

**INTRODUCTION:** Prov. 16:18: (Pride goes before a fall)

**God is Personal: Nature of Persons to Communicate: Reasonable**

**Still a Gracious Choice God Made**

**“The infinite personal God is there, but also he is not silent; that changes the whole world”** (xxviii, p 276, Complete Works, Francis Schaeffer Vol. 1).

**GOD HAS SPOKEN:** Psalm 50:3 “Our God approaches and he is not silent” (NLT).

**Thus Says the Lord**-over 400 times in OT

**David:** “The Spirit of the Lord spoke through me; his word was on my tongue” (2 Sam.23:2).

**Jeremiah:** (God speaking) “I am about to set my words on fire in your mouth” (Jer. 5:14a).

**Peter:** “Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet’s own interpretation of things. For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit” (2 Pet. 1:20-21).

**Legitimate Question: How do we know this Communication, the Bible, is From God and Not Man-made?**

**Predictive Prophecy, Unity of Bible, Accurate Historical Document...**

**Topic of this Conference:** “Now more than ever, Christians must shift from *accidental belief* to *evidential belief*. It’s time to know *why* you believe *what* you believe.” (J. Warner Wallace, Forensic Faith, 23).

## **WHAT IF GOD HAD NOT SPOKEN VERBALLY?**

### **What Can We Know From General Revelation? God's Painting: Creation**

**Psalm 19:1-4**

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**Romans 1:19-20**

**What else can we infer about God from Creation?**

### **What Wouldn't We Know/Possess If God Has Not Spoken?**

**God's Thoughts:** I Cor. 2:11-12

**Personally: So Much: In Darkness**

**A Close Relationship not Possible**

**Silence in a relationship is often distancing, alienating, painful.** Psalm 28:1, 35:22, 83:1

Psalm 27:8 "My heart has heard you say, 'Come and talk with me.'  
And my heart responds, 'Lord, I am coming'" (NLT).

**Silent treatment**

## **WHAT HAS HE SPOKEN? What can we therefore know, possess and enjoy?**

### **ALL THE BIG QUESTIONS OF LIFE ARE ANSWERED**

**Who is God? What is he like?** Gen. 1., Isa. 46:9, Exod. 34:6-7

**How did the earth come to be?** Gen. 1.

**What is a human?** Image of God but fallen: Gen. 1-3.

**What's wrong with the world/mankind?** Sin, separate Rom. 3:23, Isa 59:2

**What's the solution? Jesus death:** Rom. 5, Rom. 6:23

**What's the purpose/meaning of life?** I Pet. 4:11, Rev. 1:6

**Is this life all there is? Eternal life** John 3:16

## **ALL THE SPECIFIC-TO-ME QUESTIONS WE NEED TO KNOW**

**Who is God to me? What's our relationship like? Father/Adopted Child** Rom. 8:15, Gal. 4:5

**Who am I? Creature but Masterpiece (Poema)** Eph. 2:10, **Sinner/Saint**

**What does God think of me?** Psalm 139, **He sees** (Hagar Gen. 16:13), **Hears** (Ishamel Gen. 21:17)

Grand Canyon Example: "The Lord directs the steps of the godly. He delights in every detail of their lives. Though they stumble, they will never fall, or the Lord holds them by the hand" (Ps. 37:23-24 NLT).

**What is the meaning/purpose of my life? Love, Serve and Glorify God** (Luke 10:27, I Pet. 4:11) **Ambassadors** (2 Cor. 5:20).

**What's my destiny after this life? Be with Christ which is better by far** (Phil. 1:23).

## **HOW HAS GOD SPOKEN?**

**Through Propositions**

**Through History**

**Through Person of Jesus in Human Flesh:** John 1, Heb. 1:1

**His actions/reactions toward people:** Matt. 8:3, Mark 10:21

**Through Many Genres: Wisdom literature, Historical Narrative, Poetry, Prophecy/Apocalyptic Literature, Figures of Speech, Metaphors, Parables**

## **WHY DOES HIS SPEAKING MATTER? Generally**

**God's Word is Unlike Any Human's Word**

**Not thinking rightly if low appreciation of God's Word:** Psalm 19:7-11, Psalm 119

**Why does his speaking matter *for us personally*?**

**REAL TWO WAY RELATIONSHIP**

**Always Can Hear From God:**

**Direct Access:**

**Has Power to Change Us:** I Thess. 2:13

**Experiential Knowledge:** Coincidental timing?

**Certainty/Security:** And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life. <sup>13</sup> I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that *you may know that you have eternal life.* **I John 5:11-13**

**Why does his speaking matter *for evangelism*?**

**Common Conversation Stopper:** Just your opinion unless God has spoken

**Something worthwhile to say:**

**Answers the Agnostic:** One who says we can't/don't know

**Answers the Relativist:** No absolute truth

**Answers the Deist:** Creator who does not intervene

**Why does his speaking matter *for teaching*?**

**Stay closely in his Word:** Deut. 4:2, 5:32, 12:32, 17:11,20, 28:14, Josh:1:7, 23:6, Prov. 30:6, I Cor. 4:6, Rev. 22:18.

**Addresses Pride/Anxiety/Inadequacy:** God's Word has Power Not Us: Isa. 55:11

## **HOW SHOULD WE RESPOND?**

**Celebrate, Gratitude**

**Do Not Neglect:** Psalm 119:16, I Pet. 2:2

**Listen to/for God:** Deut. 17:18-20

**STUDY/Meditate**

**Memorize:** Enlarge the Vocabulary of Holy Spirit

**Speak HIS WORD to one another:** Psalm 103:12

**Give it away literally**

**Act on it/Obey:** (2 Kings 22:13)

**Prayer:** "Open my eyes that I may see wonderful things in your law" Psalm 119:18