

*Part 8*

*Faith Alive Through--*

**HEARING GOD'S VOICE**

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One of my friends said--"God never speaks to me because He doesn't speak to anyone anymore."

My immediate response was--"What is it we sing about in the hymns?"

"I come to the garden alone, while the dew is still on the roses;  
and the voice I hear, falling on my ear, The Son of God discloses.  
And He walks with me, and He talks with me, And He tells me I  
am His own."(1)

"I am Thine, O Lord - I have heard Thy voice, And it told Thy  
love to me...."(2)

"I can hear my Savior calling,  
I can hear my Savior calling,  
I can hear my Savior calling,  
'Take thy cross and follow, follow me.'"(3)

"He walks with me and talks with me along life's narrow way.  
He Lives! He Lives!"(4)

It was Monday afternoon, January 21, 1974 that the Lord spoke to me. It was a day of fasting and prayer and while riding my bicycle down a country road, the Lord said: "Preacher, I am calling you to a larger ministry. **Minneola will continue to be your home-base for now.**" To say I was puzzled is an understatement. **ONE THING**, I never questioned--**GOD HAD SPOKEN.**

Some may inquire, "Did God speak with an audible voice?" My answer then and now is, "No!" Now, many years later I can tell you **WHY**. He only speaks aloud when He wants another person or a crowd to hear. Such was the case at Jesus' baptism: Matthew 3:18; the Transfiguration: Matthew 17:5; and in the Temple: John 12:23-30.

God is Spirit, Jesus said in John 4:24, and man is spirit. Thus, for Spirit to communicate with spirit does not require an audible sound.

Watchman Nee (1903-1972) in his great book "The Spiritual Man" makes this most clear.

The ordinary concept of the constitution of human beings is dualistic--soul and body. According to this concept, soul is the invisible inner spiritual part, while body is the visible outer

corporal part...Such an opinion comes from fallen man, not from God; apart from God's revelation, no concept is dependable. That the body is man's outward sheath is undoubtedly correct, but the Bible never confuses spirit and soul as though they are the same. Not only are they different in terms; their very natures differ from each other. The Word of God does not divide man into two parts of soul and body. It treats man, rather, as tripartite--spirit, soul and body. I Thessalonians 5:23, "*May the God of peace himself sanctify you wholly; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.*".....Is it a matter of any consequence to divide spirit and soul? It is an issue of *supreme* importance for it effects tremendously the spiritual life of the believer.(5)

According to the teaching of the Bible and the experience of believers, the human spirit can be said to comprise three parts; or, to put it another way, one can say it has three main functions. These are conscience, intuition and communion. The conscience is the discerning organ which distinguished right from wrong;...Intuition is the sensing organ of the human spirit. Communion is worshipping God. The organs of the soul are incompetent to worship God. God is not apprehended by our thoughts, feelings or intentions, for He can only be known directly in our spirits. Our worship of God and God's communications with us are directly in the spirit. (Romans 1:9; 8:15,16; I Corinthians 6:17; Revelation 21:10) (underlining mine.)(6)

This chapter has nothing to do with receiving any further Divine Revelation which Jude says "was once for all delivered to the saints." (1:3). But, it has everything to do with God guiding His People. God is far more willing to guide us than we desire to be guided.

God seeks to guide us by communication. Of all the messages contained in the Bible a BIG unwritten message is that GOD IS A COMMUNICATING GOD! The first record of Him speaking to man is in Genesis 1:27,28--

**"And God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. And God blessed them: and God said to them..."(7)**

The remainder of the Bible stands as a monument to the fact that God communicates with His creation thru at least ten different voices. I rejoice to say that God has spoken to me

through these voices that are named in the Book of Hebrews.

## **#1 - GOD SPEAKS THRU THE BIBLE-**

**Hebrews 4:12**

The pattern of my walk with the Lord has been shaped by my willingness to listen for His Voice in His Word. Each of the previous chapters stands as a testimony that **GOD SPEAKS THROUGH HIS WORD**. So, my accepting Jesus, being filled with His Spirit, praising the Lord and praying in all things, walking by faith, dealing with the devil and lifting up the Name of Jesus are outgrowths of hearing and following the **VOICE OF GOD in HIS WORD**.

Today, if you will hear His voice,  
Do not harden your hearts.(8)

For the Word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.(9)

Out of the anger and bitterness following our son's car wreck, **GOD SPOKE** to me **THROUGH HIS WORD**.

I shared in the chapter on "Praise" how the devil created bitterness in my soul by a number of uncertainties--\*

\*Our Opel Cadet car was apparently unsafe at even normal speed. Following the wreck I asked a friend of mine, Larry Cloutman, who is an expert in physics, to make a study of the car, terrain, etc. Many weeks later, Larry came to my office to say he had looked at the figures I sent him--weight, length, height, and width of the car, distance vehicle traveled after leaving road, etc.--and said, "No doubt this vehicle has a very high center of gravity."

\*A knowledgeable person suggested someone had tampered with the carburetor linkage, meaning it would continue to accelerate to higher and higher RPM's with no relief even when the foot pedal was released.

\*The Funeral Home advised us that Lynn's death was caused by several stab wounds to the back made by an

ice pick or screwdriver. There was a screwdriver laying loose in the back seat of the car.

\*A stranger was on the scene taking pictures of the car and body when the Highway Patrol arrived. The man said he was with the U.S. Army. When the Patrolman sought detailed information later, the man had disappeared.

\*A well meaning person said, "Probably foul play is involved. I will personally pay \$500 to hire a private detective to get to the bottom of this."

As my anger grew into bitterness I contacted a lawyer in Dodge City, Kansas. He said that he would take the case if I decided to pursue an investigation.

It was at this point in a mounting crisis that GOD SPOKE to me thru HIS WORD.

He said:

Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the sight of everybody. If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge, I will repay," says the Lord.(10)

These words gave me a satisfied mind and a peaceful spirit. IF there was any wrongdoing in the whole matter, God could and would handle it.

It was later, as I shared previously, that He spoke to me again thru His Words in Romans 8:28 and I Thessalonians 5:18 to GIVE THANKS because HE was in charge! I did and He was!

My experience and observation is that God most often SPEAKS TO US in the midst of a great opportunity and/or crisis.

Unexpected was the VOICE OF GOD SPEAKING the second week in January of 1982. This is the way I wrote of it at that time:

ATTACK #15 by the devil on us and the Faith Alive Ministry came so unexpectedly that the "Roaring Lion" had our 'right leg'

nearly 'chewed off' before we recognized the "Roar of the Lion." It all started on Sunday night, January 10th, when temperatures dipped to -18 degrees with a wind chill of -50 degrees. Our upstairs water pipes next to the outside wall froze. This had happened other times and we solved the problem by focusing an electric heater on the bottom of the pipe channel. Come Monday morning, water was running down the stairwell thru the plaster and wallpaper onto the stairway carpet. I turned the water off and called our insurance agent to come out and have a look. He assured me that our Home Owner's Policy covered the damage. He assessed the damage and since the wallpaper could not be matched, he advised us to get estimates to replace all the wallpaper in the upstairs and downstairs stairwells, repair any loose plaster and the damaged water pipes. The estimates totaled \$1,026.86. He advised us to proceed with the work. We did. When 4/5 of the way into these projects, our agent, Jim Wright, came to have a look and tell us he had made a mistake that we were NOT covered at all since we had "perils 2" and not "perils 1" coverage. He said he was sorry and that I could sue him for negligence but his insurance only covered blunders over one-thousand dollars. He would have to borrow the thousand at the bank to cover the matter.

It was at this moment that GOD SPOKE to me out of HIS WORD hid in the memories of my heart.

"Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, you also do to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets." (Matthew 7:12)

In a matter of seconds I said--"Jim, if people sued me every time I made a mistake, I would be down at the courthouse a lot. In the interest of practicing the Golden Rule in Matthew 7:12, I will not sue you or cancel my insurance."

And, PRAISE GOD, the Lord prompted seventeen individuals to share \$1,093.57 to meet this need!(11)

HOW are we to hear God SPEAKING to us in His Word?

Every time I read the Word or it is read to me, I preface those occasions with--**GOD SPEAK TO ME THRU THESE WORDS.**

Much like that hymn that we sing:

"Open my ears, that I may hear, Voices of truth Thou sendest clear;....Silently now, I wait for Thee, Ready my God Thy will to see; Open my ears, illumine me, spirit divine!"

Bro Don DeWalt offers these suggestions:

**READ HIS WORD AND WAIT -- LISTEN -- GOD SPEAKS!** Let God speak to your inner most needs. Words will jump off the page and into your heart. It will become your lamp and will light your way. Each word will fill you with wonder and great joy.(12)

"And since Christ is so much superior, the Holy Spirit warns us to **LISTEN TO HIM**, to be careful to **HEAR HIS VOICE TODAY**, and not let our hearts become set against Him, as the people of Israel did." (Hebrews 3:7,8 - Taylor's Living Bible paraphrase.)

## **#2 - GOD'S VOICE IN NATURE -**

Hebrews 1:10-12

All of us enjoy the old hymn that tells about **GOD SPEAKING** thru **NATURE**.

"This is my Father's world - The birds their carols raise; The morning light, the lily white, Declare their Maker's praise.  
This is my Father's world! He shines in all that's fair; In the rustling grass I hear him pass - He speaks to me everywhere."

The writer of Hebrews draws a contrasting picture that depicts God's Voice in nature thru the earth and its contents growing old and decaying while His mercy, love and power are new every morning.

And:

"You Lord, in the beginning laid the foundation of the earth,  
And the heavens are the work of Your hands;  
They will perish, but You remain;  
And they will grow old like a garment,  
And like a cloak You will fold them up,  
And they will be changed.  
But You are the same,  
And Your years will not fail."

(Hebrews 1:10-12)

A person whose attention is not directed God-ward upon seeing a mountain, a flower, or a star will probably miss hearing God's Voice in most other forms. Without question, David was much influenced by nature--sheep and shepherds, still waters and green pastures, valleys and hills--when writing the Psalms. Consider these words:

The heavens declare the glory of God;

The skies proclaim the work of His hands.  
Day after day, they pour forth speech;  
Night after night they display knowledge.  
There is no speech or language where their voice is not heard.  
Their voice goes out into all the earth,  
Their words to the end of the world.(13)

Like most things, there is also a present danger while meditating upon nature. This danger by name is called Animism, the belief that everything in nature has a soul and is to be worshipped.

Paul asserts that the Gentiles who practiced this philosophy are without excuse:

Because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse. (Romans 1:19,20)

Many of us get caught in this snare of worshipping the creation more than the Creator. Across the years folk have told me they were going to the lake each week-end during the summer and they would worship God in the midst of Nature. Later they told that reading the Bible, praying and having the communion of the Lord's Supper, was soon left behind as the pleasure pursuit of nature took over.

What should happen to us when we see a beautiful moon, lovely flowers, trees swaying in the breeze, an ever-flowing river, purple mountains, distant hills, quiet falling snow, white frost? God speaks with a loud, mute voice out of these objects of His creative power. They are certainly subjects for meditation!

Communing with nature started when I was in the sixth grade while herding sheep in the Gyp Hills of Barber County, twenty miles southwest of Medicine Lodge, Kansas. My boss, Junior Angel, would send me out to the hills at sunrise with five hundred sheep, one dog and my trusty horse. I carried my 1944 Bible and a copy of Zane Grey's "The Oregon Trail". It was easy to see and hear God in all those surroundings. The words of David spoke to this country boy's inquiring



spirit--*"He makes me to lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside the still waters."* and *"The heavens declare the glory of God; And the firmament shows His handiwork."* (Psalm 23:2; 19:1) I spent a lot of hot summer afternoons musing and meditating in the shade of the towering cottonwood trees while the sheep napped and my dog stood watch.

Living in the country has certain definite advantages, although I suppose the moon shines just as bright in town. While living in Minneola, a country town of some 750 souls, I was only two minutes from the country. Riding down the country roads at dusk with wheat and cattle, grass and sunflowers all around, I gave my mind to meditating on the moon. Do not smile too big or chuckle too long, for the moon has a long history and has taken millions of pictures of the acts of men.

Consider this--\*

\*This was the moon that God *spoke* into existence in the beginning to rule the night.

\*This old moon *witnessed* the evil in the day of Noah and the Flood that followed.

\*This same moon was shining at full intensity when the Death Angel moved thru Egypt striking dead the firstborn in every household; but, sparing Israel's homes because of the blood of the lamb they had painted on their door posts.

\*The moon must have *clapped its hands* with joy the night Daniel was cast into the den of lions. Sunrise would reveal the victory of deliverance!

\*This same moon was shining full on the night the disciples slept in a lonely Garden and Judas kissed his friend, Jesus.

\*That moon wasn't shining in Palestine skies when man at his worst killed God at His best on black Friday.

\*This same moon *saw* Angels roll the stone away from a guarded tomb and our Blessed Redeemer come out of that grave victorious!

\*The afterglow of a moon meditation has to be--GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST! HALLELUJAH! A-MEN!

As you see, I can get excited about the moon--*that old moon that God made has been a silent witness across the centuries of time to most of the good and evil events in the world.*

*It has been moving in its appointed rounds since the dawn of creation and it speaks today to ears that will hear!*

The poet described Jesus as One well acquainted with Nature.

My Master was a man who knew  
The rush of rain, the drip of dew;  
The gentle kiss of midnight air  
Upon his face upraised in prayer.  
He was a man of lakes and stars;  
He knew the Pleiades and Mars;  
The silver Milky Way;  
The night, the light, the dawn, the day.  
His skin was bronzed like that of one  
Who travels under wind and sun;  
His feet were stained by dusty ways;  
His cheeks as brown as autumn days.  
He walked alone upon the sea,  
Spake peace to wave-washed Galilee;  
All shores and seas were in his thought,  
This man, God-bred, star-led, sky-taught.  
He heard angelic, heavenly hymns  
Sweep through the trembling leaves and limbs  
Of Lebanon's old cedar trees;  
Aeolian harps and harmonies.  
To him there was no sweeter tones  
Than water washing over stones;  
To him no splendid symphony  
Like murmuring, blue Galilee.  
His hair was washed by summer showers;  
He bent to kiss the wayside flowers;  
Old Jordan's share was sacred sod  
To Christ, the outdoor Son of God!(14)

--by William L. Stidger--

I still seek God and His voice down the byways of Nature.  
My bicycle registers over six thousand PRAISE and PRAYER  
miles the last few years.

Attached to my Study Door is a nature poster with this  
quotation from Emerson:

Think me not unkind and rude that I walk along in grove and  
glen;

I go to the God of the woods to fetch His Word to men.

David depicts the VOICE OF THE LORD in NATURE like this:

The voice of the Lord is over the waters,  
The God of glory thunders;  
The Lord is over many waters.  
The voice of the Lord is powerful;  
The voice of the Lord is full of majesty.  
The voice of the Lord breaks the cedars,  
Yes, the Lord splinters the cedars of Lebanon.  
He makes them also skip like a calf,  
Lebanon and Sirion like a young wild ox.  
The voice of the Lord divides the flames of fire.  
The voice of the Lord shakes the Wilderness of Kadesh.  
The voice of the Lord makes the deer give birth,  
And strips the forests bare;  
And in His temple everyone says, "Glory!"  
The Lord sat enthroned at the Flood,  
And the Lord sits as King forever.  
(Psalm 29:3-10)

"And since Christ is so much superior, the Holy Spirit warns us to LISTEN TO HIM, to be careful to HEAR HIS VOICE TODAY, and not let our hearts become set against Him, as the people of Israel did." (Hebrews 3:7,8 - Taylor's Living Bible paraphrase.)

### **#3 - GOD SPEAKS THRU PRAYER -**

Hebrews 5:7

A five year old boy came running into the living room. He stopped in front of the divan, and gazed intently at a painting of Jesus. "Hi Jesus!" he said, then ran into the kitchen and said, "Auntie, auntie, auntie! How come I always say, 'Hi Jesus' and He never says 'Hi back'?"

A penetrating question and the answer is: JESUS DOES SAY "HI!" However, He says it in a different language. P-r-a-y-e-r is a very real language of God as He seeks to communicate with us.

The Hebrew writer declares this about Jesus:

Who, in the days of His flesh, when He offered up prayers and supplications, with strong crying and tears, to Him who was able to save Him from death, and was heard because of His godly

fear. (Hebrews 5:7)

Since we have spent an entire chapter sharing about prayer, I choose to briefly emphasize here that PRAYER is a v-o-i-c-e of two way communication.

In the above Scripture-Jesus SPOKE! God HEARD! That's PRAYER!

Not only is prayer a two way conversation with our Lord, but as the years pass, and I learn to listen with my spirit, many of the answers come instantly. Our problem is that we allow our minds of intellect, emotion and will to cloud our hearing.

Watchman Nee in his treatise on "spirit" says:

It is imperative that a believer know he has a spirit...Every communication of God with man occurs there. If the believer does not discern his own spirit he invariably is ignorant how to commune with God in the spirit. He easily substitutes the thoughts or emotions of the soul for the works of the spirit. Thus he confines himself to the outer realm, unable to reach the spiritual realm.

I Corinthians 2:11 speaks of "the spirit of man which is in him."

I Corinthians 5:4 mentions "my spirit."

Romans 8:16 says "our spirit."

I Corinthians 14:14 uses "my spirit."

I Corinthians 14:32 tells of the "spirits of the prophets."

Proverbs 25:28 refers to "his own spirit." (Darby)

Hebrews 12:1 records "the spirits of just men,"

Zechariah 12:1 states that "the Lord...formed the spirit of man within him."

The above Scripture verses sufficiently prove that we human beings do possess a human spirit. This spirit is not synonymous with our soul nor is it the same as the Holy Spirit. We worship God in this spirit.

According to the teaching of the Bible and the experience of believers, the human spirit can be said to comprise three parts; or, to put it another way, one can say it has three main functions. These are conscience, intuition and communion.(15)

Since we will give consideration to the matter of GOD SPEAKING THRU CONSCIENCE later in this chapter, I call our attention here to God communicating to our spirits thru ANSWERED PRAYER.

Scripture makes it clear that we COMMUNE WITH GOD and HE COMMUNES WITH US in our spirit.

"My spirit rejoices in God my Saviour." (Luke 1:47)

"The true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth." (John 4:23)

"Whom I serve with my spirit." (Romans 1:9)

"We serve...in the new life of the spirit." (Romans 7:6)

"You have received the spirit of sonship when we cry Abba Father." (Romans 8:15)

"The Spirit himself bearing witness with our spirit." (Romans 8:16)

"He who is united to the Lord becomes one spirit with Him." (I Corinthians 6:17)

"I will sing with the spirit." (I Corinthians 14:15)

"If you bless with the spirit." (I Corinthians 14:16)

"In the spirit he carried me away." (Revelation 21:10)

When God chooses to speak with us thru a PRAYER ANSWER, it will often be instantaneous.

Two years ago when seeking the Lord's continuing confirmation upon this Faith Alive Revival Ministry, I established a covenant built on the Old Testament story of Elisha's ax head that floated.(16) I called it "Does the ax head still float?" Simply, the covenant was---*if the Lord willed for Faith Alive Days to continue, He would provide \$1,500 during June, July and August over and above our regular needs.* These monies would be used to provide our social security insurance allowance. The day this announcement was placed in the mail to the "Faith Alive Prayer Band," we left for a trip to Minneola. At the free travel trailer park in Medicine Lodge, Kansas, we stopped for the night. I was out walking and praying as the sun was setting and the evening breeze blew off the river. This is the prayer question I asked Jesus: "LORD, WILL THE AX HEAD OF MY COVENANT WITH YOU FLOAT?" Instantly in my spirit, came the answer--"PREACHER, THE AX HEAD WILL NOT ONLY FLOAT, IT WILL FLY!" I praised God for this answer. Time would prove the reality of it three months later with \$2,005.87 being shared!!

The answer came in my spirit from His Spirit because my mind possessed no data to conclude that such an amount

would be forthcoming, particularly during summer days when giving is often less than other times. In previous years I would have discounted any possible *IMMEDIATE ANSWER IN MY SPIRIT* and faced the long three month provision period with uncertainty.

History that would affect the world for centuries to come was shaped because a certain man was tuned in to HEAR GOD SPEAKING. The Gospel was first brought to Ethiopia by a man simply designated as "The Ethiopian eunuch." The preacher, Philip, that was to share the Good News about Jesus with him had to have a tuned-in *spirit*, to receive God's call to go and share with the man. (Acts 8:26-40)

GOD often answers our PRAYERS for guidance by speaking in our spirits at unplanned moments.

This was the case during the first Faith Alive Revival shared at Soldier, Kansas, a lazy country town nestled in the hills of northeast Kansas. It comes complete with "spit and whittle downtown domino club" but has an exciting Christian church. Preacher, Richard Schafer, and I were out visiting people on a Wednesday afternoon. Richard had our calling planned before the Revival started. So, I was surprised when he made an unscheduled turn taking us down a one lane dirt road where the grass grew up in the middle and on both sides. I said: "Richard, where are we going?" He replied, "I have a hunch that we should go see Sue New." The "hunch" turned out to be God communicating--Spirit to spirit.

Sue New met us at the door with these words--"I knew you were coming for I had a dream last night and the Lord spoke to me." These kind of words always conjure up my curiosity, so I inquired, "Really? Now, what did the Lord tell you." She settled any doubts that I might have had by saying, "He told me that two men would come to my house today to tell me what to do to be saved. So, here you are." The Scriptures were opened to my favorite Divine pattern for salvation--ACTS 8:26-40--and Sue New invited Jesus to become her Saviour and Lord with her words and baptism!

**DANGERS CAN BE AVERTED**, if we will l-i-s-t-e-n for God's Voice of Answered Prayer by being tuned in moment by moment. Isaiah says:

"For the Lord spoke to me with a strong hand, and instructed me..."(17)

In the Havensville, Kansas Revival, preacher, Tim Newton, and I had started our afternoon calling with a prayer--"LORD USE US. GUIDE US. GUARD US. IN JESUS' NAME."

The barking dogs were a problem at this farmhouse but the lady raised the window and hollered "Don't mind the dogs. Come on in." I was ahead of Tim and had walked into a dark coat room and raised my foot to go down the stairs when a voice in my spirit said--STOP and TURN! This sudden interruption(?) startled me. I did stop and in a moment saw what was about to happen. The people had installed a basement under their house but had not yet installed an inside stairway. I was about to show up in the basement via a twelve foot drop off. Turning to the right there was a door, almost hidden, that led into their present living quarters. We went in and got to share Jesus with hungry souls.

"And since Christ is so much superior, the Holy Spirit warns us to LISTEN TO HIM, to be careful to HEAR HIS VOICE TODAY, and not let our hearts become set against Him, as the people of Israel did." (Hebrews 3:7,8 - Taylor's Living Bible paraphrase.)

#### **#4 - GOD IN THE VOICE OF CONSCIENCE -**

Hebrews 10:22; 13:18

Billy Sunday tells a vivid story about God's speaking to him thru his CONSCIENCE.

When I was fourteen years old, I made application for the position of janitor in a school

I used to get up at two o'clock, and there were fourteen stoves to which coal had to be carried. I had to keep the fire up and my studies and sweep the floors. I got twenty-five dollars a month salary. One day I got a check for my salary and I went right down to the bank to get it cashed. Right in front of me was another fellow with a check to be cashed, he shoved his in, and I came along and shoved my check in, and I was handed forty dollars. My check called for twenty-five dollars. I called on a friend of

mine who was a lawyer in Kansas City and told him: "Frank, what do you think, Jay King handed me forty dollars and my check only called for twenty-five dollars." He said, "Bill, if I had your luck, I would buy a lottery ticket." But, I said, "The fifteen dollars is not mine." He said, "Don't be a chump. If you were shy ten dollars and you went back you would not get it, and if they hand out fifteen dollars, don't be a fool, keep it."

Well, he had some drag with me and influenced me. I was fool enough to keep it, and I took it and bought a suit of clothes. I can see that suit now; it was a kind of brown with a little green in it and I thought it was the goods. That was the first suit of store clothes I had ever had, and I bought that suit and I had twenty-five dollars left.

Years afterward I said to myself: "I ought to be a Christian," and I got on my knees to read the Bible and pray and the Lord spoke loud and clear through my conscience: "BILL, YOU OWE THAT FARMER'S BANK FIFTEEN DOLLARS WITH INTEREST." I said: "Lord, the Bank don't know that I got that fifteen dollars," and the Lord said: "I KNOW IT." So I struggled along for years, probably like some of you, trying to be decent and honest and right, and every time I got down to pray the Lord would say, "FIFTEEN DOLLARS WITH INTEREST, NEVADA COUNTY, IOWA; FIFTEEN DOLLARS, BILL." So years afterwards I sent that money back, enclosed a check, wrote a letter and acknowledged it. Now I have a clear CONSCIENCE and peace with God, and I have never swindled anyone out of a dollar since."(20)

The writer of Hebrews recognized the need for a **CLEAR CONSCIENCE** when he wrote--

Pray for us. Our CONSCIENCE is clear before God, and our great desire is to lead a life that is completely honest.(19) (Hebrews 13:18)

Let us draw near with sincerity and unfaltering faith, our hearts sprinkled clean from CONSCIENCES oppressed with sin, and our bodies bathed with pure water.(20) (Hebrews 10:22)

Why was the writer of these verses so concerned about CONSCIENCE? Because, **GOD COMMUNICATES with us THROUGH OUR CONSCIENCE.**

Watchman Nee reveals certain matters about CONSCIENCE when he writes:



The spirit is the noblest part of man and occupies the innermost area of his being. The body is the lowest and takes the outermost place. Between these two dwell the soul, serving as their medium. The body is the outer shelter of the soul, while the soul is the outer sheath of the spirit. The spirit transmits its thoughts to the soul and the soul exercises the body to obey the spirit's order. This is the meaning of the soul as the medium. Before the fall of man the spirit controlled the whole being through the soul.

The power of the soul is most substantial, since the spirit and the body are merged there and make it the site of man's personality (will, intellect, emotions) and influence. Before man committed sin the power of the soul was completely under the dominion of the spirit. Its strength was therefore the spirit's strength. The spirit cannot itself act upon the body; it can only do so through the medium of the soul. This we see in Luke 1:46,47: *My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit has rejoiced in God my Saviour*" (Darby) Here the change in tense shows that the spirit first conceived joy in God, and then, communicating with the soul, caused it to give expression to the feeling by means of the bodily organ.(21)

Be reminded that our spirit houses three functions of our being--conscience, intuition and communion. Bro. Nee speaks of conscience in particular in this fashion:

The conscience is the discerning organ which distinguished right and wrong; not, however, through the influence of knowledge stored in the mind but rather by a spontaneous direct judgment. Often reasoning will justify things which our conscience judges. The work of the conscience is independent and direct; it does not bend to outside opinions. If a man should do wrong it will raise its voice of accusation.

A) The Function of CONSCIENCE in Man's spirit.

"Put a new and right spirit within me." (Psalms 51:10)

"When Jesus had thus spoken, he was troubled in spirit." (John 13:21)

"His spirit was provoked within him as he saw that the city was full of idols." (Acts 17:16)

"I had no rest in my spirit." (II Corinthians 2:13)(22)

As I write this, CONSCIENCE won a victory just yesterday in Imalee and I. We received our bank statement from the local Home National Bank for our ministry of Faith Alive Days, Inc. It showed a balance \$1,300 larger than our books show-

ed. Many weeks ago we had written a check on the Faith Alive Days Ministry account for over \$1,300 for several week's salary. We endorsed the check and deposited it in the bank where we conduct our personal business--Peoples State Bank of Minneola, Kansas. A couple of phone calls revealed that somewhere between Minneola, Kansas City and Arkansas City, the check was lost by the bank courier service. The days had now grown into weeks and the weeks into months as we waited for the return of the missing check. I PRAISE GOD that conscience prompted both Imalee and I instantly to call the bank and report the check that nobody missed.

**GOD COMMUNICATES thru CONSCIENCE**, if we keep the channels clear.

"And since Christ is so much superior, the Holy Spirit warns us to LISTEN TO HIM, to be careful to HEAR HIS VOICE TODAY, and not let our hearts become set against Him, as the people of Israel did." (Hebrews 3:7,8 - Taylor's Living Bible paraphrase.)

A good conscience is the palace of Christ; the temple of the Holy Ghost; the paradise of delight, the standing Sabbath of the saints. -St. Augustine-

"Herein do I exercise myself, to have always a conscience void of offense toward God, and toward men." Paul in Acts 24:16.

## **#5 - GOD SPEAKS THRU SIGNS and WONDERS**

Hebrews 2:3,4

Over a cup of coffee the morning after I preached on "The Ten Voices of God," a fellow minister said--

"Did I understand you right that you still believe in the supernatural in this age of the church?"

"Yes, Brother, you understood that right! Now, do I ascertain correctly that by your asking the question, that you do not believe in the supernatural in the church age?"

"Yep, you're right about that!"

"Well now, I thought you believed in prayer?"

He said: "I do!"

I said, "Now, prayer answers are supernatural or else the prayer is just idle words that get no higher than the ceiling

and any resulting answer is purely happenstance. If GOD HEARS, then the ANSWER has a touch of the SUPER-NATURAL on it!"

He responded with--"Well, I guess so."

I continued--"I thought you believed in the New Birth of being born of the water and the spirit as Jesus taught in John 3?"

"Of course I do!" he acknowledged.

"Well now, when we do what the Lord asks us to do in being born again, His part of forgiving sin and giving us the Holy Spirit is sure supernatural! If we leave the supernatural out then it's just a matter of joining a religious organization, getting our name on the roll."

"O.K." he said, "I see the point."

Much of American religion is simply churchanity and not Christianity. The reason lies with taking the SUPER out of SUPERNATURAL which leaves only the natural--naturalism, sensualism, materialism, each of which is a facet of humanism.

So we must listen very carefully to the truths we have heard, or we may drift away from them. For since the messages from angels have always proved true and people have always been punished for disobeying them, what makes us think that we can escape if we are indifferent to this great salvation announced by the Lord Jesus Himself, and passed on to us by those who heard him speak?

God always has shown us that these messages are true by signs and wonders and various miracles and by giving certain special abilities from the Holy Spirit to those who believe; yes, God has assigned such gifts to each of us. (Hebrews 2:1-4)(23)

GOD WAS SEEKING TO COMMUNICATE through these "voices" of signs, wonders, miracles and gifts of the Holy Spirit. So much so that the writer can and does say that the v-o-i-c-e of God's revelation is so clear that we shall be without excuse if we drift away.

A lady in the congregation at Minneola, Kansas saw a sign that blessed me much at a time when Divine confirmation was needed.

The Lord had brought revival and renewal to my life by 1974 through the uncovering of several truths that had been hidden to me--*The Holy Spirit, Worship, Fasting, Living by Faith, Love, Praise, Prayer and Dealing with the Devil*. Questions filled my mind as to why some of these truths had been hidden from myself and others for so long.

As Mabel Copple left the auditorium on a Sunday morning in January of 1974, she said:

"Wilbur, I would like to visit with you sometime when you have some spare moments."

Had I known what she wanted to share, I would have followed her home. But, not knowing, I said: "Mabel, I have a funeral on Monday and since Monday is my usual day off, I'm taking Tuesday instead; but, I can come by your house Wednesday morning."

Mabel said: "That will be fine."

Arriving at her house, I asked: "Where is your good husband, Jolly?" "I sent him down to drink coffee for this is personal between you and me and the Lord."

She began by saying, "Wilbur, do you believe in signs and visions?"

"Well Mabel, they occurred in Bible times and I had a vision the morning after our son's death."

Mabel continued, "Please know I have never seen anything like this before. Last Sunday as you stood up to preach about being filled with the Holy Spirit, an angel hovered over you placing a crown on your head. When you finished with the sermon, he came and removed the crown. Do you think I am crazy? What does this mean?"

I assured her that she was not crazy and that this strange happening was no doubt genuine and very meaningful to me.

His Spirit bore witness with my spirit that GOD WAS SPEAKING. I rejoiced in the Divine encouragement!

The Lord's call to this Faith Alive Revival Ministry, which I shared in the very beginning of this chapter, came just a few days after this event that Mabel shared. Close on the heels of

these events came the first invitation to share a week long Faith Alive Revival in February.

Paul writes in the PRESENT TENSE to encourage us with the knowledge that GOD IS STILL SPEAKING encouragement to us through His signs, wonders and miracles.

Therefore He who supplies the Spirit to you and works miracles among you--does He do it by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith? (Galatians 3:5)

I thank God always concerning you for the grace of God which was given to you by Christ Jesus, that you were enriched in everything by Him in all utterance and all knowledge, even as the testimony of Christ was confirmed in you, so that you come short in no gift, eagerly waiting for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ, who will also confirm you to the end, that you may be blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. (I Corinthians 1:4-8)

Signs, wonders and miracles are given to confirm, encourage and point the Way.

As we have traveled across the country sharing Revivals wherever the Lord opens a door, several people have shared dreams with us. Some six different individuals have dreamed that our daughter, Lisa, who has a severe emotional handicap, will TALK.

While sharing in a Faith Alive Revival with Jeff and Debbie Heirs at Wilroads Gardens Christian Church near Dodge City, Kansas, Iris Barnes of Soldier, Kansas called us on October 27, 1980. Her words were--**I had a dream last night. In it I saw Lisa accepting Jesus and being baptized and talking.** The day that Iris called was the night when LISA STOOD UP FOR JESUS and was baptized. We are encouraged in waiting to behold all the Lord plans to do in and thru Lisa!

"And since Christ is so much superior, the Holy Spirit warns us to LISTEN TO HIM, to be careful to HEAR HIS VOICE TODAY, and not let our hearts become set against Him, as the people of Israel did." (Hebrews 3:7,8 - Taylor's Living Bible)

## **#6 - GOD SPEAKS THRU EVENTS -**

Hebrews 3:7-9

God has often spoken thru the happenings of history-- Noah's flood spoke loud and clear(24); the fire and the earthquake spoke to Elijah(25) so he could hear the "still small voice."

The writer of Hebrews declares God speaks to those he is writing to just as He spoke to Israel.

Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says:

"Today, if you will hear His voice,  
Do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion,  
In the day of trial in the wilderness,  
Where your fathers tested Me, proved Me,  
And saw my works forty years.  
Therefore I was angry with that generation,  
And said, 'They always go astray in their heart,  
And they have not known My ways.'  
So I swore in My wrath,  
'They shall not enter My rest.' "(26)

"Today," the Holy Spirit says, GOD IS SPEAKING! (Hebrews 3:7) He doesn't just speak at eleven o'clock on Sunday morning. He spoke yesterday and no doubt will still be speaking tomorrow, but much more important is the fact that-- TODAY, GOD SPEAKS! The clear indication is that GOD IS SPEAKING ALL THE TIME. Our need is to tune-in and h-e-a-r Him TODAY!

What were these "voices" of the Lord in the wilderness that He alludes to in the Scripture quoted above? Certainly included would be the parting of the Red Sea, the provision of manna and quail, making the bitter waters of Marah sweet to drink, the brazen serpent in the camp which provided a cure for the bite of the poisonous vipers and the water from the rock.(27)

Even so, God still SPEAKS thru EVENTS.

My friend, Arnold Krob, shared with me an event that changed the direction of his life many years ago.

Arnold and his wife, Ina, and two children, Terry and Ginger were living on a farm southwest of Minneola, Kansas, where Jim and Barbara Houser now live. Here they helped

Ina's mother, Lillie Houser, farm what was known as the "Houser Homestead" which was one mile west and one mile north of Arnold and Ina's house. On this early summer evening in 1955 a storm cloud began to develop in the southwest. The blackness of the clouds and the developing wind caused Lillie to go to the storm cellar. They could tell by the sounds above ground that the wind was working havoc. When they went to the cellar, the wheat was waving in the breeze, the roosters were crowing and the house and barn stood in their places. When they emerged from the cellar, it was as if something had wiped the top of the earth clean with a rag. The chickens, wheat, barn and house were gone.

It was out of reflection on this storm and life that Arnold, using Isaiah's words, said--*"Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'Whom shall I send and who will go for me?' And I said, 'Here am I, send me.'"* (28) So, in 1957, Arnold and Ina and their family got their belongings together and journeyed down to Midwest Christian College of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma to begin studying for a life-long labor of preaching for Jesus. Now in their 20th year of ministry at Concordia, Kansas, the witness of their lives goes on.

God is far more willing to communicate than we are to hear what He is saying. If we will listen with the ears of our spirit, we can hear HIM!

"And since Christ is so much superior, the Holy Spirit warns us to LISTEN TO HIM, to be careful to HEAR HIS VOICE TODAY, and not let our hearts become set against Him, as the people of Israel did." (Hebrews 3:7,8 - Taylor's Living Bible paraphrase)

## **#7 - GOD SPEAKS THRU PEOPLE**

By faith Abel offered God a better sacrifice than Cain did. By faith he was commended as a righteous man, when God spoke well of his offering. And by faith HE STILL SPEAKS, even though he is dead. (Hebrews 11:4)(29)

God spoke thru Abel both while he was living and after he died. The Scriptures contain numerous examples of God speaking thru PEOPLE--\*

\*GOD SPOKE to David about his sin thru NATHAN. (2 Samuel 12:1-15)

\*GOD SPOKE to Naaman, the leper, thru ELISHA. (2 Kings 5:1-14)

\*GOD SPOKE thru certain PROPHETS to Paul. (Acts 13:1-3)

\*GOD SPOKE to the Widow of Zarephath thru ELIJAH. (1 Kings 17:8-16)

\*GOD SPOKE to the Ethiopian Eunuch thru PHILIP. (Acts 8:29ff)

\*GOD SPOKE to Saul thru ANANIAS. (Acts 9:10-17)

\*JESUS SPOKE to Herod "that fox" thru certain MEN sent to convey His Words. (Luke 13:31-33)

\*JESUS SPOKE certain words to secure and prepare the Upper Room thru PETER and JOHN. (Luke 22:7-13)

Any message GOD SPEAKS thru another MUST BE PROVEN by the Word of God as Paul said--"*Test all things; hold fast that which is good.*" (1 Thessalonians 5:21)

I was startled when GOD SPOKE TO ME thru a stranger on July 4th, 1972. At the time, we had ministered at Minneola, Kansas for nine years and were considering if it was time to move. The pulpit of the Central Christian Church in Dodge City, Kansas was open and I was contemplating the Lord's Will for us in relation to that. So, the night before, on my prayer walk, I asked the Lord this question--"**HOW LONG SHOULD WE STAY IN ONE PLACE?**" No one else knew of this prayer query.

The next day was the 4th of July. We went to the Wright Park at Dodge City for an outing. When we arrived at 11:30 a.m. there was a group of "Jesus People" having a rally. You may remember these were common in the sixties and seventies as a facet of "The Jesus Movement." I walked over to the informal gathering of young people and they were seeking someone to lead in a closing prayer. Two guys volunteered and prayed the closing prayer. Just as they finished, the leader announced he had a message from the Lord for someone in the group. This is what he said--"*Someone here wants to know how long they should minister in one place?*" The answer is--"**SOMETIMES YOU MUST STAY IN ONE PLACE FOR TEN YEARS OR MORE TO ACCOMPLISH IN ONE DAY WHAT I WANT DONE.**" The leader said the person the message was for could acknowledge it or remain



silent. Much startled and amazed I chose the silent response and sat down to ponder this answer.

“Lord, I must be sure this is YOU speaking? If it is, then cause the Elders and Deacons to give me a raise in salary this Thursday at their monthly business meeting.” From a human stand point, there were three reasons why it would take an ACT OF GOD to accomplish this:

1. The men had their minds on other things like wheat harvest that was just winding down.
2. When they gave me a raise it had always been the Spring or Fall of the year.
3. At that meeting the Treasurer's report showed we were \$44.38 in the red, meaning we were temporarily paying General Fund expense out of the Mission's and Youth Scholarship Fund. Soon after harvest we would be back in the black but not at that moment.

Amazed I was when near the end of the Elders and Deacon's business meeting on that Thursday evening, one of the deacons, Paul Snyder, said: “Men, it's time to give the Preacher a raise.” I was asked to leave the room and the action called for a \$15 per week raise plus Cecil Shelton asked the men to set up a retirement account with the “Christian Church Pension Plan” out of Joplin, Missouri. I rejoiced and praised the Lord for the monetary blessing provided but even more THAT GOD HAD SPOKEN at the Rally on Monday and CONFIRMED HIS MESSAGE again thru this board decision.

The harvest of souls and the Spirit's work in souls in the following years proved again and again and again that IT WAS THE LORD'S WILL for us to stay!

When I am tuned in to hear, GOD OFTEN SPEAKS THRU PEOPLE. Most times I discern the PERSON God communicates through has no idea they are God's transmission line.

Such was the case when Bob and Rose Osburn of Syracuse (Kansas) Christian Church invited me to preach a Revival there in February of 1974. I wrote Bob back saying:

Dear Brethren and Bro Bob,

Thanks for the invitation to preach a Revival there this February 3-7.

Please know that I am not a traveling evangelist. There are several across the country that will bless you and the church in a great way. I'll send you a list of names if you like. You see, Bob, I have preached two Revivals in all my twenty-five years of preaching and one of those was a have-to case at Chico, Texas when Bob Cox scheduled himself for two Revivals during the same week in two different places. In that meeting I preached for him, I got my pants nearly burned off by trying to do an object lesson using acid. It went awry and I had to stand closely behind the pulpit while preaching as the holes in my trousers got bigger and bigger.

Thank you for considering me. I'll pray for you.

-Wilbur-

Not at all did I know or ever guess that GOD WAS SPEAKING thru Bob and this invitation of the First Christian Church.

Interesting is the fact that Bob and the Syracuse Brethren would not take "NO" for an answer. Bob called to tell me that if the Leaders there had wanted *someone else*, they would have contacted them. **Would I please come and preach a Revival on faith being alive and teach a class on the devil.**

I said "Yes" with the condition that they would fast and pray and allow Jesus to do all the "worrying" about the usual things--attendance, offering, weather, people, etc. It would be THE LORD'S REVIVAL, both as to problems and any glory that might accrue. **THEY AGREED!**

So, on a Saturday afternoon this country boy made his way up the hill one hundred fifty miles northwest to Syracuse. I had seven chart sermons which had been prepared and preached at Minneola. I had no class on the devil, though Bob advertised there would be one.

The stage was set for high and holy days with a three hour prayer meeting on Saturday night. I shall never forget that prayer time as the many people simply sat on the floor, joined their hands together in a circle, and began to talk to God like He was their closest friend.

I arose at 4 a.m. Sunday morning and stole away to the church building to pray and listen. And, GOD SPOKE thru HIS WORD, ANSWERED PRAYER, WISDOM and MY SPIRIT--the outline and contents of the course came into my mind faster than I could write it down. Morning by morning the rest of the week at 5 a.m. the Lord gave me the material for the two daily classes. Now the subject--"Dealing with the Devil"--has become a seminar that I have shared several hundred times. Interesting is the fact that after all the times it has been taught, the outline and essential content remains unchanged.

I often describe the Presence of the Lord by saying "JESUS' 'FINGERPRINTS' ARE ALL OVER!" And this was forever true in this meeting, as the song says--"*Heaven came down and glory filled my soul!*" Time would decree this was the BEGINNING of the FAITH ALIVE REVIVAL MINISTRY.

While very busy in this Revival, the LORD SPOKE thru another person. Howard and Kay Messer of Havensville, Kansas called long distance extending an invitation to preach a Revival at Havensville Christian Church the next month. I agreed to come if the Brethren would PRAY! They did and I did!

GOD SPOKE thru another PERSON on the last night of the Syracuse meeting. One of the Elders, Junior Lewis came around on Friday night of the Revival and said--"**In Jesus' Name I confirm this meeting as being from God! I affirm in Jesus' Name that you are God's man for this hour. Speak what He tells you! Go where He leads you.**"

I acknowledge what Junior Lewis said at that time and moment was as idle words in my ears. I was in a hurry to get back to Minneola as there was much work to do. But, GOD WAS SPEAKING, and I would follow where He was leading!

"And since Christ is so much superior, the Holy Spirit warns us to LISTEN TO HIM, to be careful to HEAR HIS VOICE TODAY, and not let our hearts become set against Him, as the people of Israel did." (Hebrews 3:7,8 - Taylor's Living Bible paraphrase)

## **#8 - GOD SPEAKS THROUGH CIRCUMSTANCES -**

Hebrews 12:5,6

And have you forgotten the exhortation which  
**SPEAKS TO YOU** as sons:

"My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor lose courage when you are punished by him,  
For the Lord disciplines him whom he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives."(30)

Suggesting that **GOD SPEAKS TO US** thru the discipline of circumstances, opens the door for a wide latitude of "voices."

V. Raymond Edman suggests many possible **CIRCUMSTANCES** the Lord uses to direct us--\*

- \*The Discipline of Discipleship
- \*The Discipline of Danger
- \*The Discipline of Darkness
- \*The Discipline of Declining Days
- \*The Discipline of Deformity
- \*The Discipline of Delay
- \*The Discipline of Detail
- \*The Discipline of Difficulty
- \*The Discipline of Disability
- \*The Discipline of Disappointment
- \*The Discipline of Disease
- \*The Discipline of Doubt
- \*The Discipline of Duty(31)

**GOD OFTEN SPEAKS** thru the **CIRCUMSTANCE** of **OPEN** and **CLOSED DOORS**. Paul speaks of an **OPEN DOOR** of opportunity:

"Furthermore, when I came to Troas to preach Christ's gospel, and a **DOOR WAS OPENED** to me **BY THE LORD**." (II Corinthians 2:12)

God is far more willing to communicate than we are to hear what He is saying. God is speaking and if we will set-up a "hearing frame," it will assist our understanding His directives.

We chose to ask God to speak thru the **CIRCUMSTANCE** of the congregational vote of the Minneola (Kansas) Christian Church in February of 1963. Seeking to determine God's

leading, I made a prayer covenant with the Lord--that if He willed us to leave the seven year ministry at West Lebanon, Indiana, then the vote of the Minneola church must be 100%.

The Minneola church had asked me to preach a mini-revival so we could get to know each other better. Saturday night came and the Elders and Deacons met and agreed to recommend the congregation call us as their minister. The matter was to be decided Sunday morning by secret ballot.

I was staying with Roy and Blanche Barnes. As Chairman of the Elders, he told me of the proposed recommendation and inquired what vote percentage I would expect. My reply: "100%!" Roy said, "Oh no. I can't remember that we ever got a 100% vote on anything. That's not realistic here, Wilbur. We would like for you to come and be our preacher but 100% is impossible!" "Well now, if GOD WANTS US HERE HE WILL ARRANGE THE CIRCUMSTANCES of the vote. It will be 100%".

Sunday morning came. I preached. They voted. The tally was "100% YES!" Now, we knew THE LORD WAS SPEAKING thru this CIRCUMSTANCE. Our staying there nearly 14 years confirmed our conclusion many times over.

Again Paul speaks of a CLOSED DOOR and an OPEN DOOR:

"Now when they had gone thru Phrygia and the region of Galatia, they were FORBIDDEN BY THE HOLY SPIRIT to preach the word in Asia."

.....

"And a vision appeared to Paul in the night. A man of Macedonia stood and pleaded with him saying, 'Come over to Macedonia and help us.' " (Acts 16:6,9)

Of vital consequence to us was Paul's being tuned in to hear God speaking. His obedience to God's "voice" in this vision was the first step that centuries later would bring Christianity to us in the United States. When he crossed over to Macedonia, this placed him on European soil and from here the Gospel spread through Europe and later England and in due time on to America.

Imalee and I faced an "open - closed door" circumstance in 1975. Since the Lord had called us to minister at Minneola, it seemed wise to seek His Directions about leaving.

The invitations for Faith Alive Revivals continued to come-five in 1974, ten in 1975, then eighteen.

I chose the framework of a "Preacher vote" at the annual business meeting of the Church in October of 1975 to allow the LORD TO SPEAK. The policy of the church called for a 51% vote. My agreement with the Lord was:

If the vote is 80% to 100%: the DOOR to stay and continue present ministry is OPEN.

If the vote is between 66% to 80%: the DOOR is closing. Begin to search for God's leading.

If the vote is 66% or less: the DOOR is CLOSED.

The first Sunday in October came and the business of the congregation, voting on Elders, Deacons and Preacher took place. The vote tally for the preacher was 70%. So, I knew immediately from my "hearing frame" that the LORD WAS SAYING, the DOOR is CLOSING, seek further directions.

In my humanism it seemed proper to try several "DOORS" and to learn strangely they were CLOSED--\*

\*It seemed logical to ME to stay in Minneola while laboring in the Faith Alive Ministry. So I checked the available real estate. There had been a dozen houses for rent and/or sale just previous to this time; yet, when I checked them out, in each case the property had either just sold or rented or the owner had decided not to sell.

\*"SHOW-ME-HOME CHILDREN'S HOME" in Missouri contacted us about being Superintendent. When I visited with them they were UNABLE(?) or UNWILLING(?) to provide housing for our entire family.

\*Christ's Memorial Church of Ft. Worth, Texas was interested in my locating there. I wrote a letter of application in good faith. No reply was ever received.

\*In November of 1975 I shared a Faith Alive Revival with Dean and Phyllis LaVelle and the Bible Christian Church of Arkansas City, Kansas. The following month took me to Cushing (Oklahoma) Christian Church with Chuck and Anita Thomas.

During this meeting Dean LaVelle, minister of the Bible Christian Church of Arkansas City, brought a message from the Elders--Ray Blass, C.O. Britton, Claude Smith and Eli Fadley--inviting us to live in Arkansas City and labor with them. They said, "We will help you and you can help us in the labor of the kingdom." One of the men, C.O. Britton, had a house that he would make available. We agreed with the Lord that the provision of a house would be the final CIRCUMSTANCE if He willed us to locate in Arkansas City. It was of high interest to watch the Lord work thru the CIRCUMSTANCES.

First, the house was being sold to another person but their loan application was rejected.

Second, the house was no longer for sale due to the sickness of Mrs. Britton.

Third, the house was removed from the market due to the death of Mrs. Britton on April 6th.

Fourth, Bro. Britton called to say the house was available.

Fifth, on April 16th we met with Bro. Britton.

Previous to this I set up a "HEARING FRAME WITH THE LORD" so I would know if He was speaking. This was it:

#That if He willed us to move to Arkansas City, this ten room house that Bro. Britton had would be available to us on a rent with option-to-purchase contract.

#Rent no more than \$175 per month.

#Two year option to purchase with 10 year Contract at no more than \$200 a month at 7.5% interest.

Sixth, on Thursday night we lodged with Bob and Rose Osburn, who had moved to Arkansas City two years previous. After breakfast and prayer we looked at the house at 419 North B and talked with Bro. Britton presenting the above business figures.

At noon we dined and prayed with Dean and Phyllis LaVelle. At 3 P.M. on this "Good Friday" afternoon of April 16th we initiated a contract with Bro. Britton containing ALL of the above factors. The die was cast. The LORD HAD SPOKEN thru CIRCUMSTANCES to direct us, we would be locating in Arkansas City!

"And since Christ is so much superior, the Holy Spirit warns us to LISTEN TO HIM, to be careful to HEAR HIS VOICE TODAY, and not let our hearts become set against Him, as the people of Israel did." (Hebrews 3:7,8 - Taylor's Living Bible paraphrase)

## #9 - ANGELS! - GOD'S MESSENGERS

Hebrews 1:14; 13:2

Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some people have entertained angels without knowing it. (Hebrews 13:2)(32)

God uses angels to COMMUNICATE His will, assist, direct, protect and minister to and check-up on the Saints.

Ever since our oldest son's car wreck that I shared about in the chapter on "Prayer," and my discovery that angels are for real, I have made increasing use of their willingness to minister.

"Are not all angels ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation?" (Hebrews 1:14)(33)

In the realm of earth life where we live and serve, servants do more if asked. I concluded that since God's Word declares angels are ministering spirits sent by God to serve the Saints, they might serve more if I talked to God in prayer about the matter. I rejoice in the Lord to report that they are blessed servants of the Saints by God's request. It **does make a difference** if we ask for special angelic assignments on various occasions---\*\*

\*\*\*Lisa, our emotionally handicapped daughter, often causes people to gawk and stare. This upsets Lisa as it would any human being. I have found on such occasions that if I ask the Lord to send angels to detract the gaze of the person or persons, HE DOES, for in seconds they become busy staring at someone else or eating their own food.

\*\*\*When in a hurry, aren't we all, and I need the service of a Waitress in a cafe, I simply ask the Lord to send an angel to prompt the waitress to come to our table. And when the waitress comes directly to our table, I PRAISE THE LORD for serving angels on duty!

\*\*\*Every morning before my head leaves the pillow, among other requests, I ask the Lord to assign angels for that day to each of our family and many others that I pray for by name.

\*\*\*When we are out on the highways traveling to and from Faith Alive Revivals, part of my "Daily Travel Prayer" is to ask for angelic assignments for that day. Many are the testimonies that attend the miles and the moments of those days---###



**###On our 1981 trip to share a Faith Alive Revival out on Long Island, New York at the Holbrook Christian Church, our travel prayer was this--"LORD BE IN CHARGE OF EACH MILE, MOMENT AND MATTER OF THIS DAY TO YOUR GLORY AND ASSIGN ANGELS TO GUIDE AND GUARD US ALONG THE WAY."**

**###On Wednesday, April 8, right while we were praying in the wide open spaces of Pennsylvania, the engine on our Suburban died. But, a man appeared out of nowhere and took me two miles to a mechanic. Brought us back with the needed fuel pump at NO CHARGE. Who was the man?**

**###Saturday, April 11, two cars ran a stop light in New York City but missed us by inches?**

**###Saturday afternoon we needed directions. A Long Island Policeman pulled us over with this admonition--"YOU DON'T PULL TRAILERS ON LONG ISLAND PARKWAYS." We were pardoned since we were from Kansas. NO TICKET but we did get directions.**

**###Friday, April 24, nearing Johnson Bible College in Tennessee, two cars with no lights were stopped square in the middle of the road. Our vehicle and trailer skidded to a dead STOP within feet of the stopped vehicles. I realized later this wasn't possible as the brakes on our trailer have never worked even though mechanics have worked on them many times. The Amazing thing was that not any of the people in the two stopped cars looked up or around. It was as though we were invisible. Maybe we were?**

**###Sunday, April 26, our propane tanks on our travel trailer caught fire. In seconds angels put the fire out with no explosion?**

**###Wednesday, April 29: After traveling 4,614 miles over mountains, across rivers, thru tunnels, New York City and a hundred other towns, when we were within one block of our house here in Arkansas City, without previous sound or symptom, the tongue on our trailer broke off and with a screeching grinding sound it scraped along the brick street to a halt. This time the "angels" had names--Clifford Hensley and Steve Hensley, who came to have a look. They went back for reinforcements which included, Marvin Hensley, with his portable welder. They put the trailer tongue-hitch back together so it's now stronger than the original.**

**Were angels on duty all those miles and moments?**

Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by this some have unwittingly entertained angels. (Hebrews 13:2)

My observation from being in many communities and churches across forty plus years leads me to conclude that God keeps one or two angels in the average small community and possibly each church. Why? To check up on people's profession about brotherly love, kindness, longsuffering, etc.

At Minneola, Kansas, an old spinster lady came nearly every day to the church building. Seated alone in the auditorium she would sing, pray, read the Bible and after a while there would be a knock on my office door. "Yes, Hazel, what can I do for you?" She would say, "Preacher, I've been out here singing, praying and reading the Bible, now its time for me to give an offering. Would you come and pray for my offering?" I always did and she placed a "widow's mite" in the offering plate.

One day at coffee one of the men said to me: "Preacher, Something should be done about that old lady that keeps bothering you every morning. I'll sign a petition and we'll get one other person to sign. With this paper we can petition the District Judge to commit this woman to the State Hospital for evaluation." I thought at first this fellow was joking; but, the look on his face indicated otherwise. I said: "Friend, I wouldn't touch that woman with a ten foot pole. You know, she might be an angel sent here just to check on our profession that we minister to people anytime and anywhere. And, now that you bring it up, it would really be a good thing if all the church members followed her example--come every morning to the church building, pray, sing and read, then knock on my door and I would come out and take an offering."

Was Hazel Borden an angel?

Who was the stranger in the dark overcoat?

As I started preaching the message on "Practicing the Presence of Jesus" at Salina Heights Christian Church in Salina, Kansas, a stranger wearing a black overcoat held up his hand. I acknowledged him and he asked to speak for a

moment. He said, "I used to be a Preacher but not anymore." He sat down. I continued. After a few minutes his hand went up again. This is what he said. "I grew up in a Christian home but nobody loved me." He sat down. I assured him of God's love and mine and continued speaking. A third time his hand went up requesting to speak. "I used to come to church all the time but nobody cared about me as I wore poor clothing." He sat down. At this point one of the deacons came and took the man by the arm and ushered him to the back.

After the service was over, I inquired about the man. "Did you get to counsel and pray with him?" The deacon gave me a blank stare of amazement. He said, "COUNSEL? PRAY? THAT MAN WAS DISTURBING THE SERVICE. I SHOWED HIM WHERE THE DOOR WAS."

Who was the stranger in the black coat?

"And since Christ is so much superior, the Holy Spirit warns us to LISTEN TO HIM, to be careful to HEAR HIS VOICE TODAY, and not let our hearts become set against Him, as the people of Israel did." (Hebrews 3:7,8 - Taylor's Living Bible paraphrase)

## **#10 - GOD SPEAKS THROUGH JESUS!**

Hebrews 1:1,2

God, who at various times and in different ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days SPOKEN TO US BY HIS SON, whom He has appointed heir of all things, by whom also He made the worlds; who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become so much better than the angels, and He has by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they. (Hebrews 1:1-4)

Asserting that GOD SPEAKS THROUGH JESUS is the understatement of the universe. The entire sixty six books of the Bible stand as a living testimony--that JESUS IS GOD'S CHIEF MEANS OF COMMUNICATION!

A statement that has blessed me over and over is this one showing how CHRIST speaks out of every BOOK OF THE BIBLE!

In GENESIS He is the "Seed of the Woman."  
 In EXODUS He is the "Passover Lamb."  
 In LEVITICUS He is our "High Priest."  
 In NUMBERS He is "The Pillar of Cloud by Day, the Pillar of Fire by Night."  
 In DEUTERONOMY He is the "Prophet Like unto Moses."  
 In JOSHUA He is the "Captain of Our Salvation."  
 In JUDGES He is our "Judge and Lawgiver."  
 In RUTH He is our "Kinsman-Redeemer."  
 In I and II SAMUEL He is our "Trusted Prophet."  
 In KINGS and CHRONICLES He is our "Reigning King."  
 In EZRA He is our "Faithful Scribe."  
 In NEHEMIAH He is the "Rebuilder of the Broken Walls" of our shattered lives.  
 In ESTHER He is our "Mordecaia."  
 In JOB He is our "Ever-living Redeemer."  
 In PSALMS He is the "Lord Our Shepherd."  
 In PROVERBS and ECCLESIASTES He is our "Wisdom."  
 In the SONG OF SOLOMON He is the "Lover and Bridegroom."  
 In ISAIAH He is the "Prince of Peace."  
 In JEREMIAH and LAMENTATIONS He is our "Weeping Prophet."  
 In EZEKIEL He is the wonderful "Four-faced man."  
 In DANIEL He is the "Fourth Man in the Fiery Furnace."  
 In HOSEA He is the "Eternal Husband" forever married to the backslider.  
 In JOEL He is the "Baptizer with the Holy Spirit."  
 In AMOS He is our "Burden Bearer."  
 In OBADIAH He is "Our Saviour."  
 In JONAH He is the great "Missionary."  
 In MICAH He is the "Messenger of Beautiful Feet."  
 In NAHUM He is our "Avenger."  
 In HABAKKUK He is the "Evangelist pleading for Revival."  
 In ZEPHANIAH He is "The Lord Mighty to Save."  
 In HAGGAI He is the "Restorer of the Lost Heritage."  
 In ZECHARIAH He is the "Fountain Opened in the House of David for Sin and Uncleanliness."  
 In MALACHI He is the "Sun of Righteousness," rising with healing in His Wings.  
 In MATTHEW He is the "Messiah."  
 In MARK He is the "Wonder-worker."  
 In LUKE He is the "Son of Man."  
 In JOHN He is the "Son of God."  
 In ACTS He is the "Crucified One."

In ROMANS He is the "Justifier."

In I and II CORINTHIANS He is the "Sanctifier."

In GALATIANS He is the "Redeemer From the Curse of the Law."

In EPHESIANS He is the "Christ of Unsearchable Riches."

In PHILIPPIANS He is the "God Who Supplies All Our Needs."

In COLOSSIANS He is the "Fullness of the Godhead Bodily."

In THESSALONIANS He is our "Soon Coming King."

In I and II TIMOTHY He is the "Mediator between God and Man."

In TITUS He is the "Faithful Pastor."

In PHILEMON He is the "Friend of the Oppressed."

In HEBREWS He is the "Blood of the Everlasting Covenant."

In JAMES He is the "Lord who Raises the Sick."

In I and II PETER He is the "Chief Shepherd Who Will Soon Appear."

In I, II and III JOHN He is "Love."

In JUDE He is the "Lord Coming with Ten Thousand of His Saints."

In REVELATION He is the "Alpha and The Omega - King of Kings and Lord of Lords."(34)

Three beautiful testimonies by the young and the old tell of spirits that have HEARD the Lord calling and ANSWER BACK in beautiful ways!

Troy Finlay of Kendall, Kansas was two years old when he was blinded by an eye infection. His vision was 10/300 and he required strong glasses to correct his vision.

When Troy was eight years old, in response to what James said--*"Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up."* (James 5:14,15)--he was healed!

While eating dinner in their home I said to Troy's father, Larry, "I suppose that left 'fingerprints' on Troy's life?" His dad said, "No sir, it left 'footprints.' Troy went to school the next day saying--"**LOOK WHAT JESUS DID FOR ME!**"

An old Saint at Minneola, Kansas, BRO. ED COMBS, was hardly sick a day in his life until the age of about 78 when he

developed a hernia. Dr. Trekell of Dodge City said, "We ordinarily do not operate on people this age for this kind of hernia. However, Ed will die if we don't and probably will if we do." So, the Church prayed and Ed came thru the operation! Twice more he was operated on after this. The last time I saw Ed he was about 94 years old and said this to me--**"Preacher, if the Church doesn't quit praying for me, I never will get to see Jesus."** He left this world to be with Jesus at about the age of 95.

Ed's wife, IVA COMBS, was 99 when I asked her what she was going to say when she saw Jesus. Instantly she responded--**"I'LL SAY. 'HALLELUJAH JESUS! I'M HOME TO STAY!'"**(35)

Just recently, BRO. RAY BLASS, a 95 year old active Elder here in Bible Christian Church of Arkansas City, Kansas said to me:

**"IT IS WONDERFUL TO READ AND TALK ABOUT THE LORD, FOR HE IS WONDERFUL AND DOES WONDERFUL THINGS. PRAISE HIS NAME!"**(36)

GOD'S VOICES are all about us! We need to tune in that we may hear.

The railroads played an important role in the settling of America. They brought people and supplies from the East to settle the West. With the railroads came the telegraph. During that period of history one station in a western town advertised for a telegrapher. Three men arrived at the appointed hour for the interview. They were all seated in the Station Waiting Room ready for the interview. The telegraph receiving unit chattered away with the dots and dashes of the Morse Code. Suddenly over the wire in code came this message--**The man who has his ears tuned to Morse Code in this Station Waiting Room may get up from his seat, walk past the Clerk and into my office for an interview.** One man did just as he was instructed. As soon as he walked thru the office door, the Station Master said, **"YOU'RE HIRED!"** "We want a

man who is tuned in to Morse Code at all times.”

There is a valuable lesson in this simple true story for all of us in relation to hearing God's Voices--**BE TUNED-IN ALL THE TIME!**

“And since Christ is so much superior, the Holy Spirit warns us to **LISTEN TO HIM**, to be careful to **HEAR HIS VOICE TODAY**, and not let our hearts become set against Him, as the people of Israel did.” (Hebrews 3:7,8 - Taylor's Living Bible paraphrase)

May the words of this old hymn be a fitting commitment for each of us as we seek to hear God's voice.

Lord, I have shut the door, Speak now the word, Which in the din and throng I could not hear. Hushed now my inner heart, Whisper Thy will, While I have come apart, While all is still.(37)



**Our Real House**  
The Lord provided thru  
Bro. C.O. Britton in 1976  
Arkansas City, Kansas

**FAITH ALIVE IN HEART, HOME and CHURCH**  
**NOTES - Chapter 8**

1. Hymn - "In The Garden"
2. Hymn - "I Am Thine O Lord"
3. Hymn - "Where He Leads Me"
4. Hymn - "He Lives!"
5. Book - The Spiritual Man, by Watchman Nee (1903-1972)  
Used by permission of Christian Fellowship Publishers,  
Inc., New York, Vol. I, Pgs.21,22
6. Ibid. Chapter 2, Pgs.31,32
7. Genesis 1:27,28 New American Standard Bible - The  
Lockman Foundation, 1960.
8. Hebrews 4:7 as quoted from Psalm 95:7,8
9. Hebrews 4:12
10. Romans 12:17-19 - New International Translation
11. The Lamplighter, published by Faith Alive Days, Inc. of  
Arkansas City, Kansas. Vol.9, No.82 - March, 1982.
12. Professor Don DeWalt has served forty years as a pro-  
fessor in San Jose Bible College of California and Ozark  
Christian College of Joplin, Missouri. He is now founder  
and now editor of College Press Publishing Co. of  
Joplin, Missouri.
13. Psalm 19:1-4 - New International Translation
14. Poem - "The Outdoor Son of God" by William L. Stidger.  
(Public domain.)
15. The Spiritual Man, Vol.1, Pg.32,33
16. II Kings 6:1-7
17. Isaiah 8:11
18. Billy Sunday (1863-1935) - The Man and his Message by  
William T. Ellis, C.1959, Pgs.20,21, Used by permission  
of Moody Press, Chicago.
19. The New Testament in Modern English -1958- by J.B.  
Phillips.



20. The New Testament in Modern Speech -1943- by Weymouth.
21. The Spiritual Man, Vol.1, Pgs.27,32
22. Ibid. Vol.1, Pgs.32,33
23. Hebrews 2:1-4 - Living Bible Paraphrase.
24. Genesis 6:1ff
25. I Kings 19:1-13
26. Hebrews 3:7-11 as quoted from Psalm 95:7-11
27. Exodus, Cpts. 14,15,16,17.
28. Isaiah 6:8
29. Hebrews 11:4 from New International Translation.
30. Hebrews 12:5,6 as quoted from Proverbs 3:11,12 from Revised Standard Version (1946,1952).
31. Chapter titles from The Disciplines of Life by V. Raymond Edman, 1982.
32. Hebrews 13:2 from New International Translation (1973).
33. Hebrews 1:14
34. Out of my file. Author unknown.
35. From my visit with Iva Combs of Minneola, Kansas, March of 1988.
36. Words of Bro. Ray Blass, Elder of Bible Christian Church, Arkansas City, Kansas. (Sunday, August 7, 1988).
37. Hymn - "Lord, I have Shut The Door" by William M. Runyan.



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**Imalee, Wilbur and Rebecca**