow.

1 Corinthians 3 tells us that if you are still envious, sewing discord, or jealous, or if you are unchanged by your decision to take Jesus as Lord, you are a baby Christian. Once you are growing in your walk, God will bring you visions.

3. **Dreams** – are given to old men: This is not defined by physical age or the amount of years since you became a Christian; it is the maturity of your spirit. If you are listening to and learning from the Holy Spirit, He will change you. You will develop what is called “Fruits of the Spirit.” A mature tree bears much fruit:

But the fruit of the Spirit [the result of His presence within us] is love [unselfish concern for others], joy, [inner] peace, patience [not the ability to wait, but how we act while waiting], kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. (Galatians 5:22-23)

Another way to determine your maturity level can be found in 1 Corinthians 14: Paul corrected the congregation at Corinth because they were measuring their greatness by how many gifts of the Spirit they were personally using. If you are still competing to

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be “better” than others you still have some growing to do.

You must reach a level of maturity to receive from God in different ways. Dreams are usually more vague than visions; you need maturity to not only understand them but to react appropriately to them. God doesn't stop talking to you through other means once you mature, He just opens up new doors as He determines you are better able to handle them. Consequently, old men can have both dreams and visions. Both God and Satan have access to our dreams. You will need to discern who is speaking to you, much like you would for words of wisdom. Look for an upcoming book about this topic for more information.

Seeing Jesus Face-to-face

Since 2013, God has been revealing to me in quite miraculous ways that He is stepping up His game. Very soon He will pour out His glory in a way that will make the works in the Book of Acts look like child's play. Because of this, the Lord is revealing Himself to those who are ready to work for Him, whose heart is given completely to Him for His work.

My book, "To Heaven and Back Again," (FREE online) chronicles my journey with God, how He revealed this to me, and my first encounter with the Lord face-to-face. The awesome thing is that it is His will to speak with you the same way! This is an ongoing work: it will be updated as more occurs and edited only once my journey is complete.

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The Lord has informed me that I am to also write a book, "Roadmap to Heaven," to help guide His people in their efforts to see Him. I expect to have this complete by the early 2017. The reason these books are small is that the Lord wanted the topics divided into individual books for easy reference.

FINAL WORDS

God made a particularly strong impression on me in 2016. He told me to add two elements to my upcoming books:

First Word

Freely you have received; freely give. (Matthew 10:8 NIV)

Most people only apply this verse to what is mentioned directly before it.

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Heal the sick, raise the dead, and cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. (Matthew 10:7)

This is the inspired word of God. There is purpose in every nuance of what is said. In this case, we must also examine what is not being said: it doesn't say, "Freely heal, freely raise the dead, freely cleanse, freely cast out." This would have clearly defined what we should do freely.

Instead we have Jesus giving instruction and direction. First He reveals what He has called them to do and empowers those whom He has set on a task. Then, He adds the parameters, "you did nothing to earn this power or knowledge; I give it freely to you. You do the same. What I have given to you, give it away for free." (Matthew 10:1-15)

This reminded me of a woman, let's call her Joan, who was preaching on television. Joan gave a word about this back in 2015,

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“God is rising up the unknown to give away for free what His anointed are charging for.”

Directly after Joan's words God kept me awake until 4 A.M. giving me the amazing revelation that led me to write “Why Doesn't God Speak to Me?” He said, “How much are you willing to hear from Me? To receive from Me?”

Instantly, I replied, “You have given me glimpses of the price I may have to pay, and I am now ready and willing. I give it all to you...should the price be my very life.”

The quiet voice of the Holy Spirit continued, “Then implement the revelation I gave to you when I revealed why John was taken back in time to old Jerusalem.”

“I am, God, aren't I?” I asked. “Ever since You spoke to me about going to Heaven, I am putting your revelations on my website for free. And I will never charge for a prayer or an appearance.”

“But you are charging for your books.”

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The words caused a mild panic. I couldn't stop my thoughts, "They are my biographies... Everyone charges for a composed biography. And, I paid thousands for a top-of-the-line edit on those, not to mention the cost of having the covers professionally designed. Surely I am able to charge for the final polished project I invested money and years of time creating."

He asked, "What makes these books worth buying? Why do you have a product to sell?"

I knew better than to say, "Because I am able to write in a way that seems to appeal to some people." The word tells us that He knew us before we were formed in the womb; He designed me with the gift to write. Instead I thought, "Because I have had an interesting journey that may help others."

Gently He prodded, "And what did you do to deserve those 'interesting' experiences?"

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A part of me wanted to say “I fell in love with Jesus with my whole heart.” But I know many people who love Him as I do, and yet they haven't been blessed with some of the wonderful experiences I have been given. My soul sighed as I was forced to admit, “Nothing. I am no one. I abandoned You. And You chose to reveal who You are to me. I messed up time and time again, and You sent miracle after miracle to encourage me... These books wouldn't exist without You.” Peace, so strong it was undeniable, welled up deep inside me confirming I was on the right track.

Despite the hours of deep revelation God had just brought to me, petulant, whiny thoughts burst forth, “But all the big evangelists and even smaller pastors have made millions, if not billions, with their books! Why did you have to reveal this to *me*? Why do *I* have to be the one to do it for free?”

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“To whom much is given, much is required. You now know the fullness of your calling. You cannot give the enemy a place from which to attack you.”

Vividly, the words I uttered less than an hour ago came to my mind: I had said I would do anything He asked. Another soul-sigh, “I put my faith in You to provide. As soon as I can write this up and upload the revised book, they are all yours.”

This is why all books associated with “God stuff” are now free in all distribution. The printed copy is free (including shipping) on my website.

WARNING: To all ministers, evangelists, apostles, prophets, and teachers, two words from God for you:

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The Future of God's Ministers

John, the pastor written about in “Why doesn't God Speak to Me?” who was used mightily as a messenger by God, was taken to Heaven twice. On the second visit, he was placed in a room with four rows of seats, stacked one above the next. Religious leaders who were household names filed in and sat in the third row. The row below it was filled with a couple of people whom John recognized from the religious arena. The bottom row was filled with completely unknown individuals, while the top row remained empty. The person escorting John to this room said, “During the outpouring, many in the third row will be removed from the ministry and some even from the Earth, and some will barely survive. The top row is the place that has been unfilled since the time of the disciples in the Book of Acts.

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People in the bottom row will vault over the other rows to fill many of these seats. Some will be filled by people not yet seated.”

The Effect of the Outpouring

A famous television evangelist, who specializes in prophecy and predicted that George W. Bush would be president two years before he announced his run for office, had a series of dreams. He was unable to interpret these dreams. As with John, when hearing him describe them the meaning was so clear it was hard to believe he didn't know what they meant. Each of the dreams featured an actual tsunami hitting America.

The dream: The evangelist was in the home of a well-known preacher in Baltimore. Water began flooding into the house. He grabbed supplies and headed up to the second story, but the water kept rising. He searched for an attic or crawl space, but was

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so startled by the content of his dream that he awakened.

Interpretation: From 1776–1777 Baltimore was the temporary capital and residence of the United States government. A few things to note: the evangelist was in the Baltimore home of a well-known religious leader who didn't see the flood coming and scrambled to survive. This likely indicates that many long-standing, once dominant religions may run the risk of being wiped out as they scramble to survive during the outpouring of glory.

These interpretations are gifts from God, which the Holy Spirit brought as I heard the information. When coupled with the television evangelist's prophecy and John's death, the meaning is unmistakable. May this serve as a warning to ministries that are potentially vulnerable and which need to proactively protect their work.

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It is time to come up to a new level of faith and trust in God. If you do not have the faith necessary to give all the insight, all the knowledge, all the experiences God has given you away for free and trust Him to take care of the worldly cost of being on TV, then step back until you do.

The disciples didn't charge for a single word they said, wrote or otherwise. They trusted in God and so should you. Additionally, people do not need to give you a seed of ____ amount to receive their breakthrough. That is selling the blessings and anointing of God. (Acts 8:16-22) Give people the information and trust God to tell them what to send. Stand back and be amazed when they send exactly what God told you they would.

This is the way it should be done.

Second Word

One of the differences between the gift of prophecy and being called as a prophet is that the gift is used to edify and build. A prophet often brings correction in order to enlighten people who have stopped doing things God's way. This is the less-coveted part of my new job.

The next thing God did was to bring me the rest of Bible verses I needed to help correct the situation with His people. Yes, preachers are doing it wrong; they have conformed to the world order of taking their money up front. But God's people who are receiving instructions and help have an instrumental part to play as well. If you continue reading in Matthew, Jesus tells His disciples not to take anything with them, no gold, not even extra clothes:

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...for the workman deserves his support (his living, his food). (Matthew 10:10)

Giving freely allows the recipient to decide what the revelation is worth and support those God has sent a message through. This is God's way. When we give, it is not to the person, but it says, "God, I believe You have sent this person and accept that this message is from You."

Here are two more verses in the New Testament on that topic:

If we have sown [the seed of] spiritual good among you, [is it too] much if we reap from your material benefits?... [On the same principle] the Lord directed that those who publish the good news (the Gospel) should live (get their maintenance) by the Gospel. (Corinthians 9:11&14 AMPC)

Let him who receives instruction in the Word [of God] share all good things with his teacher

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[contributing to his support]. Do not be deceived and deluded and misled; God will not allow Himself to be sneered at (scorned, disdained, or mocked by mere pretensions or professions, or by His precepts being set aside.) [He inevitably deludes himself who attempts to delude God.] For whatever a man sows, that and that only is what he will reap. (Galatians 6:6 AMPC)

This is the correct order that God shows us in His word. First, we give what God has revealed to us freely, then we wait for God to speak to those who have received it. What people decide to give is a matter between God and the person who has received it and is completely in their hands. What is going on now is backward: we give for a price, collecting before we even know if what we have given has helped others.

Notice the warning at the end of the second verse. If you receive from God and

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don't respond according to His way of doing things, you won't benefit from what you are learning. Responding in the way God tells us to not only acknowledges that this has come from Him but it also opens up the door for God to move with power concerning that revelation. Think of it as giving God the "thumbs up" for God to move into your life where this knowledge is concerned. This was so ingrained in God's people that a group of Christians asked Paul not to come and speak to them because they didn't want to have to give him an offering for his teaching. (2 Corinthians Chapters 11 & 12)

Those who are anointed by God to do His work, who provide spiritually for His people should get their substance from that work. I hope you will pray and ask God what you should give in return *only* if you have received spiritual insight, new information, peace, hope, or encouragement.

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Being a prophet is not quite as much fun as I had hoped. Sometimes it is exciting; sometimes it is hard. However, through it all, I continually find that God has an amazing sense of humor. Now I am a publisher who is giving away books for free. It took some time, but I am finally okay with that. I am doing it God's way.

If you have received something of spiritual value, God has instructed me to include three ways in this book in which you can give back to honor Him for what you have received, should you be inclined to do so:

1. Send what God tells you to:

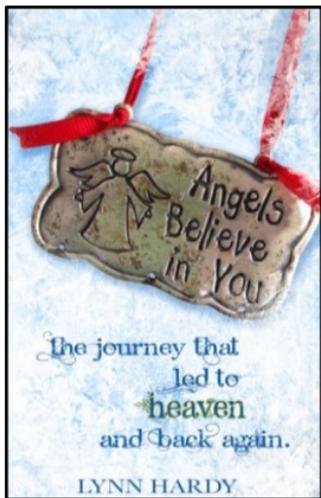
Lynn Hardy
P.O. Box 234
Star, Idaho 83669

Lynn Hardy

2. PayPal – If you have an account, do the following:
 - a. Click on “Send Money” then select “to friend or relative”
 - b. Type in this email address:
ynothardy@gmail.com
 - c. Type in the amount God tells you to give
 - d. Under “Special Instructions” type: Lynn Hardy
3. Visit LynnHardy.com and click on “DONATE”. It will take you to PayPal where you can use a credit card to give without a PayPal account.

Whatever you decide, may God bless you and keep you.

Free Books by Lynn Hardy



Angels Believe in You

Over a thirteen years period, bestselling author Lynn Hardy has...

- Heard the voice of God
- Received two undeniable physical signs from God
- Seen angels and demons on thirteen separate occasions
- Been healed three times from serious and fully documented medical conditions

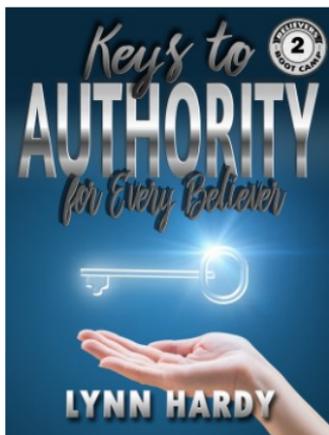
Have you ever wondered...

- ❖ What do angels and demons look like?
- ❖ How can angels help us?
- ❖ What proof do we have that angels are among us?
- ❖ What power do we have over demons?

Inside the pages of “Angels Believe in You” you will find some surprising answers.

Make no mistake; Lynn does not claim to be an expert on angels or demons. She is neither the epitome of Christian perfection, nor a Bible scholar. However, what happened to her is both astounding and irrefutable.

It is Lynn’s sincere hope that these extraordinary events that have changed her life will comfort and help you through whatever challenges you face — now or in the future.



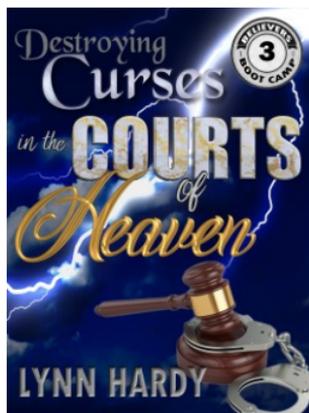
Keys to Authority for Every Believer

Believers' Boot Camp
Volume 2

There is untapped power that is easy for every Christian to access in the form of authority. The keys to this authority will unlock weapons we can use to free ourselves from the attacks of the enemy. We must be intimately aware of the bounds and limitations of our weapon if they are to be used effectively.

Find out about your authority:

- ☞ Why you need it.
- ☞ Where it comes from.
- ☞ What you can do with it.
- ☞ How to get more.



Destroying Curses in the Courts of Heaven

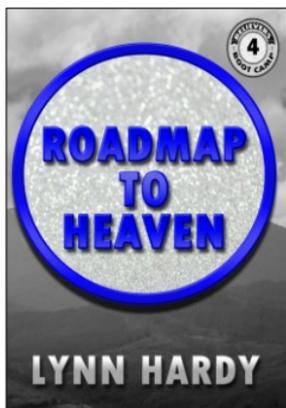
Believers' Boot Camp
Volume 3

Our rights to appear in the Courts of Heaven have been greatly undervalued. The missing key to our authority is here. Jesus has provided the access and the Bible shows us the court procedures. When we learn to operate in our rightful place as children of the Most High, the enemy will be defeated and we will see the victory we have prayed for.

The death of Jesus freed us from the curse of the law. However, we must declare this freedom just as we must make a declaration for our salvation.

- Can curses be passed to our children?
- What are signs of a curse?
- How do you get rid of one?

Every answer is backed by scripture. Come and find out how easy it is to be free!



Roadmap to Heaven

Believers' Boot Camp
Volume 4

As I meditated and sought the Lord, a vision overcame me. A “Roadmap to Heaven” was deposited into my soul. We are entering a season of unparalleled access to Heaven. Jesus is calling all who are His to visit with Him in the Secret Place of the Most High.

- What is the Secret Place?
- How do we enter?
- What will we find there?

The Bible holds the answers, the mystery has been revealed. As you use the map revealed in this book to journey to the Secret

Place, discover your destiny and find the gifts the Holy Spirit will bring along the way.

Available 2017 (Winter)

For an un-edited copy before the release contact me:

LynnHardy.com

Facebook: [facebook.com/AuthorLynnHardy](https://www.facebook.com/AuthorLynnHardy)

Notes on Sources

Unfortunately, I am unable to recommend or give any references to any of the religious leaders who are alive today that I have been guided by because of the products they are selling. God has been very clear: to do this would be adding to what they will be judged for. I will only recommend products and people who come up to this higher standard that God has set: All revelation brought by Him must be FREE!

Other historic and scientific sources listed below.

ⁱ *Joshua's Long Day and the Dial of Ahaz A Scientific Vindication and a Midnight Cry* by Charles Adiel Lewis Totten (1890)

ⁱⁱ Thelma D. Sullivan, *Primeros Memoriales: Paleography of Nahuatl Text and English Translation*, ed. Arthur J. O. Anderson with H. B. Nicholson, Charles E. Dibble, Eloise Quiñones Keber,

and Wayne Ruwet, vol. 200, *Civilization of the American Indian* (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1997).

Jump up ^

ⁱⁱⁱ Daniell, David (2003). *The Bible in English: its history and influence*. New Haven, Conn: Yale University Press. ISBN 0-300-09930-4.

^{iv} Down, David. *Unveiling the Kings of Israel*.

^v “Dating the Ezekiel Plates” by David Parsons, Florence Bache, Jerusalem Post, 05/01/2011

^{vi} *Prophecy 2000* by Dr. David Allen Lewis, New Leaf Press, 1990