

... speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ ...

Ephesians 4:15

Store In My Heart Judges 21:25

In those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes.

From the time God called them from Egypt until the death of Joshua, Israel was led by men chosen by God. From the message delivered from Mt. Sinai we learn that God was the supreme ruler in Israel and He expected them to follow Him diligently. He protected, guided, and fed them during all their travels. He went before them as they conquered the land of Canaan. Yet when they received the inheritance, they did not remain faithful, instead they just did whatever they wanted.

We must be careful that we do not fall into the same habit today. God has clearly outlined what He expects of us and even when left on our own we have a responsibility to do His will. In all of life we must follow God, not self. Let us learn from the children of Israel and follow God with diligence.



Communications Error

Daniel Smith

A few days ago, my family went out to eat at a Mexican restaurant. There we saw an interesting issue: although the menu was in English, and we've been to Mexican restaurants before, there were Spanish words sprinkled throughout that we had to look up on our phones. I've been to Spain, Mexico, and other Spanish-speaking countries on vacation, and my brother is taking Spanish in school, but still, there were words none of us could remember or had ever seen before.

The ironic part: this is a problem unique to humanity! You could take any two dogs from different sides of the earth, different breeds, and different ages – it doesn't matter. They can communicate instantly. Cats? Whales? Lizards? Ants? Bees? They all communicate with each other. Birds constantly communicate with each other, and some birds even specialize in coordinating flight formations during flight. We would do well to listen to animals ourselves, since they are great at signaling dangers like earthquakes, tsunamis, volcanoes, tornadoes, and even random strangers.

Why do humans have this problem of miscommunication or non-communication? One word: pride.

Our problems started in **Genesis 11**, with the building of the Tower of Babel. In **Genesis 11:1**, it says, *"Now the whole earth had one language and the same words."* United in language, humanity decided to stay together, ignoring God's command to spread out and populate the earth. In **11:4** they said, *"Come, let us build ourselves a city and a tower with its top in the heavens, and let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be dispersed throughout the whole earth."* Humanity did not want to scatter but instead make something to keep them together, and in **verse 6**, God said, *"And nothing they propose to do will now be impossible for them."* (Imagine the technological advantages we would have today by having a single language all over the earth!)

All the nations being together in one place following the great flood made humanity able to work together to do anything they wanted, so God forced them to scatter by mixing up their languages and giving us our largest problem today – a lack of clear communication. Despite this, God has worked to make sure the issue with communication that exists between people does not also exist between us and Him. We have easy access to two-way communication: we pray to Him, and He speaks back through His Word.

We can pray anytime we want, if we do it with the right attitude. Attitudes are discussed a lot in Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, including the attitudes associated with pride and prayer. **Matthew 6:6** *"But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you."*

Because of Jesus, we have the ultimate High Priest to carry our concerns before God. **1John 2:1-2** *"My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world."*

And although I won't pretend to understand how all this works, the Spirit also intercedes for us: **Romans 8:26-27** *"Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God."*

God speaks to us through His word, given by the Spirit through the pens of men throughout Biblical history. In **2Timothy 3:16-17**, Paul tells Timothy, *"All scripture is breathed out by God and is profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work."*

Language isn't an issue for prayer or for scripture. God understands prayers in all languages, because He's the Creator of language. In addition, a quick Google search reveals that the complete Bible has been translated into nearly 1,000 languages, and portions of the Bible have been translated into over 3,000 languages and dialects. Anyone can have access to God, and since God knows our hearts, He will make sure those whose hearts are tender have access to His word.

The Gospel is for all, and it has no borders. There is no nation beyond saving, if that nation will turn to God. In the last couple of verses in the book of Matthew, Jesus tells his disciples to go into all the world and make disciples, and then in **Acts 2**, all those who heard the Gospel for the first time were able to hear it in their own language.

So, the exhortation is this: starting with our neighbors who share a common language with us, we should put away pride and sin, and we should teach the message of grace that was made possible through Jesus. **James 4:6-8** *"God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble. Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you"*

Contact Us

We like opportunities to speak with others about the Lord.

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For Our Information

Adene Gray is transferring to Arbor Oaks under Hospice care.

Sue Soliday is doing physical therapy 3 times a week.

John LaValla is still dealing with respiratory issues.

Paul Simpson (Jonathan's father) passed away last week. His funeral is today in Camden.

A Ladies Workday is planned for Saturday April 19th at 9 am.

Sunday Evening – **Isaiah 9:13** Wednesday – **John 20**

Our Gospel Meeting begins in 2 weeks. Announcements are available in the Foyer.

The
CHURCH OF CHRIST

MEETS HERE



10:20 AM • Sunday Worship Service
5:00 PM • Sunday Night Bible Study
7:00 PM • Wednesday Bible Study