



FOUNDATIONS: God Speaks PART TWO

Focus Verses:

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. 2 The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

3 And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. 4 And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness. 5 God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day. (Genesis 1:1-5 ESV)

Introduction

Merriam Webster defines *foundation* as: A basic principle or tenet upon which something stands or is supported. An underlying base or support—especially of a structure or building.

The Bible establishes the need of a good and godly foundation:

Hebrew 1:10 tells us, “*You, Lord, laid the foundation of the earth in the beginning, and the heavens are the work of your hands;*” (ESV)

II Timothy 2:19, says, “*But God's firm foundation stands, bearing this seal: “The Lord knows those who are his,” and, “Let everyone who names the name of the Lord depart from iniquity.”* (ESV)

Ephesians 2:19-21 states, “*So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, 20 built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, 21 in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord.*” (ESV)

The apostle Paul taught the church at Corinth concerning a sure foundation in **I Corinthians 3:9-15**,

“For we are God's fellow workers. You are God's field, God's building.

10 According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building upon it. Let each one take care how he builds upon it. 11 For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. 12 Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw— 13 each one's work will become

manifest, for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed by fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done. 14 If the work that anyone has built on the foundation survives, he will receive a reward. 15 If anyone's work is burned up, he will suffer loss, though he himself will be saved, but only as through fire.” (ESV)

We study the foundational principles of Genesis because a good foundation is critical for building a life that pleases God.

In lesson one we studied the first phrase in Genesis 1:1, “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.”

This opening line of the Bible:

- Destroys **atheism** because God exists
- Destroys **polytheism** because God is one
- Destroys **evolution** because God created all
- Destroys **fatalism** (Big Bang and by chance theories) because God planned creation

God is omnipresent Spirit (John 4:24). He is not nature. He is not the universe. He is not a cosmic consciousness or a mysterious force. God is not man—He is greater than man (Job 33:12).

God is greater than the universe! If the universe is no more, God will still be!

When God speaks, He creates!

In this lesson we learn that God speaks. Genesis chapter one is the first place that records the spoken word of God. As always, a first mentioned principle of Scripture establishes a foundational truth.

Our God is a “speaking” God!

Genesis 1:3, “And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light.”

Genesis 1:6, “And God said, “Let there be an expanse in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.”

Genesis 1:9, “And God said, “Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.” And it was so.”

Genesis 1:11, “And God said, “Let the earth sprout vegetation, plants yielding seed, and fruit trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind, on the earth.” And it was so.”

Genesis 1:14, “And God said, “Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from the night. And let them be for signs and for seasons, and for days and years,”

Genesis 1:20, “And God said, “Let the waters swarm with swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the expanse of the heavens.”

Genesis 1:24, “And God said, “Let the earth bring forth living creatures according to their kinds—livestock and creeping things and beasts of the earth according to their kinds.” And it was so.”

Genesis 1:26, “Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”

Genesis 1:28, “And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”

Genesis 1:29, “And God said, “Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food.”

(ESV)

Life Reflection

Genesis emphasizes that God spoke. How many references to the voice of God are in Genesis 1? Circle all these references and meditate on the truth that God wants to impress on us that the tool used in the creation of the world was His voice.

The phrase “God said” is so powerful that when He speaks the universe responds. Why?

The universe recognizes the voice of its Creator. People often oppose what God says, but nature immediately responds.

God speaks and creation obeys!

1. Day One: light, night, and day
2. Day Two: atmosphere (firmament)
3. Day Three: earth, seas, vegetation
4. Day Four: sun, moon, and stars
5. Day Five: fish and fowl
6. Day Six: animals and man.



Psalm 33:6-9 (ESV)

6 By the word of the Lord the heavens were made, and by the breath of his mouth all their host.

7 He gathers the waters of the sea as a heap; he puts the deeps in storehouses.

8 Let all the earth fear the Lord; let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him!

9 For he spoke, and it came to be; he commanded, and it stood firm. For he spake, and it was done; he commanded, and it stood fast.

When God speaks, it's true!

What is the basis for the authority we claim the Bible has?

The Psalmist David said, *“The sum of your word is truth, and every one of your righteous rules endures forever”* (Psalm 119:160).

Jesus said every word of Scripture is important. *“For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished.”* (Matthew 5:18 ESV)

John recorded this prayer of Jesus for His disciples, *“Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.”* (John 17:17)

The apostle Paul taught that *“All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness,”* (II Timothy 3:16 ESV).

The apostle Peter wrote in II Peter 1:20-21 *“knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. 21 For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.”*

God's Spirit moving is the impetus to God's voice speaking.

Genesis teaches us that:

- **God speaks into disorder and brings order** (Genesis 1:2). God's own account of His work identifies His organization and purpose. Because God is omniscient, everything in the universe works as designed. Because God is omnipotent, everything has all it needs to operate, live, reproduce, and populate under the orders of and in agreement with the Creator's design. Each component was designed to function without flaw. Every part works as ordered, and all living things function under the limits and in the places He declared. Nothing was misplaced. Nothing was left to chance.
- **God speaks into darkness and brings light** (Genesis 1:3). The Bible opens with God presiding over a formless and empty void. There is darkness. There are frightful and mysterious waters. Out of the darkness and deafening silence God speaks. By His spoken word there is light.
- **God speaks to the lifeless and brings life** (Genesis 1:11, 20-27, 30 2:7). God is life. Everything that is revealed about God centers on His eternal Being. The most personal name God gives is “I AM”— it conveys His dominion over all things, the source of His power, and His eternal nature: I AM. He is the self-sufficient, self-sustaining God who was, who is, and who will be. He is “the way, the truth, and the life” (John 14:6).
- **God speaks to the wandering and brings direction** (Genesis 3:5-6). By His omniscience, God perfectly knows all possibilities and what would happen if they came to pass. His wisdom is perfect so that He knows which course of action is the best.
- **God speaks to the confused and brings clarity** (Genesis 1:6-9). Since God is holy, He does not author confusion (I Corinthians 14:33). God is truth (John 3:33; 14:6); therefore, He cannot deceive us (Psalm 19:9, Titus 1:2).

Notice that in Genesis chapter 1 that when “God said” He is heard and obeyed by creation. However, by Genesis 3:1, Satan is asking Eve, “Did God actually say...?” A common tactic of the enemy is to cast doubt on the Word of God. Satan wants us to doubt what God said. **Because when God says it –and you believe it –something miraculous happen!**

God speaks to storms. *“And he said to them, “Why are you afraid, O you of little faith?” Then he rose and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm” (Matthew 8:26).*

God speaks to spirits, *“And he said to them, “Go.” So they came out and went into the pigs, and behold, the whole herd rushed down the steep bank into the sea and drowned in the waters.” (Matthew 8:31 ESV).*

God speaks to Satan, *“Then Jesus said to him, “Be gone, Satan! For it is written, “You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve.” (Matthew 4:10)*

God speaks to sickness, *“That evening they brought to him many who were oppressed by demons, and he cast out the spirits with a word and healed all who were sick” (Matthew 8:16).*

God speaks to servants, *“Jesus said to the servants, “Fill the jars with water.” And they filled them up to the brim. 8 And he said to them, “Now draw some out and take it to the master of the feast.” So they took it. 9 When the master of the feast tasted the water now become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the master of the feast called the bridegroom 10 and said to him, “Everyone serves the good wine first, and when people have drunk freely, then the poor wine. But you have kept the good wine until now.” 11 This, the first of his signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and manifested his glory. And his disciples believed in him.” (John 2:7-11)*

God speaks to situations. *“When he had said these things, he cried out with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out.” The man who had died came out, his hands and feet bound with linen strips, and his face wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, “Unbind him, and let him go.” (John 11:43-44).*

Life Reflection

What phrase, found in Genesis 3:1, indicates a questioning of God, a direct affront to the spoken voice and authority of God? Name some ways Satan gets you to question God’s Word and His authority in your life.

From the beginning of creation to end of the world, God is speaking. From Genesis to Revelation, God speaks! From earth to eternity, God speaks! The problem with “hearing” God is not God. God is speaking. The problem is with us.

In Matthew chapter 13, Jesus is teaching a crowd using parables. The disciples ask him why he is using parables - a story used to illustrate a moral or spiritual lesson. Jesus says those who want to hear and understand will, but others who aren’t interested will not.

Matthew 13:14-15 (ESV)

14 *“Indeed, in their case the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled that says:*

“You will indeed hear but never understand,



and you will indeed see but never perceive.”
15 For this people's heart has grown dull,
and with their ears they can barely hear,
and their eyes they have closed,
lest they should see with their eyes
and hear with their ears
and understand with their heart
and turn, and I would heal them.”



*If we can't hear God speaking into our lives
-it isn't a physical problem, it's a spiritual problem.*

God is speaking, but we must learn to distinguish God's voice from other voices. There is such a multiplicity of voices that try to speak into our lives and all of them are saying different things:

- **The voice of humanity** is the voice of comfort and compromise.
- **The voice of Satan** is the voice of deceit and destruction.
- **The voice of pride and power** is the voice that insists we know best. But the Bible tells us we are incapable of guiding our own life in a way that pleases God. Jeremiah 10:23 says, *"I know, O Lord, that the way of man is not in himself, that it is not in man who walks to direct his steps."* Listen to the wisdom of Solomon in Proverbs 14:12, *"There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death."* (ESV)

Each of these voices must submit and be brought into conformity to God's Word. 2 Corinthians 10:4-5 gives us the method to do so. *"For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. 5 We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ,"* (ESV).

Life Reflection

What should be the automatic response of the believer when she realizes the Bible is God speaking and is authoritative in our lives?

When God speaks, He directs!

The destinies of individuals, families, nations and even the world are altered when God speaks.

- When God spoke to **Adam & Eve**, He blessed them and gave them dominion. (Genesis 1:28)
- When **Moses** hears the voice of God in the burning bush, a leader is called an Israel is rescued. (Genesis 6)

- When God spoke to **Noah**, his family was saved, and an everlasting covenant was made with creation. (Genesis 8:20-22 9:8-17)
- When God spoke to **Abraham**, an everlasting covenant was made with a family. (Genesis 15)
- When **Jacob** hears the voice of God, he gains power with God. (Genesis 32:24-28)
- When God spoke to **Joshua**, he was given a mission and a promise. (Joshua 1)
- When God spoke to **Nathan** the prophet, a permanent blessing was conferred on the house of David.
- When God spoke to **Solomon**, the conditions for the fulfillment of God's Word were outlined. (I Kings 6:11-13)
- When God spoke to **Ezekiel**, He repeatedly said that after He fulfilled His word, people would "know that I am the Lord." (Ezekiel 6:10, 13, 7:4, 9, 27; 11:12)
- When God spoke to **Elijah**, he received revelation and direction from God's "still small voice" (I Kings 19:11-18)
- When God spoke to **Shemaiah**, God's will was clearly defined. Do not attack your brothers! (2 Chronicles 11:1-4)
- When God spoke to **Jeremiah**, he was reminded that God was active in his life from the birth process to the prophetic ministry purposed for his life. God spoke to Jeremiah through the ordinary experiences of life. (Jeremiah 1:4-19)
- When God spoke to **Joel**, God's people were given an opportunity to repent, recommit to God and receive God's blessing. (Joel 2:28-32)
- When **Jonah** hears the voice of God to go to Nineveh, one of the greatest revivals of history breaks out. A city of 120,000 turns to God! (Jonah 3)
- When **Mary** hears the voice of God, the Savior of the world is conceived. (Luke 2:26-38)
- When **Paul & Peter** hear the voice of God, the door to salvation is opened to the Gentiles. (Acts 9 & 10)

These are just a few of the many references to God's spoken word to people in the Bible. Every message was different. Every message was direct. Every message spoke to a particular situation. No matter the time, season or circumstance, God has a personal word for you!

Over 60 times in the King James Version of the Bible, the phrase "The word of the Lord came unto me saying" is recorded. Refuse the lies of the enemy that say you are alone; that nobody cares; that God doesn't see you; that God doesn't know what's going on in your life; that God is not aware of where you are at. God. Does. Know. God speaks personally. God speaks often. God speaks clearly.

In Genesis 3, God came to Eden with a personal word for Adam and Eve despite their failure. They sinned but God wanted to speak with them again. Perhaps you have not been listening for God's voice. Perhaps you have not responded correctly. God is still speaking to you!

- *"The word of the Lord came to Jonah the second time" after his initial refusal to preach a message of repentance to the Ninevites. Following a rough journey in the belly of a great fish, God spoke again, and Jonah made the necessary adjustment in his attitude. (Jonah 3:1-4)*
- *Job 33:14, "For God speaks in one way, and in two, though man does not perceive it."*
- *Psalms 62:11, "Once God has spoken; twice have I heard this: that power belongs to God,"*
- *Acts 10:15, "And the voice came to him again a second time, "What God has made clean, do not call common."*
- *John 21:15-17, "Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." He said to him, "Feed my lambs." 16 He said to him a second time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." He said to him, "Tend my sheep."*

17 He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" Peter was grieved because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" and he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep."

Life Reflection:

John 6:63 (ESV) "It is the _____ who gives life; the flesh is no help at all. The words that I have spoken to you are _____ and _____." When God's Spirit is active in you, you can hear His voice. What life giving Word is God speaking to you today?

Life Response

This is a foundational principle established in Genesis – God speaks. Hearing God's Word brings faith and faith brings victory (Romans 10:16, I John 5:4). We must perceive that God is here. We must believe that God can do it. We must receive that God has done it.

If you erase God, who is left to quote when you need answers?

God is still speaking today. God is not silent in our generation. God is still intent on us hearing His voice. Though we may not audibly hear the voice of God, we can still hear His voice through His Word.

Here are additional references for further study to remind us that God still speaks today and that we are to share His words with others:

John 6:45, Isaiah 54:13

John 10:27–28

Romans 10:14–17

2 Corinthians 2:17

2 Timothy 4:2

