

## Crucial Communication

### Introduction

1. In relationships, one of the most important factors is communication.
  2. It has been said, “Communication is the lifeblood of any relationship.”
    - a. Spouses, family, friends, employer/employee, etc.
    - b. Members of the church – EX: poor communication regarding spiritual gifts in Corinth caused disorder, confusion, and prevented edification.
  3. The most important relationship of them all emphasizes the importance of communication – the relationship between a man, and God.
  4. Proper and consistent communication is crucial in our relationship with God. If such is neglected, or negatively affected our relationship will suffer severely.
    - a. Do you feel out of tune spiritually?
    - b. Do you feel a distance between God and yourself?
    - c. Do you feel a struggle in your spiritual goals of sanctification and maturity?
    - d. It might be because you are not in communication with God as you should be.
  5. If there is healthy and consistent communication in our relationship with God, we will grow closer to Him and become more like Him.
- I. Two Lines of Communication
- A. God to the Christian
    - a. The Method:
      - i. **Hebrews 1:1-2** – Speaks to us through His Son.
        1. **Hebrews 2:3-4** – carried on through the inspired apostles.
        2. **2 Corinthians 4:6** – revealed God in the face of Christ via apostolic doctrine.
      - ii. Revealed, written, and read:
        1. **2 Peter 1:19-21** – prophecy (inspired message) of scripture through work of the Holy Spirit – men are the tools.
        2. **2 Peter 3:1-2, 15-16** – apostles’ writing identified on same plane as inspired scripture and identified as scripture.
        3. **1 Thessalonians 2:13** – not word of men, but God.
        4. **Ephesians 3:3-4** – revealed, read, and understood.
        5. **2 Timothy 2:15** – requires diligent study.
      - iii. This is God’s design. This is how He has determined to communicate with us in these “last days.” IF WE NEGLECT OUR READING AND STUDY OF SCRIPTURE, WE SILENCE GOD’S COMMUNICATION WITH US – **cf. 1 Thessalonians 5:19-20** – don’t quench the Spirit.
    - b. The Blessing:
      - i. Some do not value the reading and study of scripture as they should.
      - ii. They do not view it as intimate communication from God.
        1. Some seek signs.
        2. Some desire a still small voice to guide them.

3. Some look after feelings which stir inside them.
  4. NONE OF THESE ARE TRULY GOD'S COMMUNICATION AND ARE INFERIOR TO IT.
- iii. **2 Timothy 3:16-17** – inspiration.
    1. *Theopneustos* – God-breathed.
    2. Communication of God's mind.
    3. The power to life (**cf. Genesis 2:7** – **"breath of life"**).
  - iv. We should appreciate the revelation of God in scripture, not take it for granted.
    1. Time before Samuel's prophetic ministry when **"THE WORD OF THE LORD WAS RARE IN THOSE DAYS; THERE WAS NO WIDESPREAD REVELATION" (1 Samuel 3:1)**.
    2. Time when the Book of the Law was lost, but found by Josiah – DISCOVERED THEIR TRANSGRESSIONS BECAUSE OF THEIR LACK OF DIRECTION IN THE LAW'S ABSENCE.
    3. 400 years of silence between the end of the OT in Malachi, and the preaching of John the Baptist.
    4. NOW – **Jude 3** – once for all delivered. (universal access only recent – 1455, PRINTING PRESS INVENTED – GUTENBERG BIBLE)
- B. The Christian to God
- a. The Method:
    - i. Worship – Lord's Supper; Giving; Preaching; Singing; Prayer
    - ii. Prayer – the primary and most intimate method of communication between the Christian personally, and God.
      1. Not a take it or leave it matter – **1 Thessalonians 5:17** – commanded.
      2. **Ephesians 6:18** (after panoply of God) – praying always – i.e. along with the armor of God, prayer is a CONSTANT NECESSITY for the stand against the devil.
      3. Two crucial sides – God's communication through His word, our communication through prayer.
      4. Prayer is an exercise of faith – **James 1:6** – ask in faith – **James 5:15** – prayer of faith.
      5. Prayer is an avenue for praise and adoration – **1 Samuel 2:1-2** – Hannah's prayer after being blessed with her son Samuel.
  - b. The Blessing:
    - i. Our prayers ascend to God's throne, and are heard by Him – **Revelation 5:8; 1 John 5:14-15**
    - ii. Prayers of the righteous are effective – **James 5:16-18**
    - iii. As we give our hearts to God in prayer, troubles and all, we are given a peace knowing that it is now in the hands of the omnipotent God – **Philippians 4:6-7**

- C. Communication is Crucial
  - a. The Christian depends on God’s guidance through His word.
  - b. The Christian depends on the power of God accessed through prayer.
  - c. DAILY – WE NEED TO LET GOD SAY SOMETHING TO US (THROUGH HIS WORD), AND WE NEED TO SAY SOMETHING TO GOD (THROUGH PRAYER) EVERY DAY.
- II. Communication Barriers
  - A. Sin
    - a. Sin will cause harm to our reception of God’s word. Therefore, we must lay it aside – **James 1:21**
    - b. Sin will sever our relationship with God, thus, our line of communication with Him in prayer – **Isaiah 59:1-2**
    - c. Examine yourself – **2 Corinthians 13:5** – is sinfulness hurting our study of God’s word? Is sin compromising our blessing of prayer?
  - B. Carnality
    - a. A mind inclined to fleshly thought will not give place to God’s teaching.
    - b. **1 Corinthians 2:14; 3:1-3a** – Paul could not give the Corinthians deeper instruction from God’s word because of their carnality.
    - c. The carnal mind is not set to receive God’s communication, and the carnal mind will not be inclined to communicating itself to God.
      - i. **James 4:2-4** – no asking, asking in carnality, one who is fond of the world is at enmity with God.
      - ii. When our desires are not for spiritual things, and our minds are consumed with the matters of the world, we will not be in communication with God, nor can we be.
  - C. Time Mismanagement
    - a. Often, we don’t allow God to communicate with us, and we don’t communicate with Him because it hasn’t been prioritized.
    - b. **Matthew 6:33** – seek FIRST – priority.
    - c. **Psalms 63:1** – early I will seek you – unquenchable thirst.
    - d. Make time for communication with God:
      - i. Bereans – **Acts 17:11** – searched scripture daily.
      - ii. Daniel – **Daniel 6:10** – had a custom to pray 3 times daily.
    - e. Mindset of Jesus – **Luke 2:49, 52** (study/meditation); **Luke 22:39, 41** (customary isolation to pray)

### Conclusion

1. Christians must understand the crucial nature of communication with God.
2. If we don’t allow God to communicate to us through His word, how do we know Him, and have fellowship with Him?
3. If we don’t communicate to God through prayer, how do we grow closer to Him, and how will we be equipped to handle the struggles of life?
4. We must make sure we are in constant communication with God.