

Concerning the utterances of the true and living God.

The utterances of God emanate from His life and nature. Whenever God utters something and a message emerges from Him, whether or not that message is heard by another creature or written down or spoken again, the utterance of God remains the eternal utterance of God. The motives and intents of God remain the motives and intents of God. God does not speak idly or haphazardly. He does not speak in error or partial knowledge. He does not forget what He has spoken. Everything God speaks is fully informed from everlasting to everlasting, and accompanied by the will and power to accomplish His desire. He does not fail to communicate. Everything that the living God speaks is the living and active word of God.

When man audibly repeats the utterances of God in human language, the sound waves of the human voice eventually diminish and are inaudible. Does this mean the utterance or word of God has ceased to exist? No, the thoughts and intents of God form within Him, and then they emanate from Him and are sustained by Him. Even if no other being hears or remembers them, His utterances continue to echo in His own unforgetful ears.

When different human languages are used to repeat the same utterances of God, does this mean the utterances or words of God have been changed? No, the native language of God cannot be spoken on earth, for His language is spiritual and spiritually discerned, therefore God conveys His thoughts and intents and utterances to the human spirit and soul, regardless of any specific human language.

When man transcribes the utterances of God onto a written page (modern paper / papyrus / vellum), in time the physical media deteriorates. Does this mean the word of God has deteriorated? No, that is impossible. The words / utterances of God do not consist of atomic matter.

When a man chooses to read the transcribed utterances of God on a page, has he heard the voice of God and/or met God? No. Here is an analogy... I could study the works of Shakespeare for a lifetime, memorize them, hold degrees regarding them, and yet I have never met Shakespeare and I do not know Shakespeare personally, though I may begin to imitate his writing style and vocabulary. The "writer" and "the written" are not the same.

A friend of mine once said, "The Bible is a closed book." Natural man cannot simply study the written/transcribed utterances of God and think He has met God. I have heard many times over the years of people who have suddenly had their eyes and ears opened by God after decades of studying the Scripture. Those people all seem to have the same basic message: "I have a brand new Bible."

I had a similar experience when I was a University student. One day as I sat in my dorm room I picked up the Scripture and inexplicably found that I was engrossed and could not put it down. Suddenly layers and depths of meaning began to make sense and I somehow knew that what I was reading was true... but more than that... a strange familiarity came over me and I knew that this was my destiny; that this was not a story about someone else's life that took place thousands of years ago, but rather the story, still ongoing, of my own life. It was glorious! I may have held the Scriptures in my hand that day, but really, in a far distant place, I touched the living God (He touched me).

I must not approach the living God and His utterances as mere literature (i.e. "God as literature" or "the written utterances of God as literature").

God's word is not a printed page, but a living and active reality that comes forth from, and is sustained by, the living and active God's being and nature. For me, the Scriptures confirm and inform what God is already teaching me spiritually through the Holy Spirit, as He, the Holy Spirit, leads me into all truth and gives me spiritual discernment. I must continue to be a good steward of the "seeking" that God has placed in me. I must always seek Him, for who can say when and how He will be found by me?

Man has written and printed what God has spoken, by God's will. Even so, the printed page is a pointer to the living and active reality of the Speaker and "the spoken" in spiritual places. My heart is called to heavenly/spiritual places to encounter the substance of living God and His living utterances when I encounter written Scripture. Jesus is seated at the right hand of God, and those who belong to Him are (I am) hidden in Christ Jesus there (Colossians 3.1-4). Even though my eyes and ears encounter the "tip of the iceberg" here on earth through encounters with written Scripture and Living Letters and the Holy Spirit, godly jealousy stirs me to enter that heavenly/spiritual place where He Himself lives and dwells and from which He Himself utters and acts.

God has never been and will never be mute. While He lives, He communicates. He seeks and searches and responds and relates and connects. In times past, He has brought His utterances to those with ears to ears. He speaks now in the present to those with ears to hear. And He will speak again, for He is alive and not mute, and will love and seek those who have not yet come into existence.

I must consider it the highest privilege that God has bothered to speak to me at all, allowing my hard heart and deaf ears to hear what is important to Him.

I must never devalue or put aside anything that God speaks. Forever, for eternity, for everlasting, God's word is settled in heaven. I must treasure every word of God above all other words. I must hunger and thirst for His life-giving utterances. When He speaks, who can reverse it? The words of the LORD are pure words as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times. For He spoke and it was done, He commanded and it stood fast. At the word of God the dead become living, and servant children become adopted sons (me! thank you Jesus!).

I must not become bored with what the true and living God has spoken in the past as if His utterances are mere human words and not the speaking of eternal God who spoke and the heavens were created and continue to exist to this day. I must treasure written Scripture. For they are evidence and a manifestation on earth of something the living God has spoken from eternity into time, showing His love for mankind. God may speak more, but He will not speak less.

The Person of Jesus Christ Himself is evidence and a manifestation on earth of the motives and intents and utterances of the living God, speaking from eternity into time, showing His great love and desire for mankind!

I must not think that God is mute and can not communicate. I must not think that God has nothing new and afresh to communicate now in my time, to me personally. I must not think that He will not speak again. For Jesus is the living God, raised again from physical death, and He said, "My sheep hear My Voice." Paul expected that, "you have heard Him [Jesus] and have been taught by Him" (Eph. 4.21; 1 Corinthians 2.13). God has spoken and God is speaking. Who will hear? Will I? The eyes of God are wandering to and fro throughout the earth looking for a true heart that will be loyal to Him (2 Chronicles 16.9). Could it be that He is looking for me? Father please let it be me that You are looking for!

The enemies of God are active (Eph. 6.12). Will the utterances of God consist only in the printed page? Should I throw my printed book through the air at spiritual hosts of wickedness? No, God will defeat His enemies actively and personally with a two-edged sword-- a sword which is not in Jesus' hand, but in Jesus' mouth. Jesus will defeat His enemies in real-time and through the irresistible utterances of His mouth: "His voice as the sound of many waters... out of His mouth went a two-edged sword" (Revelation 1.15,16) And living letters, twice-born adopted sons and daughters will, by the spoken will of God, overcome God's enemy by the blood of the Lamb and the word of their individual and unique testimonies to the life and sufficiency of Jesus Christ.

I must not turn away from what God has already spoken. I must not turn away from what God is now speaking. I must not turn away from what God will speak. He is the living God.

God can never contradict Himself. Which is why I say, "He may speak more, but He will not speak less". Or in other words, He will not un-speak, or contradict what He has already spoken. And since He spoke and the Scripture came into existence, nothing God will ever speak can contradict what is written. "Forever O LORD Your word is settled in heaven." In my experience I have heard Jesus speak to and through me, yet I have never heard Him say anything that contradicts a single jot or tittle of Scripture. If I would ever sense a spirit contradicting scripture, I would know that that spirit is not the Spirit *Holy* of God. That is the safety mechanism that keeps truth in our inward parts, and prevents us from swallowing many a deceptive lie that has shipwrecked multitudes.

What is prophesy? It is hearing/receiving with spiritual ears what the living God is speaking at this very moment-- and speaking it into the darkness and silence of this evil and wasting world. The Spirit of God conveys the utterances of God to His people: "But one and the same Spirit works these all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills." (1 Corinthians 12.11) This small verse is a glimpse into the intimate one-on-one working of the Holy Spirit of God with an individual child of God. You and me. The apostle Paul had good thoughts and desires. He wanted things that God wanted. He did not contradict the desire of God. He wrote as God moved him. Paul revealed to his brothers and sisters in Christ that he desired that that they all did a particular thing. Note how Paul emphasizes and puts forward the activity of prophesy: "I wish you all spoke with tongues, but even more that you prophesied; for he who prophesies is greater than he who speaks with tongues, unless indeed he interprets, that the church may receive edification." (1 Corinthians 14.5) The idea here is that new creatures in Christ Jesus have a living and active and ongoing connectedness to the living God through His Spirit Holy-- they hear Him.

Father I ask in Jesus Name that You would make me a living letter, connected to You and accurately conveying your message of Jesus' suffering love to this dying world. Thank you dearly for allowing and enabling me to hear the Voice of Your precious Son Jesus and to be taught by Him! I ask in Jesus Name that You would, at this moment, pour out our Spirit Holy upon the reader. Cause him/her to encounter You and Your God breathed utterances. Do battle with Your enemies Father, push back the onslaught of Satan. Just say the word, O God, and it will be so! Let the peace that extends beyond mere human understanding -- from the Prince of Peace Himself -- fall down from heaven like rain. Rend the heavens and come down and do things that the reader does not expect. Change his/her heart. Make him/her a new creature. Give new eyes and ears. Father, glorify Your Name. Even so, come, Lord Jesus!