



Week 2: "I Am Speaking"

1. READ

Pastor Watley's Selected Scripture: 1 Kings 19 : 8 – 13 New King James Version (NKJV)

⁸ So he arose, and ate and drank; and he went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights as far as Horeb, the mountain of God.

⁹ And there he went into a cave, and spent the night in that place; and behold, the word of the Lord *came* to him, and He said to him, "What are you doing here, Elijah?"

¹⁰ So he said, "I have been very zealous for the Lord God of hosts; for the children of Israel have forsaken Your covenant, torn down Your altars, and killed Your prophets with the sword. I alone am left; and they seek to take my life."

¹¹ Then He said, "Go out, and stand on the mountain before the Lord." And behold, the Lord passed by, and a great and strong wind tore into the mountains and broke the rocks in pieces before the Lord, *but* the Lord *was* not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, *but* the Lord *was* not in the earthquake; ¹² and after the earthquake a fire, *but* the Lord *was* not in the fire; and after the fire a still small voice.

Further Reading: Proverbs 4 : 1 – 9 New International Version (NIV)

¹ Listen, my sons, to a father's instruction;
pay attention and gain understanding.

² I give you sound learning,
so do not forsake my teaching.

³ For I too was a son to my father,
still tender, and cherished by my mother.

⁴ Then he taught me, and he said to me,
"Take hold of my words with all your heart;
keep my commands, and you will live.

⁵ Get wisdom, get understanding;
do not forget my words or turn away from them.

⁶ Do not forsake wisdom, and she will protect you;
love her, and she will watch over you.

⁷ The beginning of wisdom is this: Get wisdom.
Though it cost all you have, get understanding.





- ⁸ Cherish her, and she will exalt you;
embrace her, and she will honor you.
- ⁹ She will give you a garland to grace your head
and present you with a glorious crown.”

2. REFLECT

[Make sure to review this week’s sermon!]



As we continue on our journey through Pastor Watley’s sermon series entitled, “Teach Me How To Pray,” we are learning the fundamentals of prayer and the significance of praying through difficult seasons. Now more than ever, it is important for us to seek the voice of the Lord for guidance and direction. With that said, over the next few weeks we will be focusing on developing and strengthening our prayer lives.

In our lesson for week two entitled, “I Am Speaking,” Pastor Watley reminds us of the environmental factors that can dramatically impact our prayer lives. In addition to the various physical and biological ailments we are currently facing, another deadly and debilitating sickness has been spreading across the population. This ‘Dis-Ease’ is what Pastor Watley calls Chronic Confusion. Many current victims believe that their symptoms are benign, and don’t even recognize the seriousness of their illness. However, if gone unchecked, Chronic Confusion can be detrimental to our overall wellbeing.





According to Pastor Watley, Chronic Confusion can be characterized by the following symptoms:

1. Fear of anything, and everything, and nothing.
2. Cerebral circular reasoning – where rather than reasoning to your conclusion you reason *from* your conclusion.
3. “Peacelessness” - Emotionally, Socially, Intellectually Spiritually

These symptoms can be found running rampant across our current culture, as more and more of society falls prey to what Pastor Watley calls a “second pandemic.” As the gravity of our social and political climate mounts, the severity of this deadly disease escalates. Military analyst Carl von Clausewitz notes a similar psychological phenomenon that can easily be applied to our current state of affairs. He calls it the **fog of war**. Clausewitz notes, “War is the realm of uncertainty; three quarters of the factors on which action in war is based are wrapped in a fog of greater or lesser uncertainty. A sensitive and discriminating judgment is called for; a skilled intelligence to scent out the truth.” His sentiments reveal that when we are in a heightened state of emergency, or in a “war-like state,” the sense of uncertainty and trauma can cloud our judgment and impair our vision.

However, as Clausewitz mentions, when we are wrapped in the fog of war the only remedy seems to be “skilled intelligence” and “sensitive judgement.” Thankfully, we serve a God that readily equips us with wisdom, discernment, and clarity. In fact, wisdom is one of the spiritual gifts ascribed by the Apostle Paul. And yet, we must seek wisdom to receive it. As exemplified in verse five of our second passage for this week (Proverbs 4:1-9), the Lord calls us to “Get wisdom, get understanding; do not forget my words or turn away from them.” The word *get* is a verb, indicating that living with wisdom and understanding requires action! Verse six continues, “Do not forsake wisdom, and she will protect you; love her, and she will watch over you.” This description indicates to us that in addition to attaining wisdom, we must cultivate it.

One of the ways that we can seek and cultivate wisdom, is through serious and sincere prayer. By developing our prayer life, we are learning not only how to speak to God, but how to hear from God. If we train our ears to hear the timbre of God’s voice, we are positioning ourselves to receive divine direction and revelation straight from the source. However, God’s voice does not always appear the way we expect it to. In our second scripture for today (1 Kings 19:8-13) we find Elijah seeking the voice of God in the sacred place where God usually appears. And yet, when the Lord shows up, he asks Elijah, “What are you doing here?” After Elijah responds, the Lord directs him to go to a different location, and it is there that the Lord moves. This indicates to us, that perhaps our time in prayer is the communication we need to hear God’s direction. Once we get the direction, it is our responsibility to “Go out and stand” in the place He has sent us and wait for Him to move. Moreover, when God moves, it may not be in the theatrics of the wind, the earthquake, or the fire. Instead, God may arrive in a way that surprises you!





3. RESPOND

Introspective Questions

- What is this passage of scripture saying to you?
- Are you experiencing symptoms of Chronic Confusion? How can you counteract your symptoms?

Discussion Questions

1. Why do you think the Lord chose to arrive in the “still small voice” instead of the wind, earthquake, or fire?
2. How do you think Elijah responded to the Lord’s new way of communication? How would you react if you were in Elijah’s position?