



Chapter 11

GOD SPEAKS

*A man doesn't live on bread alone but
on every Word that God speaks.*

(Matthew 4:4, Williams New Testament)

God speaks! Who speaks? The One we call **our God!** The holy, everlasting, all powerful, all knowing, ever present, just, merciful, loving God. He speaks!

The Mighty God! The Lord of Glory! Our Creator! Our Hope! Our Savior! Our Redeemer! Our great High Priest! Our Mediator! Advocate! Teacher! Great Physician! Counsellor! Shepherd! Deliverer! Righteous Judge! The Lamb of God! The Lion of Judah! The Bread of Life! The Light of the World! The Resurrection and the Life! The Author and Finisher of our faith! The Alpha and Omega! The Prince of Peace! King of kings! Lord of lords! He speaks! And what are His words to this weary world?

“To whom will you compare Me? Who is My equal?” asks the Holy One. Look up into the

*heavens. Who created all the stars? He brings them out one after another, calling each by its name. And He counts them to see that none are lost or have strayed away. (Isaiah 40:25-26)**

(Astronomers tell us that on a dark night we could count about 1,029 stars with the naked eye. But using powerful telescopes they estimate that there are 100 billion stars in our galaxy alone and that there may be as many as 100 billion galaxies in the universe!)**

Who else has held the oceans in His hand? Who has measured off the heavens with His fingers? Who else knows the weight of the earth or has weighed out the mountains and the hills? (He) stretches the northern sky over empty space and hangs the earth on nothing. He wraps the rain in His thick clouds, and the clouds do not burst with the weight. He created the horizon when He separated the waters; He set the boundaries for day and night. The foundations of heaven tremble at His rebuke. These are some of the minor things He does, merely a whisper of His power! Who then can understand the thunder of His power? (Isaiah 40:12; Job 26:7-8,10-11,14)

“...how can you say the Lord does not see your troubles? How can you say God refuses to hear your case? Have you never heard or understood? Don't you know that the Lord is the everlasting God; the Creator of all the earth? He never grows faint or weary. No one can measure the depths of His

understanding. He gives power to those who are tired and worn out; He offers strength to the weak. Even youths will become exhausted, and young men will give up. But those who wait on the Lord will find new strength. They will fly high on wings like eagles. They will run and not grow weary. They will walk and not faint. (Isaiah 40:27-30)

...the Lord your God... is a great and awesome God. (Deuteronomy 7:21)

And He speaks to us mortals! What is He saying to you and to me?

This is what the Lord, (your) King and Redeemer, the Lord Almighty, says: "I am the First and I am the Last; there is no other God. I am the Lord, and there is no other Savior." (Isaiah 44:6; 43:11)

"I publicly proclaim bold promises. I do not whisper obscurities in some dark corner so no one can understand what I mean. I, the Lord, speak only what is true and right. I am the Lord your God, who teaches you what is good and leads you along the paths you should follow." (Isaiah 45:19; 48:17)

"...do not let your heart turn away from the Lord to worship other gods... commit yourselves completely to these words of Mine. Tie them to your hands as a reminder, and wear them on your forehead. Teach them to your children. Talk about them when you are at home and when you are away on a journey,

when you are lying down and when you are getting up again. (Deuteronomy 11:16,18-19)

Oh earth, earth, earth! Listen to this message from the Lord! (Jeremiah 22:29)

That is what the mighty God of the universe, the King of kings and Lord of lords, is saying to us. Are we listening?

Noah listened:

...God said to Noah , “Make a boat from resinous wood and seal it with tar, inside and out.... (Genesis 6:13, 14)

So Noah did everything exactly as God had commanded him. (Genesis 6:22)

Abraham listened:

...the Lord told Abram, “Leave your country, your relatives and your father’s house and go to the land that I will show you.” (Genesis 12:1)

So Abram departed as the Lord had instructed him.... (Genesis 12:4)

Job listened. He said:

“I have not departed from His commands but have treasured His word in my heart” (Job 23:12)

David listened. He said:

I take joy in doing Your will, my God, for Your law is written on my heart.” (Psalm 40:8)

Oh, the joys of those who... delight in doing everything the Lord wants; day and night they think about His law. (Psalm 1:1-2)

Jeremiah listened. He said:

Your words are what sustain me. They bring me great joy and are my heart’s delight, for I bear Your name, O Lord God Almighty. (Jeremiah 15:16)

The Psalmist listened. He said:

Oh, how I love Your law! I think about it all day long. (Psalm 119:97)

How sweet are Your words to my taste; they are sweeter than honey. (Psalm 119:103)

Jesus’ rebuke to Satan serves also as an admonition to us:

“People need more than bread for their life; they must feed on every Word of God.” (Matthew 4:4 - Jesus was quoting from Deuteronomy 8:3)

Is it not awesome to think that the infinite, limitless God of eternity should stoop to speak to you and to me? Should this not be adequate to prompt our full attention to His Words?

But still there is more. Why should we hide His words in our hearts and give Scripture memorization priority in our lives?

God's Word is *powerful*.

*...the Word of God is full of living power....
(Hebrews 4:12)*

*...the worlds were framed by the Word of God.
(Hebrews 11:3, KJV)*

The Lord merely spoke, and the heavens were created. He breathed the word, and all the stars were born. (Psalm 33:6)

God's Word *grows faith*.

...faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God. (Romans 10:17, NKJV)

God's Word *encourages* and *gives hope* in a finite and evil world.

*Such things were written in the Scriptures long ago to teach us. They give us hope and encouragement...
(Romans 15:4)*

God's Word *trains in righteousness*.

*All Scripture... is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It straightens us out and teaches us to do what is right.
(II Timothy 3:16)*

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He has given us His very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires. (II Peter 1:4, NIV)

God's Word *incites joy*.

And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full. (I John 1:4, KJV)

If Your law hadn't sustained me with joy, I would have died in my misery. (Psalm 119:92)

God's Word *speaks peace*.

Great peace have they who love Your law. (Psalm 119:165)

God's Word is our *weapon* for use *in spiritual warfare*.

*Be strong with the Lord's mighty power. Put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies and tricks of the Devil... Use every piece of God's armor to resist the enemy in the time of evil, so that after the battle you will still be standing firm. (Each piece of God's armor can be identified as having its root in the Word of God, but the Sword, the only piece of the armor that is used for both defense and offense, is specifically identified as such.) Take... **the Sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God.** (Ephesians 6:10-11,13,17 - emphasis added)*

God's Word leads us to *assurance of eternal life*. John said:

I write this to you who believe in the Son of God, so that you may know you have eternal life. (I John 5:13)

God's Word is *eternal*. Jesus said:

"Heaven and earth will disappear, but My words will remain forever." (Matthew 24:35)

It is imperative for us to recognize and appreciate the enormous Treasure that our great God has made available to us mortals, communication from beyond this world, actual Words from Deity. Paul said to the Thessalonians:

And we will never stop thanking God that when we preached His message to you, you didn't think of the words we spoke as being just our own. You accepted what we said as the very Word of God — which of course, it was. And this Word continues to work in you who believe. (I Thessalonians 2:13)

and to Timothy:

All Scripture is inspired by God.... (II Timothy 3:16)

Peter told us:

...you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own

interpretation. For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit. (II Peter 1:20-21, NIV - emphasis added)

This book is written to challenge and encourage you to start hiding these living, powerful Words in your heart, by memorizing them and fixing them in your mind and soul, not just a verse here and there, but building verses into chapters and chapters into books so that your soul and spirit may absorb the full impact of their meaning in context.

They are not just idle words for you — they are your life. (Deuteronomy 32:47, NIV)

And now I entrust you to God and the Word of His grace — His message that is able to build you up and give you an inheritance with all those He has set apart for Himself. (Acts 20:32)

Remember:

As for God, His way is perfect; the Word of the Lord is flawless. (II Samuel 22:31, NIV)

There has not failed one word of all His good promise. (I Kings 8:56 NKJV)

**Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture quotations in this chapter are taken from the New Living Translation*

***Lawrence O. Richards, It Couldn't Just Happen (Word Publishing - 1987, 1989) p. 8*