

The Collaborated Voice of God

Old Union Baptist Ministers' School
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Scripture Lesson: “And God said,...” Genesis 1:3

Introduction:

Each minister listening to this lesson today should undoubtedly be personally acquainted with the voice of God (*Yahweh*¹ ~ see footnote). The divinely called minister of the Gospel of Jesus Christ has heard this distinct voice at least twice in his lifetime, but most likely multiple times. The first time was when the convicting power of the Holy Spirit revealed to us our separated and lost condition, before His Holiness. The same pattern is noted when He spoke to Adam and Eve. *“And they heard the voice of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God amongst the trees of the garden. And the Lord God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou?”* (Genesis 3:8,9). Does this tone sound familiar?

The most distinctive time I heard the voice of God was when He said to my heart, “Preach My Word”. All of you have acknowledged this call to preach, or you would not be here today. You were required to relate two experiences to the Old Union Missionary Baptist Church Ministers’ School Committee. The committee requested documentation (in writing) detailing your thoughts, emotions, and actions relating your call into the ministry. God called and communicated to us His means of spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ! This I declare to you this day, **“The Collaborated Voice of God”**!

Definitions:

To collaborate means to be: unified, work together, join forces, team up, work in partnership, pool resources, act as a team, and or, cooperate with each other. God the Father, God The Son, and God The Holy Ghost are **ONE!** Jesus said, *“I and my Father are one”* (John

¹ The four-consonant divine name YHWH is referred to as the tetragrammaton. When the Hebrew text refers to *Yahweh* it uses the four consonants YHWH with a special configuration of vowels to signal that it should not be pronounced out loud to guard the sanctity of God’s name. If the divine name is never spoken it can never be taken in vain. The name *Yahweh*, or *Jehovah* in its older pronunciations, is never spoken in Judaic contexts. In Jewish tradition the words “the LORD”, *adonay* in Hebrew, are substituted for YHWH (Bandstra & Mercer Dictionary of the Bible).

10:30). *"For through **Him** (Jesus) we both have access by **one Spirit** unto the **Father**"*

(Ephesians 2:18).

I. God or the Godhead

According to Young's Analytical Concordance to the Bible, **GODHEAD** is translated: *that which is **divine – extraordinarily perfect** (Acts 17:29); **Divinity – the state of being divine** (Romans 1:20); and **Deity – extraordinarily perfect nature or status** (Colossians 2:9).*

Read Acts 17:28 – 31.

While preaching to a group of pagan worshippers of false gods, the Apostle Paul said, *"For in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring. Forasmuch then as **we are the offspring** (made in the image or kind) of God, we ought not to think that the Godhead is like unto gold, or silver, or stone, graven by art and man's device" (Acts 17:28, 29).*

We communicate (or speak with our voices), to His offspring. Often times, the audience may include our natural born offspring (which may be attended by regenerated and non-regenerated people) that we are trying to reach. The spiritual divine Godhead is (or should be allowed) to take the lead during this most Holy operation! *"And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men (**with His voice**) every where to repent; Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained (**Paul is referring to the declaration or determination of Jesus as THE ONE**); whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead" (Acts 17:30, 31).*

The Apostle Paul revealed to us that the very nature of God speaks explicitly, *"For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are **clearly seen (discernible - Amplified Bible)**, being understood (communication {verbal or nonverbal}) is defined as a common*

***understanding)* by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse.” (Romans 1:20).**

The fullness or completeness of the deity of God is revealed in the nature of Jesus Christ. ***“For in him (Christ) dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily” (Colossians 2:9).***

Although the Godhead represents three divine and harmonious offices, God is still ***monotheistic (only one God, and none other exists)***, not polytheistic (multiple gods)! From the time of Adam and Eve until Moses and beyond, the ***“poly-god” theory*** has gotten out of hand. Moses stands at the heart of a religious revolution. He championed a religion focused on one God over against the polytheistic notions of the surrounding peoples (Egyptians) of his time.

J. M. Pendleton recorded in the Baptist Church Manual, The New Hampshire Confession of Faith; as framed centuries ago by men like J. Newton Brown, D. D., what we as Baptist believe ***Of The True God***. ***“We believe that there is one, and only one living and true God, an infinite, intelligent Spirit, whose name is JEHOVAH, The Maker and Supreme Ruler of heaven and earth; inexpressibly glorious in holiness, and worthy of all possible honor, confidence, and love; that in the unity of the Godhead there are three persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost; equal in every divine perfection, and executing distinct but harmonious offices in the great work of redemption”.***

I discovered a clearer definition of God the day He saved me! He imputed within me a new meaning of His existence that night! For it was that night I heard...

II. The Voice

Read & meditate on II Peter 1:1 - 21.

Verse 8, “For if these things (Faith, Spiritual knowledge & growth, temperance, self-control, self-restraint, kindness, love ~ the sum of ministerial duties) be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our

Lord Jesus Christ. But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins. Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: **for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall (stumble from your calling)**: For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Wherefore I will not be negligent to put you always in remembrance of these **things (mentioned in verse 8)**, though ye know them, and be established in the present truth. Yea, I think it meet, as long as I am in this tabernacle, to stir you up by putting you in remembrance; Knowing that shortly I must put off this my tabernacle, even as our Lord Jesus Christ hath shewed me. Moreover I will endeavor that ye may be able after my decease to have these things always in remembrance. For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty. **For he received from God the Father honour and glory, when there came such a voice to him from the excellent glory, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.** And this voice which came from heaven we heard, when we were with him in the holy mount" (II Peter 1:8 - 18).

III. Holy Men Spoke - Read II Peter 1:19 – 20.

"And we have the prophetic word [made] firmer still. You will do well to pay close attention to it as to a lamp shining in a dismal (squalid and dark) place, until the day breaks through [the gloom] and the Morning Star rises (comes into being) in your hearts. [Yet] first [you must] understand this, that no prophecy of Scripture is [a matter] of any personal or private or special interpretation (loosening, solving). For no prophecy (public exposition – Young's) ever originated because some man willed it [to do so-it never came by human impulse], but men spoke from God who were borne along (moved and impelled) by the Holy Spirit." (Amplified Bible)

God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit each have a distinct voice of:

1. **Tone** – Sound in relation to quality, volume, duration, and pitch.
2. **Pitch** – The highness or lowness of the speaker's voice.
3. **Sound** – or vocal variety, should change in an orator's rate, pitch, and volume that give the voice variety and expressiveness.

Note: We are the spokesmen for God. Does God speak through you? Our sermons and devotions should be of the highest quality, reflecting the truest interpretation as possible! We are delivering the Holy Word of God!

Read, learn, and orate the proper sentence structure and punctuation of the Scriptures when speaking to your audience or congregation. Holy men spoke and we need to deliver the Word in the way that God intended.

Examples of common errors in preaching and resounding the voice of the God.

1. The question mark. Read Lamentations 3:37 – 41.
2. The period. Read Matthew 3:17. *"And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."*
3. The comma, colon & semi-colon. Read Romans 2:28 – 29.
4. The exclamation point. Read John 1: 35 - 37
5. Selah. Read Psalms 3:1 – 8. (Most scholars agree, that this means to pause.) It is not necessary to say the word, but one reading the passage should pause and meditate on the message of the preceded scriptures, before continuing to the next verse.

IV. Biblical Conversations with God

- The Pentateuch Interpreting the Voice via Moses. **God has a message He wants to give His Church and you are the messenger.** Read Exodus 19:3 – 6.
- Adam & Eve in the Garden (Before and After the Fall). Read Genesis 2: 16 – 17 (Before); 3: 8 – 12 (After).

- Speaking to Abraham. Read Genesis 12: 1 – 4.
- Moses at the Burning Bush. Read Exodus 3: 1 – 6.
- The Elijah Experience. Read I Kings 19: 9 – 12. Have you ever had this experience? Listen to *The Still Small Voice*, He will never lead you astray! When we get discouraged, when things are not going the way we feel they should; just listen for the Still Small Voice of God!

V. Conclusion

When preaching, strive to speak on the level that your audience can understand what you are conveying. For this to take place, the preacher must be in tune with the Holy Spirit and familiar with the audience. Having spent over half of my life in the South, I have noticed a difference in styles of delivery and exposition of the scriptures. Those of my Brethren, who are well versed in grammar, are sometimes perceived to have a tone of “puffed up knowledge”. On the other side of the perception, Brethren that are not well versed in grammar often “butcher” the English language. The most embarrassing element is the attitude we have toward each other who lack or exceed in these skills. We must learn to expound the Scriptures in the manner in which the Collaborated Voice of the God intends, with Love, Unity, and humility of Spirit.

*“God, Who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days **spoken unto us by His Son**, whom He hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds; Who being the brightness of His glory, and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high; Being made so much better than the angels, as He hath by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they” (Hebrews 1:1-4).*