

How to Know God #2: God in Human Language

Last week we identified two barriers to Knowing God:

- 1. God is invisible because His Essence is Spirit*
- 2. There is a barrier because we don't speak God's "Spirit"*

But we also have problem #3: the condition of the heart:

Eph. 4:17-19 NLT: "With the Lord's authority I say this: Live no longer as the Gentiles [unbelievers] do, for they are hopelessly confused. Their minds are full of darkness; they wander far from the life God gives because they have closed their minds and hardened their hearts against him. They have no sense of shame. They live for lustful pleasure and eagerly practice every kind of impurity"

2 Cor. 4:3-4 NIRV: "Suppose our good news is covered with a veil...The god of this world has blinded the minds of those who don't believe. They can't see the light of the good news that makes Christ's glory clear. Christ is the likeness of God"

2 Cor. 4:5-7 NIRV: "The message we preach is not about ourselves. Our message is about Jesus Christ. We say that he is Lord...God said, 'Let light shine out of darkness.' He made his light shine in our hearts. His light gives us the light to know God's glory. His glory is shown in the face of Christ. Treasure is kept in clay jars. In the same way, we have the treasure of the good news in these earthly bodies of ours..."

Hebrews 1:1-3 NIV: "In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe. The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being ['flawless expression of the nature of God' J. B. Phillips translation]..."

1 John 1:1-4 NIRV: "Here is what we announce to everyone about the Word of life. The Word was already here from the beginning. We have heard him. We have seen him with our eyes. We have looked at him. Our hands have touched him. This life has appeared. We have seen him. We are witnesses about him. And we announce to you this same eternal life. He was already with the Father. He has appeared to us. We announce to you what we have seen and heard. We do it so you can

share life together with us. And we share life with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. We are writing this to make our joy complete.”

<u>John’s Experience</u>	<u>John’s Response</u>
<u>Heard</u> the Word of Life	<u>Announces</u> Him
<u>Saw</u> Him	<u>Witnesses</u> About Him
Hands <u>Touched</u> Him	<u>Announces</u> Eternal Life
<u>Looked</u> at Him	<u>Announces</u> His Own Experience
Have <u>Seen</u> & <u>Heard</u>	<u>Writes</u> Down That Experience

John 20:30-31 NKJV Why John wrote his Gospel: “And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.”

Why John didn’t write everything down that Jesus did: John 21:25 NKJV “...there are also many other things that Jesus did, which if they were written one by one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that would be written. Amen.”

2 Peter 1:16-18 NKJV: “For we did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty. For He received from God the Father honor and glory when such a voice came to Him from the Excellent Glory: ‘This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.’ And we heard this voice which came from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain.”

Well, that’s great that John, Peter, and all the disciples saw Him firsthand. What about in the 21st Century?

2 Peter 1:19-21 NKJV: “And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts; knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit”

2 Timothy 3:15-17 NIRV: *“You have known the Holy Scriptures ever since you were a little child. They are able to teach you how to be saved by believing in Christ Jesus. God has breathed life into all Scripture. It is useful for teaching us what is true. It is useful for correcting our mistakes. It is useful for making our lives whole again. It is useful for training us to do what is right. By using Scripture, the servant of God can be completely prepared to do every good thing”*

So HOW Does an Invisible God Communicate in a Physical World?

1. He sends His Spirit to draw us to Himself
2. He places His Spirit within us to have direct heart to heart communication
3. He comes personally in the physical body of Jesus to talk in human terms
4. He gives us the Scripture, and the Spirit or Truth, to understand His Word
5. He abides with us; around us; and IN US and promises to never leave us

But the bigger question: “will you abide in Him?” (see John 15:1-16)