

Whenever we talk about God speaking, I think some of us are afraid to engage with this topic because we fear the extreme----so let me just start with this:

God doesn't want EVERYONE to go to Haiti.
God doesn't want EVERYONE to go into full time ministry.
God doesn't want EVERYONE to start a church.
God doesn't want EVERYONE to sell all their possessions and follow Him.
But—God DOES want EVERYONE to hear His voice—for their unique life.

So what is this series about? It's about how God gave us the gift of the Holy Spirit so that we can be FREE from our old life and be fully alive in Christ.

Romans 8 is all about being alive in Christ and I want to read verses 9-12 in *The Message*. It really nails the crux---the "why" of this series—this idea that through the Holy Spirit can live a life that's fully alive.

But if God himself has taken up residence in your life, you can hardly be thinking more of yourself than of him. Anyone, of course, who has not welcomed this invisible but clearly present God, the Spirit of Christ, won't know what we're talking about.

But for you who welcome him, in whom he dwells—even though you still experience all the limitations of sin—you yourself experience life on God's terms. It stands to reason, doesn't it, that if the alive-and-present God who raised Jesus from the dead moves into your life, he'll do the same thing in **you** that he did in Jesus, bringing you alive to himself?

When God lives and breathes in you (and he **does**, as surely as he did in Jesus), you are **delivered** from that **dead life**. With his Spirit living in you, your body will be as **alive as Christ's!**

So don't you see that we don't owe this old **do-it-yourself** life one red cent. There's nothing in it for us, nothing at all. →
The best thing to do is give it a decent burial and get on with your new life. God's Spirit beckons. There are things to do and places to go!

Romans 8:9-12 The Message

So why this series? Because God has called us to a better life than we had without Him. And it is **through the Holy Spirit –through His whispers**—that we will be alive in Christ!

Let's start with who the Holy Spirit is and what He does.
(disclaim: this is not inclusive!)

The Holy Spirit LIVES IN those who belong to God. v10

If we have come to terms with our **sin**---and come to terms that Jesus—the sinless son of God--died on a cross for our sin.

And if we've asked Jesus to forgive us and to lead our life. THEN, the Holy Spirit will live IN us. "Take up residence in our life" *The Message* says. Or "**indwells**" us.

So—the Holy Spirit lives IN those who have accepted Christ.

If you're **not** in a relationship with Christ—the Holy Spirit may be working **ON** you...getting your attention---getting you here—making you aware of your need for a Savior.

The Hebrew & Greek words for spirit are ruach and pneuma. They both mean wind or breath. So there is an **invisible** yet **tangible** nature to Him.

- can't see the wind but something is making the leaves fly around
- can't see my coffee breath, but if you were right here...you would "testify"
- can't see the Holy Spirit yet when Peter "got his sermon on," on the day of Pentecost, 3,000 people accepted Christ and were baptized.

He is the very presence of God Himself in all the world.

I can never escape from your Spirit!

I can never get away from your presence! Psalm 139:7

And the Holy Spirit is a HE, not an IT.

Jesus' words:

"But I will send you the Advocate—the Spirit of truth. **He** will come to you from the Father and will testify all about me. **John 15:26**
(relational being...)

He gives us power and influence to reach those who don't know God.

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. Acts 1:8

He guides us into truth and speaks for the Father.

When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own but will tell you what he has heard. He will tell you about the future. All that belongs to the Father is mine; this is why I said, 'The Spirit will tell you whatever he receives from me. John 16:13,15*

He instructs us and brings things to our mind.

But when the Father sends the Advocate as my representative—that is, the Holy Spirit—he will teach you everything and will remind you of everything I have told you. John 14:26

He convicts us of sin.

And when he comes, he will convict the world of its sin, and of God's righteousness, and of the coming judgment. John 16:8

Calls people into ministry.

One day as these men were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Dedicate Barnabas and Saul for the special work to which I have called them." Acts 13:2

He produces a new nature in us. (*Fruit of the Spirit*)

But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things!

Galatians 5:22-23

Gives spiritual gifts (special abilities) **to believers.** [1 Corinthians 12:7-11](#)

(Selah)

One of the unique things about our faith is our **“three-part-harmony”** God: Father, Son, Holy Spirit. And a common question is, “How do They work together?”

Real quick look at 1 Peter 1:2

God the Father knew you and chose you long ago, and his Spirit has made you holy. As a result, you have obeyed Him and have been cleansed by the blood of Jesus Christ. [1 Peter 1:2](#)

So:

- The Father chooses us and makes us His children.
- Jesus redeems us through His death on the cross.
- The Holy Spirit draws us to God and continues to work in our life.

(Selah)

Do you have any friends that are “talkers?” The kind of friend that you’re nervous to ask them anything because once they start, God only knows when they’ll stop?! The kind of people that if you ask them what time it is they’ll tell you how to make a watch...

God isn’t **that** bad --- but God is a talker!

From Genesis to Revelation, all through the Bible, God is talking to people. There is a DIALOGUE going on—that God is initiating---that starts at **Genesis ch 1** all through to **Revelation 22:21**. (He’s seemingly never at a loss for words.)

Before the world existed God was communicating within Himself—Father, Son & Spirit.

And from there, in Genesis, he SPOKE things into existence. He **“talked” the light on** in Genesis 1:3

“God said, ‘Let there be light,’ and there was light. And in chapter 1 of Genesis, the phrase **“He said”** precedes every act of creation. If God was a **contractor**, He’d only need one of those TINY “Smart Cars” with a sign on the door that reads, **“Said Construction Co.”**

God talked with Adam and Eve.

God talked to Noah about a flood and the need for a boat.

God talked with Moses and led a “little” rebellion out of Egypt.

God spoke to a boy named Samuel and eventually used him to unify Israel.

God spoke to Mary & Joseph

God spoke to Jesus, in whom He was well pleased.

God talked with a killer of Christians, rich people, poor people, healthy people, crippled people, lepers and tax collectors.

From Genesis to Revelation, God is a talker. And just to be clear, the accounts in Revelation have not happened yet—that is future.

So when we see in the Bible that God talks from Genesis to Revelation – that means He talked back in the day, today, and yet to come.

(Selah)

I know God talks to us today because **I have friends that are crazy**. Do you have crazy friends?

This is what I mean:

I have good friends that used to be: pot smokers, pill poppers, heavy drinkers, womanizers, ("manizers"), self driven, ego-maniacs, live to party, live for today, live to have fun, live for the moment people.

And they're sitting here today—some here (seats), some up there (booth), some with your kids (yikes), one might be on stage..

But they're **not** into that stuff anymore. They don't **want** to be into that stuff anymore—their DESIRE for that stuff is GONE.

Now their lives aren't about THEM—now they're **selfless—servants—others-focused---**
God-dependant people. Know why?

Because God's a talker. The Holy Spirit started talking to them. He started whispering **crazing** things into their lives. He whispered stuff like:

I've got a BETTER way...

I've got a HIGHER high...

I can feel the discontent in your soul...and do something about it

I want to love you like you've never been loved...

I've already paid for every sin you've ever done and ever will do, and could ever dream up...

I want to adopt you into MY family and rescue you from this life...

I know God speaks TODAY-- because I know WAY too many crazy people whose lives have done a complete 180°---because they've heard the whispers of an invisible God!!

(\$200) This is a sign of a whisper from over 16 years ago. A job I worked at was offering to move me and our young family out of the area. I was getting paid pretty well & would be paid even more.

But Sandra and I heard a whisper that said we should stay at this church. And after we obeyed that whisper---we heard a follow-up whisper that led me to leave this salaried position to make this—\$200 cash every week...which eventually led to a whisper calling me to ministry...

(Selah)

This is a Frisbee I got in the summer of 2001 at BigStuf camp. We'd just lost a couple staff people—one was the youth guy. So I took a bus full of teenagers for a week of camp in Panama City FL.

And while I was there I heard a whisper that said, "***You're growing attached to these kids that you thought you didn't have anything in common with. Would you feed my sheep?***"

And so for about a year and a half I got to lead a great bunch of potential-packed young teenagers.

People like Derek Weed, Lindsay & Eric Pattison, Carmen, Mandy, Jonathon Malin, Austin Butler, Travis Carpenter, Curtis Stout, Meghan Chaffee, Chelsea & Katie Cole, Meghan Larison, Niko Gruber.

These are all now phenomenal 20-somethings...most of them are newly weds. And since they were in high school to now---they have been making phenomenal **impact in the Kingdom of God.**

From that group we have:
one in seminary—another one applying to seminary,
one working at ReThink in ATL,
one working at a large church in Indy,
Curtis spent most of the year in Haiti,
staff person...

They are ALL players in the Kingdom—DEVOUT—living "make a difference for Christ" lives!

I got to be **used by God** to help **root them in Christ**...and now they are all making a difference in this world for Christ. I got to be a PART of it---**because of a whisper at a camp in Panama City.**

(Selah)

And I hear whispers in this room on Sunday mornings with regularity—and Sometimes it's Mark's specific words—and often I hear the Holy Spirit **in between** Mark's words or

around Mark's words. The Holy Spirit uses something in here to bring a unique thought to my mind.

I hear God so clearly in here that I'll often bring a pen and paper to the service when I really need to hear Him—because I know based on His track record, that I hear LOTS of whispers in these services.

And I think this is a place **a lot of us** hear whispers. NOT because this **place** is special—but because what you and I are doing in here is intentional. Let me explain:

When we come here, it's one of the FEW places where we turn everything OFF.

Dropped off the kids (thank you Lord!). We've turned off the cell phones (mostly). We're **quiet**. By the time the pastor comes to speak, we're **dialed in—in our mind, heart & soul**. In a word—we're LISTENING!—in the most **active** sense.

God is a talker. And that means we have to be LISTENERS. And the Holy Spirit will rarely talk OVER the noise and **cacophony** of our life!...

So if we're struggling to HEAR God, we need to look at our life and see if we've **turned down the volume---taken our foot off the gas pedal--** and **created space --** for us to **hear Him**.

Based on the book of Seinfeld 5:66 (season 5, episode 66) we can say that biblically God is a "Low talker."

Not a "up talker" not a "close talker." He is a "LOW TALKER."

In 1 Kings 19:12 God spoke to the prophet Elijah, and the text says God spoke in the "**sound of a gentle whisper.**"

Maybe the biggest **barricade** keeping us from hearing God is our loud, hurried and harried lives. We are **working, driving, texting, tweeting, running, always on the go, always noise in the background freaks!**

But God is a low talker. The Spirit speaks in the "sound of a gentle whisper."

It's not that God's not around us. It's not that God isn't speaking to us. It's that too often we're living lives **that don't have space for us to hear our low talking God.**

So don't ask, "**Where's God? Why isn't He speaking to me?**"

Instead ask, "**How often am I slowing down to intentionally LISTEN to the low-talking Holy Spirit who lives in me?**"

I wonder sometimes if we have God amnesia—forgetting that the Holy Spirit takes up residence INSIDE each of His children. This amazing loving guiding Spirit lives **inside** of us.

And the **noise of our unmanaged life**, can eclipse the Spirit who dwells right inside us.

1. God is a talker (all thru the Bible—all thru our lives!)
2. We have to be LISTENING (Because He's a "low talker.")
3. We have to obey.

God IS a talker. But **not** like an audio book. An audio book just keeps talking and going and we don't need to **respond** to it.

But the Holy Spirit is talking--- to **enlighten** us, **guide** us, **MOVE** us!

Every time the Spirit speaks to us, He **moves the ball into our court**. The Spirit speaks, and **we** CHOOSE what to do with it.

Before the apostle Paul was Paul—he was **Saul**. And he lived to enslave and even kill Christians. But on the way to Damascus, the Spirit called him out—and called him to embrace this faith he had been terrorizing.

Paul **chose** to follow the whisper. God used Paul to take Christianity throughout the Roman Empire. Used him to write 13 books in the New Testament...

(Selah)

I could have ignored the whisper, and taken the promotion some 16 or so years ago. But then I never would have gone to BigStuf—gotten to know and be used by God in the lives of some amazing young people. Wouldn't be giving this message today...

Every whisper of the Spirit is an **opportunity** for God to **mold us** and **impact others**.

Every whisper puts us at the **crossroads** of **obedience to God**.

For **some** people, you've been Christ followers for a long time—but you don't seem to be hearing God lately.

Maybe it's because over time we've stopped being obedient to His whispers. (pause)

Whispers often lead us **out** of **comfort** and into **faith**. Whispers have the opportunity to lead from "life same" to "life change."

1. God is a talker
2. We have to be LISTENING (Because He's a "low talker.")
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The whispers comes from our **King**.

The whispers come from our **Holy Father**.

He is our King. We are not the king. We our but King-worshippers.

We are not god. We are small pieces of God's immense story and glory.

Whispers come from our King. A Holy Mighty All-Powerful loving King.

A Mighty King--who **chooses**-- to whisper into the ear of His lowly subjects.

"Are your ears awake?

Listen.

Listen to the Wind Words, the Spirit blowing through the churches.

I'm about to call each conqueror to dinner.

I'm spreading a banquet of Tree-of-Life fruit, a supper plucked from God's orchard."

Revelation 2:7 The Message

Are your ears awake?

(*"Hear is Our King"* acoustically—music team, then *"Center"*)