

## “I AM” speaking to you!!

Encounter with the Word 2

A “word” is fundamentally a thought expressed—a speaking of the mind. The words of Christ are even more. “The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life.” John 6:63

“It is through the action of the Word of God on us, throughout us, and with us that we come to **have the mind of Christ** and are enabled to live fully in the Kingdom of God.”

Proper engagement (integration, participation, involvement) with the written Word of God is central in our cooperative effort with God toward full conformity with Christ, having his mind—becoming like him. He is giving us a piece of his mind.

### I Corinthians 2:11-16

God cannot be separated from his written Word. He never leaves it alone. His written word is held within the eternal living Word. John 1: 1-2, 14. It is always Truth. It is not mere ink on paper.

Bring the written Word to the indwelling Spirit and it becomes the “**Spoken**” Word to us. It is spoken to us just as it was to any Biblical person. We must use our ears as well as our eyes.

The Bible expresses the mind of God. Through its pages God himself speaks to us. We by ingesting the Bible come to share his thoughts, attitudes, and way of life. We are quickened (made alive, put on alert, transformed) by the Word.

### “We have the mind of Christ.”

Romans 12:2

Jeremiah 31:33

Luke 24:45

Ephesians 4:21-24

Colossians 3:1-4

Hebrews 8:10

“Let this mind, attitude; be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus.”  
Phil.2:5

## Approach the Word with full attention.

God is speaking his mind to us.

?? Do words in a book or even a letter require as focused or as personal attention as a word spoken to you?

Come to the Word as meeting with the Great I AM. Come expectant, on high alert, seriously listening. Consider all scripture as spoken—by God—to you. Come with **fear and trembling**. Phil. 2:12-13

Consider: Isaiah 6:1-5, Daniel 10:9-10,  
and John in Revelations 1:10, 12, 17

“**Catch your breath** before the Lord all mankind, for He is aroused from his holy habitation.” Zechariah 2:13

? When is the last time I “caught my breath”?

Bear on a hike? Fell from a tree? Caught in the act?

? What are the elements of a “catch your breath” event?\*

? How do these relate to meeting God in Scripture?

Think of Aslan, Lion of Narnia. He is good but not tame.

? What can I do to increase awe (danger, surprise, delight), before the Lord’s Word? Psalm 119:120,161

? On a scale of 1-10 what is my “Catch your Breath” index?

“**Catch your breath** before the Lord all mankind, for He is aroused from his holy habitation.” Zechariah 2:13

**Assignment:** These exercises will help us begin to hear the Word as spoken, and move us to “see” the Word as John did.  
Rev. 1:1-3, 9-12                      Make notes of impressions.

--Place “I AM speaking to you!” in a prominent spot.  
--Keep your chosen passage with you, reading it often.  
    At traffic lights, in lines, as you walk to another room...

--Read it aloud for yourself.

--Read it dramatically before a mirror.

--Read it to another adult. Read it to a child.  
    Pay attention to their initial reactions.  
    Ask what they understood. What was confusing?

--Ask a variety of people to read it aloud to you.

--As you do laundry, consider how the machine’s washing action illustrates the “washing” of Ephesians 5:25-27. List two.

Better in one year to have ten good verses transferred into the substance of our lives than to speed read every word of the Bible.  
Remember “the letter kills but the Spirit gives life.”      2 Cor. 3:6

**Read to open yourself to the Spirit.**

**Facilitator Instructions:**

Give each their Scripture card at start of class. They need to keep the card with them and read it many times a day.

Everyone make a list of members and their verses—for prayer that God be encountered as they proceed.

Review by seeking additional response or discussion to last week’s questions.

Have them practice being a parent, dramatically declaring to a child, “I am speaking to you!” Try it three times, each time emphasizing a different segment. **I am** speaking to you. I am **speaking** to you. I am speaking **to you**. Have everyone do this, to the group or in pairs to each other. Suggest cupping the child’s face in your hands to focus attention.

Give out bookmarks. Let the “I AM” as God’s name sink into thought. Give out handouts and go through material, encouraging discussion, reading verses, spend time on “catch your breath.”

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\*Elements of “catch your breath”-- Fear, shock, surprise, delight, danger, roller coaster, falling out of tree, meeting a bear, unexpected gift, guest or kindness, great anticipation such as Christmas morning as a kid...

Some material is from Dallas Willard’s book In Search of Guidance, Developing a Conversational Relationship with God