

Notes for the Ones Called-Out to Meet

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The Intimate Counsel of God

by Dan Trygg

"The one being out-from God, hears the personal-words of God..."

John 8:47

"The secret-counsel (confidential conversation) of Yahweh is for the ones reverencing Him..."

Psalms 25:14

"Whoever is led by the Spirit of God, these are God's sons and daughters. ¹⁵ For you did not receive a spirit of slavery into fear again, rather you received the Spirit of adoption, by whom we cry out, 'Abba, Father!' ¹⁶ The Spirit Himself testifies-together-with (co-testifies-with) our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷ and if children, also heirs (recipients of an allotted portion) -- heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ -- seeing that we suffer with Him so that we may also be glorified with Him." Romans 8:14-17

"But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law... ²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faith, ²³ gentleness, self-control. Against such things there is no law. ²⁴ Now the ones who are of Christ Jesus crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. ²⁵ If we live by the Spirit, let us also follow the Spirit." Galatians 5:18,22-25

If you received an official, certified and registered letter that you had to sign for, and it informed you that you had received an inheritance, ...wouldn't you want to know what it is, ...and wouldn't you take steps to obtain what is yours, if it were valuable? What if the inheritance was to be brought into an intimate relationship with God, where He would share His counsel and direction for *your* life? Would you still be interested? Do you think you would want what He wants? (This is a very telling question. It reveals what you think about God, and what you may be willing to change in order to follow Him. **Just think about it for a minute. What if...? What would you do?**)

"The word of the Lord came to Abram..." (Gen. 15:1). "The word of the Lord came to Samuel..." (1 Sam. 15:10; cf. 3:1,7). "The word of the Lord came to Nathan..." (2 Sam 7:4). "The word of the Lord came to Solomon..." (1 Kg. 6:11). "The word of the Lord came to Elijah..." (1 Kg. 17:8; 18:1). "The word of the Lord came to Shemaiah, the man of God..." (2 Chr. 11:2). "The word of the Lord came to Isaiah..." (Isa. 38:4). "The word of the Lord came to me [Jeremiah]..." (Jer. 1:4). "The word of the Lord came directly to Ezekiel..." (Ezk. 1:3). "The word of the Lord that came to Hosea..." (Hos. 1:1). "The word of the Lord that came to Joel..." (Joel 1:1). "The word of the Lord came to Jonah..." (Jon. 1:1). "The word of the Lord that came to Micah..." (Mic. 1:1). "The word of the Lord that came to Zephaniah..." (Zeph. 1:1). "The word of the Lord came through Haggai..." (Hag. 1:3). "...the word of the Lord came to Zechariah..." (Zech. 1:1). "An oracle: the word of the Lord to Israel through Malachi..." (Mal. 1:1). "...the word of God came to John the son of Zacharias in the wilderness..." (Lk. 3:2). "He who sent me to baptize with water *told me*, 'The One you see the Spirit descending and resting on -- He is the One who baptizes with the Holy Spirit'" (Jn. 1:33). "But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you..." (Jn. 14:26). "Then the Spirit said to Philip, 'Go up and join this chariot'" (Acts 8:29). "Now there was a disciple at Damascus named Ananias; and the Lord said to him in a vision, 'Ananias.' And he said, 'Here I am, Lord.' ¹¹ And the Lord said to him, 'Get up and go to the street called Straight, and inquire at the house of Judas for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying... ¹⁵ the Lord said to him, 'Go, for he is a chosen instrument of Mine, to bear My name before the Gentiles and kings and the sons of Israel'" (Acts 9:10,11,15). "While Peter was reflecting on the vision, the Spirit said to him, 'Behold, three men are looking for you. ²⁰ But get up, go downstairs and accompany them without misgivings, for I have sent them Myself'" (Acts 10:19,20). "While they were ministering to the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, 'Set apart for Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them'" (Acts 13:2).

The paragraph above cites over 20 examples of people who heard from God, mentioned in the scriptures. There are many, many other examples, ...especially when you consider that a number of these people had multiple experiences where God communicated with them. (For example, there are over 40 times in the book of Jeremiah where he wrote that the word of the Lord came to him.) **The scriptures are literally full of testimonies and stories of people who received communication from God.** If there was no communication from God, we would not have a Bible. When you take an overview of the scriptures, **hearing from God is not meant to be an unusual experience. It is not presented in that way, at least.** The examples of the people recorded in scripture as protagonists are primarily people who heard from God, and responded to Him. **Jesus said that those who are "out-from God" hear the personal-words of God. In fact, if you believe in Jesus, you are "taught-ones of God".** Everyone hearing from the Father, and learning, comes to Jesus (Jn. 6:45). At some point, you became aware of revelation from God, and you responded. So, let's not get "weirded out" about this. Rather, **let's examine this more closely for the privilege, potential and promise this offers.** Jesus said that this was a statement from the prophets. He was referring to Isaiah 54. **God revealed that He will beautify and bless those who are His covenant people.** In spite of the hardships they may face, their vindication will come from Him. **This is their heritage, ...their inheritance, or allotted portion: They will be taught by God, ...HE will establish them in righteousness, defend them against evil, and vindicate their trust in Him.** It is important to see that

hearing from God is a norm presented to us in *both* the Old and New Testaments. Proverbs 3:32 says **God is intimate with the upright**, and Psalm 25:14 says that **His confidential-counsel is for those who revere Him**.

Hearing from God, conversing with God, is not presented as a weird or unattainable thing. It is the nature of the relationship of those God has set as examples before us. Abraham was called the friend of God (Isa. 41:8). God spoke to Moses face to face (Exo. 33:11). Job referred to the time in his life when “the friendship of God was over my tent” (Job 29:4). The word for “friendship” is the same as “secret-counsel” in Psalm 25:14. It refers to open and easy dialogue, intimate and personal communication. God has things He desires to share *with you*, that are between *you* and *Him* alone! They are meant to enliven, encourage and deepen you in relationship with Him. **Think of it! The Creator of the universe wants to communicate with you! He wants to speak to you about your life, your purpose, and to direct you to partner with Him to accomplish His will.** And, although He is the King of all, **He wants a relationship with you that is not based on authority, or power, ...but on love and trust.** Jesus said, “I do not call you slaves, because the slave does not know what his master is doing. But, **I have called you friends** (‘loved-ones’; ‘ones-I-delight-in’), because all that I heard from my Father, I have made known to you” (Jn. 15:15). **Jesus wants to share with us what the Father’s plans are. He wants us to be aware of what the Father is doing, so we can join Him as His beloved friends.** This was the same relationship He had with the Father (Jn. 5:19,20). Because the Father delighted-in Him, He showed or pointed out to Jesus what He was up to, so that Jesus could join with Him. Jesus made it His priority to be watching for, listening for, and discerning God’s activity in His life (Jn. 5:30; 7:16,17; 8:28,40; 12:49; 14:10).

As wonderful and amazing as being a “friend of God” is, even *that word picture does not go deep enough!* God wants us to know *how precious we are to Him, and how personal He wants to be to us.* Because we have trusted in Him, He has made us His children, and He has sent His Spirit into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” **This is the same nickname that Jesus Himself used for God the Father** (Mk. 14:36; Gal. 4:6). It has a twofold meaning. **It is a term of endearment and intimacy, but it is also a term of respect and obedience.** The Hebrew word for “father” is “Ab” (pronounced “Av”). “Abba” is typically the first word a child uses for his or her father. It is like “daddy” in English. **It is a relationship term of familiarity, intimacy, trust and obedience.** The Spirit raises our child-heart toward God, crying out in recognition and in earnest appeal, “Daddy! Father!” **So, beyond a relationship of authority, ...or friendship..., we have been given a relationship with God that is meant to be as tender, trusting and affirming as “Daddy”.** At the same time, it also implies trustful obedience. So, as Jesus began His prayer in Gethsemane with “Abba! Father!”, He was declaring His absolute trust and willingness to obey His loving and wise “Daddy”, no matter what it may look like or cost. We may face similar challenges. **In this world we will face trials, and even suffering, as we follow Christ. It is the Spirit that affirms us and reminds us that we are God’s children, and He is our loving Abba** (Rom. 8:15-17). He bears witness to this truth, even as our hearts cry out, ...jointly testifying, “Abba!”

I was prompted to write about this because this past week was full of “personal words from God”. Some of these were not so obvious, ...they may have appeared to be coincidental to an outsider..., but to the person involved, it seemed to be a very personal response to something that they cried out for, ...in this case a song on the radio. They said, “Wouldn’t it be nice to hear...”, ...and a minute later *that very song*, which was released 20 years ago, began to play on the radio. It perfectly fit that person’s circumstances, and their heart cry! **In another case, a person was struggling with a habit, and was going to reach for what they knew they should not be doing, ...and someone called and confessed that they were struggling with a habit, and said, “Have you ever reached for something you knew God did not want you to be doing?” This person was literally reaching for the very thing in the upper cupboard that he knew he should not be doing.** It was *so God!* He shut the cupboard door, and said, “Yes, in fact, I was doing that *right now!*” Then, I was meeting with someone, and we were talking about God’s timing concerning a certain event in their life. As they were talking, the thought occurred to me, “You should search to see if that number is significant in biblical meaning.” The thought came to me *three times*, and I finally pulled out my phone, and typed in a query into Google. **The search results were amazing, ...exactly what we had been talking about, and yielding more insight and significance than we could have imagined.** Later, I drove home, and another question came to my mind about whether there was something important about that particular date. Again, the results of a Google search were so applicable and personal to that person’s situation, and what she was dealing with, that I had to copy it and send it. We said, “You can’t make this stuff up!” It was *so* encouraging, and added a new level of meaning to her situation.

I don’t consider myself to be a “suggestible person”. I am pretty clear-headed, and down to earth. I am not normally one to look for “hidden meanings” about things. But, I have learned that **God is a personal communicator.** He has revealed Himself and His will through the scriptures, but He also speaks to us through personal words from the Spirit. **A “rhēma” word is a message or a directive spoken to us in a particular circumstance, or for our personal lives.** We have received the Spirit to make known to us what God has given to us, and to give us insight, discernment and direction that others would not be privy to (1 Cor. 2:12,13). **Both Romans 8 and Galatians 5 speak of being “led by” the Spirit. Being taught by God, and receiving His personal counsel, is part of our inheritance as His children.**