

The God Who Speaks and Heals

Luke 4:18

Thesis: This weekend, we are believing God for and praying for a fresh move of the Lord, according to Luke 4:18, that will result in many people getting saved, healed, delivered, and encouraged.

Text: Luke 4:18

This is an important weekend for Calvary.

The God Who Speaks

Today, there are several people that I want you to hear from as an encouragement for you and for us that our God is speaking, moving, and acting. Then, I want to share a prophetic word about the importance of this weekend.

Testimony from April Duffey

My daughter, April, recently shared with me an encouraging time of hearing and responding to the Lord. You will be encouraged, too.

Testimony from Margaret Petry

Margaret has two testimonies. One is about the corporate nature of how God speaks and how churches catch the wind of the Holy Spirit. And, she has a testimony about the impulses of the Spirit and the confirmation that it is the Lord who speaks.

Testimony from *Delighted*, the Ladies Conference

We serve a God who speaks. It is the very nature of our God to communicate.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was with God in the beginning. 3 Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. 4 In him was life, and that

life was the light of men. 5 The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood [conquered] it (John 1:1-5).

A word is a means of communication. Our God is the speaking God, the communicating God, the revelatory God.

Throughout Scripture, the Lord encourages us to listen, to attune our hearts, and to attend (be responsive) to what our God is saying.

He who has ears to hear, let him hear (Matthew 11:15; Mark 4:9; Luke 8:8; 14:35).

He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches (Revelation 2:7, 2:11, 2:17, 2:29, 3:6, 3:13, 3:22).

How does God speak to us?

Several years ago, Pastor Steve wrote a blog that captured [Fourteen Ways God Speaks to Us](#), according to Scripture. There are many more ways, but those were just off the top of his head.

1. **We need to learn to listen to the language of God.**
 - a. **How does God speak today?**
 - i. He speaks most clearly in Christ (Hebrews 1:1-3). I invite you to behold the face of the Lord and to grow in intimacy with Jesus (2 Corinthians 3:18; 4:6; John 15:1-8).
 - ii. He speaks most frequently through Scripture (Isaiah 55:6-13; John 5:39-40; 2 Timothy 3:14-17; Romans 15:4; 1 Peter 1:12-21). I invite you to spend time in the Word of God with a devoted heart and listening ear.
 - b. **How does God speak to you?**
 - i. **The Lord frequently speaks to me** through journaling (writing out my prayers and reflections), devotional Scripture reading, co-creating a sermon or teaching, words of knowledge, the spiritual practice of discerning the Spirit through dialogue, corporate prayer meetings, personal prayer times, personal and corporate worship, prayer walking, Ministry Times, etc.
 - ii. **How about you?** Are you learning to listen well and to pay attention earnestly to the ways God speaks to you, other than in the familiar way(s)?

2. **We can learn to pay attention to the impulses of the Spirit.**
 - a. There are **promptings** of the Holy Spirit.
 - b. There are **impressions** from the Lord.
 - c. There are **leadings** of the Lord.
 - d. Read 1 Kings 19:1-13.
 - e. Yes, sometimes God speaks and comes like a rushing mighty wind, like in Acts 2 on the Day of Pentecost. Yes, when God speaks, sometimes it can be like an earthquake like at Mt. Sinai when God met Moses and the children of Israel. Yes, God sometimes speaks in the midst of the fire, like in the burning bush with Moses. And in this case with Elijah, the Lord spoke in a gentle whisper.
 - i. Sometimes, God comes with impulses, impressions, leadings, promptings, knowings, and such.
 - ii. Our God can speak in the dramatic or in a still, small voice.

3. **We can grow in our capacity to discern the voice of the Lord from our own voice, the voice of others, or the voice of the enemy.**
 - a. It takes practice to discern the voice of the Lord from our own voice or the voice of the enemy. We need safe places to practice, learn, and grow.
 - b. It is very helpful to reflect and to process with others who have grown in the capacity of discerning the voice of the Lord. We need to get around others who are a little farther along in the journey than we are.
 - c. It is very helpful to journey with a community that is learning to listen to and to discern the voice of the Lord. We were meant to journey with others.

The God Who Heals

Today, we have heard from several people as an encouragement that our God is speaking, moving, and acting.

Now, I want to share a prophetic word about the importance of this weekend.

Email from Shannon Birdwell

On Saturday, April 10, 2021, I received an encouraging email from Shannon Birdwell. He shared this word with the Deacons on Tuesday night. Jay led us in praying for a release of healing at Calvary at the Prayer Room on Monday night. I shared this word with the Staff this week and then again at Thursday Morning Intercession.

Shannon is one of our deacons, one of our Prayer Room Prayer Leaders, and a person who moves in the prophetic here at Calvary. He is also a teacher.

Here is the email which Shannon sent to me.

From: Shannon <birdwells@usa.net>
Sent: Saturday, April 10, 2021 2:30 PM
To: Jeff McGee <jtm@calvaryhouston.com>
Cc: Jay Kelley <jaydkelley@sbcglobal.net>; Tom Petry <tkpetry@sbcglobal.net>; Margaret Petry <margaret@calvaryhouston.com>; Susi Birdwell <susia@usa.net>
Subject: Word for Calvary?

Hi Jeff,

I was spending time with Tom Petry and something came up that we were discussing.

You may know the word from Paul Cain and his mother, Anna, from several years ago about the church. Before Anna died at 104 years old, she told Paul that the Lord was going to give her a word for Paul that was for the church and it would be confirmed by her death (as I understand the story). She went into a coma for a number of days before she died, and Paul was concerned because he hadn't gotten that word. At one point she came out of the coma and told Paul that the word for the church was Luke 4:18 and she relapsed back into the coma. She then died on April 18 (4-18) at 4:18 in the afternoon confirming the word about Luke 4:18 being for the church.

Friday night (yesterday) [April 9] IHOP had their Friday night service and had a prophetic guy speak by the name of Chris Reed. Chris said that 18 months ago the Lord told him that when Prince Phillip died, the Luke 4:18 word would begin for the church. Prince Phillip died yesterday [April 9].

In a week the ladies will have their retreat [conference] and I understand that the topic is on healing. A week from tomorrow we will be having our healing service on Sunday night. The date will be 4-18. I am believing that Luke 4:18 is a word for us. Here is the verse:

“The Spirit of the Lord is on me,
because he has anointed me
to proclaim good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners

and recovery of sight for the blind,
to set the oppressed free..." (Luke 4:18).

Shannon

We are excited about what the Lord seems to say about this weekend. Shannon did a great job helping us get in on the prophetic flow and timing of this Kairos moment.

1. Jesus came to embody and to show us the kingdom of God.

- a. Jesus revealed to us how we were supposed to live in intimacy with the Father (John 1:14; 5:16-20; 8:27-30; 10:30; 14:9-11; 17:11; 17:21). All that Jesus said and did flowed out of his intimacy with the Father (Luke 5:15-17).
- b. Jesus came preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God (Mark 1:14-15).
- c. Jesus was anointed by the Spirit of God to do the works of the kingdom of God (Luke 4:18-19).
- d. Jesus came proclaiming and demonstrating the gospel of the kingdom of God (Matthew 4:23-25; 9:35-38).
 - i. *Jesus ministered from place to place throughout all of the province of Galilee. He taught in the synagogues, preaching the hope of the kingdom realm and healing every kind of sickness and disease among the people. 24 His fame spread everywhere! Many people who were in pain and suffering with every kind of illness were brought to Jesus for their healing—epileptics [with mental illness], paralytics, and those tormented by demonic powers were all set free. Everyone who was brought to Jesus was healed! This resulted in massive crowds of people following him... (Matthew 4:23-25 PT).*
 - ii. Matthew 9:35-38.

2. Jesus has appointed and anointed us to do what he has been doing and to say what he has been saying (Luke 9:1-2; 10:1-2; Matthew 28:18-20; John 14:12; 20:21; Acts 1:8).

- a. *Great fear seized the whole church and all who heard about these events. 12 The apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders among the people. And all the believers used to meet together in Solomon's Colonnade. 13 No one else dared join them, even though they were highly regarded by the people. 14 Nevertheless, more and more men and women believed in the Lord and were added to their number. 15 As a result, people brought the sick into the streets and laid them on*

beds and mats so that at least Peter's shadow might fall on some of them as he passed by. 16 Crowds gathered also from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing their sick and those tormented by evil spirits, and all of them were healed (Acts 5:11-16).

- b. The key to doing the works of Jesus is intimacy with the Lord and dependency upon the Spirit, just as it was for Jesus.
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3. **This weekend, we are believing God for and praying for a fresh move of the Lord, according to Luke 4:18, that will result in many people getting saved, healed, delivered, and encouraged.**
 - a. May it be so according to the recent prophetic word given to us, which Shannon Birdwell shared.
 - b. Let's believe God and let's step out to share with people and to pray with people with a new level of faith and intentionality.
 - c. *"The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor" (Luke 4:18).*

Ministry Time: