



Ways God Speaks to Us  
Women's Discipleship Class – August 21, 2019

**Verses Covered This Week**

Angels - *Daniel 9:20 – 23, Acts 8:26 – 29, 10:22, 12:7 & 8*

Dreams – *Genesis 37:5, Matthew 2:12 – 14, Acts 16:9*

Other People – *Acts 11:27 – 28, Acts 9:15 – 17*

Circumstances – *Mark 6*

Holy Spirit Personally – *Romans 8:10 - 11, 1 Kings 9:11*

So we've talked about objective truth from the Holy Spirit through the Bible. So you're in a chess match with Satan. That's what you are in. You have two things. You have the pieces and the movement of the pieces. The pieces are defined by taking the objective truth of God and pulling it into your life. The direction of those pieces is subjective because the leadership of the Holy Spirit's going to come, validated by the word, but outside of the word. And we'll look at that particularly when we get to the end tonight. And it is interesting. You play chess, it's fitting a marriage because you've got some guys, the bishops move laterally, the rooks sideways, the knights, two and one, the Queen can go anywhere she wants, and the king just sort of sits there and waits until somebody either saves him or beats him up. So that's pretty much marriage.

You are in a chess game so God has to do two things to make you maximally effective in His cause inside Bryan/College Station. He's going to put His word in your life so that the chess piece is as quality as it can be. And then He's going to move you across the board subjectively so that you know how to handle it. This could mean how you handle your kids' teachers, how you handle your children, there are all sorts of things. But this is the route and this is what God's going to do.

So we're going to look tonight at the different ways God speaks to you. Now I want you to walk with me all the way through the Scripture tonight. We're going to cover a lot of ground. But I want to look at how the Bible says God speaks to you.

**Angels - Daniel 9:20 – 23, Acts 8:26 – 29, 10:22, 12:7 & 8**

Now the first way, He speaks through angels. Go to Daniel 9:20 – 23. I want to hear those pages turning.

<sup>20</sup>Now while I was speaking and praying, and confessing my sin and the sin of my people Israel, and presenting my plea before the Lord my God for the holy hill of my God, <sup>21</sup>while

I was speaking in prayer, the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the vision at the first, came to me in swift flight at the time of the evening sacrifice. <sup>22</sup>He made me understand speaking with me saying, “O Daniel, now I’ve come to give you insight.”

So you have Gabriel. The only two angels named in the Bible, who are they? Michael and Gabriel. Who is Michael? Archangel. His job is to do what? Protect Israel. That’s his job. Gabriel is obviously the other one named who delivers messages. So we do have a record of Daniel. Now the obvious question is going to be, “Yeah, but that’s Old Testament.” No. Slide over to the New Testament. Go to the book of Acts, chapter 8. We’re going to look at 26 to 29 because we have an interesting little thing here that occurs. Philip is in the middle of a huge revival. Now watch what happens.

<sup>26</sup>Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Rise and go toward the South to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” (This is a desert road.) <sup>27</sup>So he got up and went;

Now look at verse 29.

<sup>29</sup>And the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over and join this chariot.”

So you have this interesting thing here in Acts 8 that you have the Holy Spirit and an angel in the same moment speaking to Philip. Now the question would be, did he know the distinction? I’m not sure he did. I’m not sure he knew it was an angel. I’m not sure he knew it was the Spirit. But obviously the Holy Spirit led Luke to write that. So we have an interesting moment in that at the very same time and angel spoke to him, then the Holy Spirit. Then drop over to chapter 10, verse 22.

<sup>22</sup>They said, “Cornelius, a centurion, an upright and God-fearing man who was well spoken of by the whole Jewish nation, was directed by a holy angel to send for you to come to his house to hear what you have to say.”

So, again, we have a guy that’s not a Christian being directed by an angel to send for Peter who is going to share Christ with him. And then look in chapter 12, verses 7 and 8. I talked about this Sunday morning. This is where Herod kills James. And then he’s got Peter in there and it says:

<sup>7</sup>And behold, an angel of the Lord stood next to him and a light shone in the cell; he struck Peter on the side and woke him, saying, “Get up quickly.”

That’s really kind of a neat little scripture in that Peter is asleep the night before he’s going to die. Doesn’t even phase him. So an angel awakens him and walks him out of the prison. So even though you do have this in the Old Testament, you have some clear statements in the new of angelic speaking to believers and even a non-believer, prepping them. When you hear stories today, and there are a number, on the mission field of Muslims being led, having visions, and all sorts of things about Jesus, this is probably what’s happened. You have angelic visitation from God. So He’s going to speak to us through angels.

### **Dreams – Genesis 37:5, Matthew 2:12 – 14, Acts 16:9**

Now don't quit on me here. He's going to speak to us through dreams. Don't go crazy! Look at Genesis 37:5. This is one of my favorite verses. Joseph, when he was little, was really a jerk.

<sup>5</sup>Joseph had a dream, and when he told it to his brothers, they hated him even more.

So we have Joseph having a dream, God speaks to him through that. Now look at Matthew 2. And, again, so we don't think this is just an Old Testament concept, look at Matthew 2:12 – 14. We looked at the first book of the Old Testament and now we're looking at the first book of the New Testament.

<sup>12</sup>Being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way. <sup>13</sup>When they had departed, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream saying, "Rise! Take the Child and His mother

So, again, you have Joseph being warned in a dream. And then look at Acts 16:9. We won't go there, but it talks about a man in a vision telling Paul to come into Macedonia.

<sup>9</sup>A vision appeared to Paul in the night: a man of Macedonia was standing and appealing to him, and saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us."

So you do have both old and New Testament, God speaking to His people in a dream. Now before you go nuts when you go home tonight and the sausage makes you dream some funky thing tonight and you look at your husband and say, "We need to sell the house and buy a Winnebago." Before that happens to you tonight, I want to be clear on something. At no point do they have trouble ever understanding the dream. The only place they have trouble understanding the dream is the book of Daniel. But that's because God was using the dream to showcase Daniel's ability to understand it against all the astrologers and those guy's ability to understand it. Every place else, the dream is clear. Joseph knew, "I'm going to be the guy." Joseph knew, "I've got to get out of here." There's no question that if you really have a dream from God, if He speaks to you that way, it will be absolute clarity. If you have to try to interpret the dream, it is not God. OK. It's anchovies. So whatever you've eaten, He does speak through dreams, but if it's not clear, do not go there.

### **Other People – Acts 11:27 – 28, Acts 9:15 - 17**

Now go to Acts 11. He speaks through other people. Listen to what it says.

<sup>27</sup>In those days, prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch. <sup>28</sup>One of them named Agabus stood up foretold by the Spirit that there'd be a great famine.

So you have this person speaking. Now go back to chapter 9:15 – 17. And, again, you have a record of someone speaking to an individual. He's telling Ananias to go speak to Saul. He's just been saved.

<sup>15</sup>The Lord said to him, "Go, for he is a chosen instrument of Mine, to carry my name. <sup>16</sup>I will show him what he must suffer." <sup>17</sup>Ananias departed and entered the house, and laying on him he said, "Brother Saul,

So there are times when God's going to speak through you through other people. Now you've got to be really careful here. Because people love to speak into your life. Now I'm just going to tell you, there are some people that love speaking into your life, particularly in the arena of criticism. Because they can criticize you and it makes themselves feel better. So I generally don't pay attention to particular criticism unless it's really egregious and I get what they're saying. So you want to be careful about people speaking into your life. But this is key. Now I don't have a lot of these stories, so let me just tell you my own, and again, I don't have a lot of these. But I had been here about a month and one Sunday morning I'm in the middle of the worship and I just feel this ill at ease, like I shouldn't be here. And so I'm thinking, "Man, did I miss the call?" And so I'm thinking maybe I should call Midland and tell them, "I need to come home." So I go home after lunch and I come back up to the office and I'm praying. And, again, I'm just telling you what happened. I had this sensing, all I know is that I need to go to Midland. I need to go back to Midland because my best friend is in Stanton at First Baptist Stanton pastoring. And I need to go see him. Now I'm struggling with this because I don't know at this point why I'm going. And I go into my wife and I know when I tell her this, we don't have any money, and he and I are big golf buddies. So I know she's going to buy it when I say, "Hey, God told me to go see Dennis." So shockingly I went in and told her and she said, "Yeah, if you need to go, go." So I'm loading up the golf clubs. At any rate, I get on the plane and it's a two-prong flight; from College Station to Dallas and then on to Midland. And on the way there, God spoke to me on the plane and He said, "Your friend is in love with another woman, not his wife, and you're going to be his Nathan." So I get there, it's a Wednesday, and I call Den Wednesday afternoon, I said, "Hey Den, I'm in town." And this is all I said, I said, "Den, I'm in town. I want to talk to you tonight after church." He said, "OK." That was the whole conversation. His wife came in, Cindy, and said, "Who was that." He said, "Well, it was Chris." She said, "Is he coming up to encourage you?" He said, "No, he's coming to be my Nathan." So I sat down with him and I said, "Listen, man, God told me you're in love with another woman and we've got to end this." And he looked at me and said, "You know, yesterday I would have thrown you out of my office. But you're right." And so we called the lady on the phone, I listened in, and so then I went home with him and we spent a long night, obviously, with him and his wife working through different things. And so I do believe there are times when other people will speak into your life. But I really think it's got to be egregious. And I'm going to tell you something. If you have somebody speaking into your life a whole lot, uh-uh. I'd ignore those people. So it can be, but I'd be careful.

### **Circumstances – Mark 6**

Now He can speak through circumstances. I'm not going to really go there. But if you go to Mark 6 you have them in the water and God speaks to them through the circumstance; awakens them to who He is. So sometimes He speaks through that.

### **Holy Spirit Personally – Romans 8:10 - 11, 1 Kings 9:11**

But then you have the real key which is the Holy Spirit speaking to you personally. Now go to Romans 8. If you really want to disciple yourself, I would focus on reading Romans 6, 7, and 8. But not until you finish meditating on Ephesians for the month. But in Romans 8 it's this long, long chapter about the Holy Spirit in your life. Verse 10:

<sup>10</sup>If Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the spirit is alive because of righteousness. <sup>11</sup>If the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who

raised Jesus Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.

He talks about the fact that the Holy Spirit will speak to us. Look in verse 15.

<sup>15</sup>For you do not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the spirit of adoption as sons,

What is adoption obviously indicating? That we're going to have a relationship.

by whom we cry out, "Abba! Father!" <sup>16</sup>The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God. <sup>17</sup>and if children, heirs also,

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*Abba is the Aramaic word for daddy*

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There's this long diatribe about God speaking to you. Now this fits the Scripture because in Genesis 1 it says, let Us make man in Our image. And so inside the Godhead you have communication. So it makes sense that if this Trinitarian Godhead creates a being in its image, that there would be the ability to communication from that Godhead to that created being. You're in His image so you do have the ability to hear the Holy Spirit if He's in you.

Most of the time it's not going to be loud. That's the key. There's two times in the Bible when it's really loud. You have Moses and the burning bush. You have David on the way to Damascus and the light comes and he hears this personal voice and it blinds him. Now those are loud moments. Where is Moses? What's he doing when hearing the burning bush? Why is he there? He ran away because he killed an Egyptian. That's probably not a good thing. So God yells at him because he's not where he's supposed to be.

Saul is on the way to Damascus. What's he going there for? Going to pull Christians back to Jerusalem and kill them. He's just witnessed Stephen being stoned in the open courtyard. So he, also, is not where he should be. And so God yells at him. He did the same with me because I was not where I should be. My call was extremely loud, but I've never had that kind of loud since; ever in my life. I think the best way to view this is you're going to have probably what's known as a holy hunch. That's really biblical, but that's what you're going to have.

Look at 1 Kings 19:11. Slide back to the Old Testament. Go to 1 Kings 19 and I want you to listen. Elijah is running away from Jezebel. And he is telling God that it's been a really bad day. And so God speaks to him and says,

<sup>11</sup>God says, "Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord." Behold, the Lord was passed by! A great and strong wind tore the mountains breaking in pieces the rocks before the Lord; but He wasn't in the wind. After the wind an earthquake, but He wasn't in the earthquake. <sup>12</sup>After the earthquake a fire, but he wasn't in the fire; after the fire a sound of a low whisper. <sup>13</sup>When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his cloak, he went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. And behold, there came a voice to him and said, "What are you doing here?"

This is generally the way you're going to hear. It's going to be a low whisper. If you hear a scream from God, it's because you are not where you're supposed to be. If you are where you're supposed to be, this is what you're going to hear. As a matter of fact, I've noticed that the guys who are called to the ministry, it's one of these two. Guys like me that had a loud call, were not where they should be. But I have several friends who were called into the ministry and theirs was just a low whisper over a period of time where they finally said, "I've just got to preach. I can't do anything else." For me it was an overnight, five-minute slam. So if you're walking with Christ, it's going to be a low whisper.

How here's how it works. Go to Philippians 4. I notice we turn quicker in the New Testament than we do in the Old Testament. How many of you have read Hezekiah? Anyone found Hezekiah? There is no book called Hezekiah. When I was in high school, I shouldn't tell this story, but I'm going to go ahead. When I was in high school, I'd just been called to preach, and again, I was not real godly. So when He called me to preach, I was dating this girl, Lucy, that I was in love with and I was going to marry. I was at her house and her parents hated me, her mother particularly hated me. So I was sitting at the house and her mother said something about Hezekiah. And I'd just been called to preach so I want them to know that I'm brilliant. So I said, "You know, I just read that book the other day. It was really rich." And her mother, who hated me, just looked over and said, "It's not in the Bible." And walked into the other room. I still remember that moment. Philippians 4. Here's what he says.

*<sup>6</sup>Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. <sup>7</sup>And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*

Now that is actually what you have. It's interesting how the phraseology is in the Greek. It says guard, that is actually right, it's a Greek word, *phulassw*, and it does literally mean to guard a camp. He says God's peace will guard your hearts and your minds. That is, it will guard and protect your emotions and your intellect so that if you face a tough decision and the peace of God is driving your will, your emotions will not overwhelm that nor will your intellect. You will know what to do and what you desire will not stop you from knowing what God wants you to do. Because these are guarded by the peace of God. So the best way to know and to hear the Holy Spirit is either an unrest or a peace. That has worked for me ever since the loud moment in my life. I felt a peace to marry my wife. I felt a peace to go to Southwestern. I felt a peace to go to each church. I feel an enormous peace to leave here and an unrest to stay. Even though, as a matter of fact, a lady caught me a couple Sundays ago walking in and she said, "I know your hearts up there in seminary." And I said, "You know, my hearts never going to be at the seminary. I've been here 33 years. I've poured my life out here. This is where my heart will always be." But I have this enormous peace that tells me I need to go. So this has been guiding me my whole life. And I'm telling you, it works. It keeps what you want from driving you. What I really want is to stay here. But I'm sure that's bad for the church. So it allows me to go. It's guarded me and I think that is absolutely the key. I think that's the main way you're going to know what He says.

It is interesting, there are two Greek words for word. There's *logos* which is a written word. And then there's *rhema* which is the spoken word. Now when these come in combination is when you'll really be impacted. When you look at Romans 10:17 in the Greek, it says, when you hear the word of Christ. It's not the *logos* of Christ; it's the *rhema* of Christ. That is, when you hear

the truth about Jesus spoken out loud to you, the Holy Spirit then brings conviction. Where you're really going to be impacted, and this is the beauty of staying in the Scripture, you will find days when you're reading the written word and all of a sudden it will just seem to jump off the page at you. And that's when the Holy Spirit is taking the *rhema* and using the *logos* to drive it into your heart. For me, one of my life verses is this, Joshua 1:8. It says this:

<sup>8</sup>This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it; for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have success. <sup>9</sup>Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous! Do not tremble or be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.

Joshua 1:8 became a life verse for me. I've share with you before; I'm terrified in front of people. And I'm really scared in a room that's just got estrogen in it. So I'm terrified in front of people, still scared, and so my first sermon God just worked. I preached the second time, I still remember this succinctly, at First Baptist Church, Tyler Town, Mississippi, I was on a youth team from college. I preached Sunday morning and the sermon was just awful. And so I'm sitting there that afternoon and I'm praying hard. I'm saying, "God are you sure this is what You want me to do?" And I just opened the Bible to Joshua and I read that passage, Joshua 1:8 & 9, and all I can say is the Spirit just absolutely spoke to me what was written. And those two things occurred simultaneously and it just drove it into my heart such that I'm still terrified, but that has become the life verse for me every Sunday morning, every Wednesday night, and everywhere I go to speak. I did a funeral at seminary the other day, Joshua 1:8 & 9 drove me. So it sealed something in my heart when both those go together. And I think that is key.

Now look at Luke 24:25 – 32. Because I think this is a great example of what you have. I think here you have both the *logos* and the *rhema* in demonstration. Now He's been walking with these two guys that, it's after the resurrection, they're broken-hearted because Jesus is dead. They don't think there's any future.

<sup>25</sup>So He said to them, "O foolish ones and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken!"

Is that objective or subjective (what He just said)? It's objective. What the prophets have written. So that's the Bible. That's what? What's He talking about? Old Testament. Genesis all the way through Malachi.

<sup>26</sup>Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into His glory?"  
<sup>27</sup>And beginning with Moses and all the prophets, He interpreted to them in all the Scriptures, the things concerning Himself.

Now that's subjective, right? Jesus took the objective Scripture, Genesis all the way to the end, and He went through and He showed them all the passages that related to Him. Now watch this. Look in verse 30.

<sup>30</sup>They stopped and had supper and when He was at the table with them, He took the bread and blessed it, and broke it, and gave it to them. <sup>31</sup>Their eyes were opened and they recognized Him; and He vanished from their sight.

Now listen to this.

<sup>32</sup>They said to each other, “Did not our hearts burn within us while He talked to us on the road, while He opened to us the Scriptures?”

The burning is the *rhema*. What Jesus shared with them was the *logos*. But that combination of the *rhema* and the *logos* in their life solidified them as disciples and they never turned back. Jesus shared the *logos*, Holy Spirit with Him used what was said, and the *rhema* his them because their hearts burned. They just didn't hear truth, it hit them in their heart. So when you read the Scripture, and it hits you in the heart, these two are together. And a lot of times that is exactly what the Holy Spirit is going to do in your life. Your most powerful moments with Christ are going to be when you open this book and the Holy Spirit *rhemas* this *logos* into you where it settles. And what I would do when those moments hit me, particularly if I'm meditating through Ephesians and all that. I would journal that. I wouldn't journal everything I read. When I get hit that way, I journal that. Those are the verses; there's a reason why God's doing this. And the tough thing you will discover, if you begin to live here, is a lot of times this will happen and you'll wonder what in the world and why is this happening. And then all of a sudden two weeks later you'll go, “Oh. I get it now.” So He's going to combine these two in your life. And it's powerful. And I think it's the most powerful thing you can deal with.

So He's going to speak to us through angels, dreams, other people. Be careful of the dreams. Be careful of other people. Sometimes circumstances. But for me, the general thing is going to be a personal speaking to you from the Holy Spirit. And, again, always when you feel the *rhema* is there, you always check it with the *logos*. You may feel like you should do something, but if it's not backed up with the Scripture, then you don't have any business doing it.

## Questions

**Q.** When they saw an angel, is the angel in the form of a man?

**A.** He had Roll Tide on him is all I know. You know, it's hard to know. There are places in the Old Testament where angel appears to me, there are other places where they appear and they immediately fall down and begin to worship. Because obviously he just doesn't look like a man; he looks like an angel. And when the angel actually appears in his own form, men fall down and begin to worship. And every angel goes, back it up. I'm not worthy of worship. So obviously in their regular form, they're terrifying. It's one of the reasons we talked about, in the past pageant, we didn't have feminine angels. If you ever watch pageants, there are two things wrong with pageants. Jesus is tall and has long hair. How do we know that's not biblical? When Judas betrayed Him, he had to kiss Him because there was nothing distinctive about Jesus. If it had been today, Judas would have said, “The tall guy with the long hair.” But he has to kiss Him because He doesn't look any different. The other thing you have is the angels are always feminine in our pageants.



But when you read the Bible, and it doesn't appear as a man, sometimes they do, when you read the Bible, they're terrifying. Now we're going to look at a study on them in a few weeks. They appear two different ways. They just don't ever appear in maroon.

**Q.** This happened to me, when you're talking about the Holy Spirit, I've always thought the Holy Spirit did this in my life. I'd gone to a doctor in Houston, I was going to stay at my brother's house in Spring, I had to get a medication filled. Joe was going back to work in Austin. And I wasn't even thinking about this. I went in and got my medicine and came out to the car and I've always thought the Holy Spirit said, "Do not get in that car. Go back in." I went back in and the pharmacist, I start telling him what medication I'm on, he pulls out this big book, and he said, "If you had taken one pill, you would have died." I felt that was the Holy Spirit telling me not to get in the car.

**A.** It's absolutely. Yeah, and I think that's the deal. I think there are times when you have this presence, that this peace that just says, "Do what you need to do."

**Q.** Is there a difference between dreams and visions?

**A.** Yeah, I think probably so. You can have a vision without sleeping. Yeah. I think you can have a vision without sleeping. But sometimes the vision will occur when you're asleep, maybe in the context of a dream. Which kind of appears what happened to Joseph in the New Testament. But yeah, there is a distinction.

**Q.** You were talking about be wary of people that speak into you. Are you talking about like you said, people speaking negative, or when you're your friend's Nathan, or are you talking about people speaking affirmations and speaking positive?

**A.** I'm just saying when anybody comes into my life to speak to me, I have a couple things. I listen to them first and say, "Is this legit in anyway at all?" And two, I want to know who they are. When you're a pastor, everybody knows how you should do it. Everybody grew up with a pastor that was a certain way and they want you to be that certain way. And so you learn early on that everybody's got an idea of what you ought to be. And you have to, at some point, just ignore them. There are a couple things. So that's part of my criteria. The other thing, if somebody's constantly coming into my life and they're not affirming, I'm not buying it. And two, if they're constantly affirming, I'm not buying it because it's probably flattery. So if somebody's constantly in my life, I don't buy it either way.

**Q.** What is your take on an individual that thinks they can interpret a person's dreams?

**A.** I'm trying to say this nicely. Here's the Greek words. I'll transliterate them for you. Here's the first one: idiot. Here's the second one: moron. If you have to have the dream interpreted, it's not from God. I think that is clear throughout the Scripture. And if anyone tells me they can interpret the dream, it's just not. I had a young lady that used to come into my office probably five times a year. Always had a dream. And I would walk her through this as best I could. And I'm telling you, the other thing with people who want to interpret dreams, they want to be your holy spirit. And that's just unbiblical. You have one Holy Spirit. He indwells you. It's not anybody else. I think it's going to be rare when

God speaks into your life through another person. I don't want to discount it because of what God did with me and my friend. But I think you have to really, really, be careful. I don't let people constantly do that. And I'm real careful about what they say to me. Even if they're positive, that can put you in a bad place. You can get arrogant, cocky, over that. So I think you have to be careful both ways.

**Q.** When you were your friend's Nathan he was already prepared to receive what you had to say. So if one of us as an individual were sent to someone to be their Nathan, but they didn't receive it, do you go back?

**A.** That's a good question. Sometimes when you're called, they'll be receptive. But sometimes when you're called, it's simply God sending you to try to stop them. It's up to them whether or not they'll accept it. There are people that don't accept it. And, no, I don't go back. If somebody says to me, "No." I really live off that premise of Jesus. You go in a town, you share the gospel, they don't respond, kick the dust off your feet, go to another town. I don't think you beat anybody up. You know, and it's always hard. I mean you have somebody in an affair, particularly when they're first in the affair, you're not going to reach them. But what you hope is that in time, they'll look around and go, "OK. This is ridiculous. I need to go home." That's a point at which you try to reach them. So if you try to hammer them here, all you do is push them apart. So, yeah, I think there are times they're not receptive. But the other thing is, sometimes when they're not receptive, they may down the road remember what you said. I've had that happen too. So I just do the best I can under the Spirit. I do kind of make a rule as a pastor, though, honestly, I generally don't step into anybody's life unless they ask me. Now once in a while, that'll be different, obviously with Dennis. But it's got really be for me a real hard directive from the Holy Spirit. I just think it's best for me as a pastor particularly, I don't just into people's lives unless they invite me in.

**Q.** So if you have someone that is struggling to hear directly from the Holy Spirit how do you keep yourself from giving them too much advice that maybe is not from the Holy Spirit where you're just constantly telling them what they should do?

**A.** There are 8 different cases in the Greek. You put these in what's called the vocative case which is you're an idiot and you're a moron. I don't let people speak into my life. Here's my deal. Tim Skaggs, whom I love dearly, when he was here, Tim used to have a little issue speaking into our lives. And finally one day, we were in the gym and I had corrected some friend of his. And so he was popping me and I said, "Buddy, you haven't earned the right yet to speak into my life. We don't know each other that well." Because at that point, we weren't that close of friends. Tim is today come to a point where I'd let him speak. If he called me tonight and said, "I need to speak to you." It would be a totally different ball game. He's earned the right to speak in my life. Number one, they got to have earned the right. And just because I hang around you, is not, and I'm telling you, if they continually do it, and it's not biblical, I really would lovingly sit down and say, "Leave me alone." We can be friends. You are not to speak into my life. You, a, haven't earned the right; b, you obviously are not speaking from the Holy Spirit because I haven't agreed with anything you said. And I think sometimes you've got to be honest.

**Q.** So I'm talking about the opposite end. I'm more worried about telling someone something because I don't want to speak opinions into their life.

**A.** Then I wouldn't speak. If I'm worried about speaking, then I don't. I've got to have objective truth, number one. I don't speak my opinion into their life. And I had objective truth with Dennis because what he told me was violating Scripture. He has to pursue his wife, not disown her. But I just think you have to be careful. I still go back to that old thing; I'm worried about the splinter in my buddy's eye when I've got the log in mine. And I think that's just a great principle to live by which is one of the reasons I don't jump into people's lives. I've got enough in my own to worry about. And I'm even careful, we were at, my wife never does anything I tell her to unfortunately. And we were at sabbatical, that's exaggeration, I'm being funny. But we were at sabbatical and we'd gone to this church and the sermon was horrible. 55 minutes. Said nothing. I'm in the back, she's constantly going, "Stop it. Stop it." So I've had it. We walk out. The guy is at the front. And he was in the SBTC and I'd been the president of the convention and I said, "Don't tell him who I am." So we walk out and he goes, "Hey, y'all new?" And I said, "Yeah, my name's Chris." What does my wife do? "Hi! I'm Peggy Osborne." And sure enough he goes, "Chris Osborne?" "Yeah." So he e-mails me, "What'd you think of the sermon?" So I e-mailed him back and said, "I only critique my own." So I did not respond to him. So I don't go into people's lives unless the Holy Spirit really shoves me in. I think it's best just to stay out.

**Q.** How does that work, speaking into lives, I speak into my children's lives.

**A.** Oh, that's different. You need to jump all over your children. No, no, no, no, no, no. You don't not speak into their lives. You jump on them with both feet. No. That is your job to pound them into submission or death. Those are your two options. Now I will say when they leave, you're done. Your mouth is shut when they leave. Now when they were in college, we're paying for the college, there's still a little bit of control. Once they left college, we don't ever, if they ask us, but we don't ever volunteer information.

**Q.** When you were talking about dreams and how we shouldn't need somebody to interpret them, with Joseph interpreting the dreams in Scripture, is that because those people did not have God in their life and that's why they needed somebody to interpret?

**A.** That's exactly right. The reason the dream was cryptic was so God could show those lost people He was running the show. That's why, for example, you have astrologers show up. When we talk about the three wise men coming, those were astrologers. A pagan religion that God gave a star to direct to Jesus. Why? Because He was showing them He was over the stars. The stars don't determine our birth. He determines the direction of the stars. So it's always that way.

**Q.** How often to you think that the angels in dreams are used today?

**A.** I think obviously from Acts seriously; I think they're still used. You know, you have the verse that talks, and we'll look at this when we look at angels, but it talks about entertaining angels unawares. I mean they're around us. I don't want to get into this too much, but

there's a weird passage, and we'll look at this in a little more detail. But in 1 Corinthians, it says that the women are to live to publicly show a sign of submission in church which today would be a wedding ring, because of the angels. Now that's the phrase: *dia tous angelous*. It's an interesting thing because what it's saying is, there are angels in the church service. You have an angel assigned to you at birth. Mine have been shifted out several times. But most of you probably have the same one. But that assigned angel obviously, they're offended when they see a woman not in submission to her husband because it reminds them of the lost brothers that they lost, 1/3 of heaven, that fell when Satan fell. So there's an emotional thing there. So they're there. I think they're still around us. I think they still guide us. I think there's a combination, obviously with Philip, I think there's probably a combination with you daily. She says, she was told not to get in a car. It may have been an angel as much as the Holy Spirit.

**Q.** Where were those verses?

**A.** 1 Corinthians 11, but we'll look at them deeply when we get to angels in a couple weeks.

**Q.** So we're all assigned an angel, what if you blaspheme the Holy Spirit, or you're not a believer, does God remove that angel?

**A.** You're going to have to wait until we get to angels. Because there's a verse in the Psalms that answers that. So you're going to have to wait until we get there.

**Q.** So in the same way can Satan use your dreams?

**A.** Can Satan use your dreams? No. He can use your dreams if you don't pay attention to them or you think they need an interpretation when they don't. When the angel tells Joseph, "Go to Egypt." The only way Satan can impact that is if Joseph doesn't obey. Or if Joseph thinks, "Well I wonder if Egypt means..." If he makes cryptic what God's made clear, then you have issues. If he ignores it, then there's an issue. Satan really can't use dreams.

**Q.** Because you said not to speak into our children's lives after they graduate from college, what if they're not walking with the Lord as adults?

**A.** It doesn't matter. Your children, and I'm just going to tell you truthfully, I can't tell you how many college kids have been in my office destroyed because their parents won't leave them alone. Now, ladies, you had 18 years. In some cases, you had 22 years. You're done. You let them go. They are no longer under your control. Even if they're not living, what you do is pray that someone besides you come into their life and impacts them. You get in there; all you'll do is anger them. And then you lose any chance to speak to them. I know my parents wouldn't leave me alone. When I married a white lady in my church and a black man, I told my parents, they called me, both of them, reaming me saying, "It's going to destroy your ministry." I said, the Bible doesn't speak against interracial. It speaks against inter-religious." We didn't speak for three years, until my dad had a stroke. So you've just got to let them go. My parents would never do that and when I refused to listen to them, they cut me off. So I have a personal deal about letting them go.

**Q.** How do you tell your parents without dishonoring them or hurting them that they're affecting your life. They're not entirely with me with the change of religion. I used to be Catholic so they're not....

**A.** OK. Then let me say this. Seriously. The reason they're hurt is they fell like they failed as parents or you'd still be Catholic. They don't see it the way you see it. So for me that's a whole different ball game. I would sit down with them as best I could one night. I would do one of two things, whichever one you think would work best. I would sit down with them and I would just candidly, lovingly, say, "I've not rejected your teaching." I would even say something like, "Your teaching is what brought me to Jesus." So I would really pull them into that. And I would say, "I've not left it, I've moved a little further, but I haven't left what you taught me." And I would even say I don't hate Catholicism because I'm where I am." If that's going to be a hard thing, then I would write it in a letter and put all that in a letter. Because then you're not there and they can read the content without the emotion of the person in the room. But I think there's a distinction, seriously, in that kind of situation than them saying, you shouldn't have bought that house. You shouldn't have bought that car. You shouldn't have spent that money. I think those are two different things. Your parents are rightfully; they feel they failed. So I would let them know as best I can, "You have not failed. Everything you've taught me has brought me to where I am today." I would really express that to them.