

CONCEPTS OF GOD'S EMBRACE & GOD'S VOICE

05 May 2021

GOD'S EMBRACE

During my afternoon nap I had a vision that helped me gain a deeper understanding of God's embrace. The Lord revealed this perspective through me because I am a parent who loves my children dearly. When my children were little, I held each one tightly in my arms and had the absolute confidence that I would love and protect them with all my knowledge and strength. Although they are grown up and become more independent now, in my mind I still hold each one as tight as, or even tighter than when they were small babies!

This vision motivated me to dig through my backup discs to find those precious pictures. I clearly remember each of those moments. As I held my children in my arms, I was the protective shield (or firewall) standing between them and anything on earth that could be harmful or threatening to them. Being a parent, I would use all of my human abilities as well as my knowledge to protect my children, especially when they were very helpless, vulnerable and weak. I believe this is a trait that God, our Heavenly Parent, passes on to us so we have a sense of purpose and responsibility.



Thông (1999)



Thiện (2003)



Tâm (2010)

When the Lord showed me how they are growing and eventually have their own nests, I suddenly felt the strong urge to extend my invisible arms to embrace them with all of my love and wisdom. Knowing the fact that each of them will have to be independent, my attention and embrace will never stop whether I am here in the physical world or cross over to the spiritual realm. In my heart and soul, I just want to embrace my children and give them all the possibilities to access or feed off my experience as well as strength. Using the example of the computer network system, this embrace would be a firewall or software protection that allows the workstations to safely access or transfer data. So, under God's embrace we can live in a secured environment where we can thrive and evolve. God really wants to reach out and embrace all of us, but He gives us the freedom and He is absolutely ready when we need Him. This is a very profound way of helping me realize how much God loves all of His children!

GOD'S VOICE

Each person has a distinctive voice (or sound signature) that is a part of his/her unique identity. When you are familiar with somebody's voice, this particular sound signature will be linked to him/her through eternity. After the resurrection, Mary Magdalene could not recognize Jesus. But hearing the way He called her name, she knew it was Him because she could identify His tone of voice and the way He says her name. Many of us can relate to this experience when we are among strangers in a foreign land, and suddenly hear a familiar voice calling our name! Instantly, we know who it is by the distinctive voice because the sound signature has been embedded in our database that links directly to this person. From the scripture, here is the account of Mary Magdalene encountering the resurrected Jesus.

When Mary said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there. But she did not know that it was Jesus. When Mary said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there. But she did not know that it was Jesus. He asked her, "Woman, why are you crying? Who are you looking for?" She thought he was the man in charge of the garden. So she said to him, "Did you take him away, sir? Tell me where you put him. I will go and get him." Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned toward him and said in Aramaic, "*Rabboni*," which means "Teacher."

(John 20: 14-16)

Personally, this is very interesting because Mary Magdalene often heard Jesus' voice when He was alive. However, after the resurrection she could not identify Him until she heard His voice calling her name. From this perspective, each of our voice or sound signature stays with our spiritual identity just as a fingerprint is directly connected to our physical body. When I depart from this world, my

soul will continue to communicate with my family members, particularly my wife and children. They will be able to recognize me by hearing the tone of my voice. Each of us has a special tone of voice and a set of unique phrases or words that we often use each day. Naturally, there is a direct connection between parents and their children because they are very close to one another. The children can easily recognize their father's or mother's voice.

From this perspective, as God's children, all human beings should be able to recognize His voice. However, we have a problem and cannot tune in to hear God's voice. Using the computer analogy, I believe we have a serious problem with our I/O devices, particularly the speakers (ears) and microphone (mouth). These device drivers are infected and corrupted by the P-virus (Power-thirst) and S-virus (Selfishness). They are affecting the listening as well as communicating applications. As a result, our listening ability becomes selective, oblivious or ignorant. We choose to focus on hearing the voice of the favorable or popular people, and do not pay too much attention to the ones that are criticizing or opposing us or telling the truth. To help us regain our listening skills, God would send many capable souls who are either our friends, family members, mentors or teachers. For example, some of us developed a level of trust and always listened to the soul of a departed family member or mentor or teacher. Eventually, this soul will guide these living persons to reach the true Parent or the One who created all of us.

I can clearly remember the voice that spoke to me in the dark Emergency Room on that fateful night of 04/13/1990. According to people who had near-death experiences, many of them could clearly recall the voice of a loving, powerful and wise Being. Some could describe a sense of being back home. I use the example of the situation where we return back to our parent's house where we grew up, and our loving Father is there welcoming us with His calm and loving voice. I know I will never forget the Lord's voice and I will always recognize His voice whether I am a physical or spiritual being.

According to the biblical accounts, there were a times God spoke out loud and His voice was heard.

God spoke to Noah & his sons

Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him: "I now establish my covenant with you and with your descendants after you and with every living creature that was with you—the birds, the livestock and all the wild animals, all those that came out of the ark with you—every living creature on earth. I establish my covenant with you: Never again will all life be destroyed by the waters of a flood; never again will there be a flood to destroy the earth." And God said, "This is the sign of the covenant I am making between me and you and every living creature with you, a covenant for all generations to come: I have set my rainbow in the clouds, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and the earth. Whenever I bring clouds over the earth and the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will remember my covenant between me and you and all living creatures of every kind. Never again will the waters become a flood to destroy all life. Whenever the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and all living creatures of every kind on the earth."

(Genesis 9:8-16)

God spoke to Moses

When the LORD saw that he had gone over to look, God called to him from within the bush, "Moses! Moses!" And Moses said, "Here I am." "Do not come any closer," God said. "Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground." Then he said, "I am the God of your father,^[a] the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob." At this, Moses hid his face, because he was afraid to look at God.

Moses said to God, "Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' Then what shall I tell them?" God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: 'I AM has sent me to you.'"

(Exodus 3:4-6, 13-14)

God spoke from heaven

At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. Just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."

(Mark 1:9-11)

When all the people were being baptized, Jesus was baptized too. And as he was praying, heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."

(Luke 3:21-22)

"Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me. Now my soul is troubled, and what shall I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour. Father, glorify your name! Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and will glorify it again." The crowd that was there and heard it said it had thundered; others said an angel had spoken to him. Jesus said, "This voice was for your benefit, not mine."

(John 12:26-30)

In the GPE Meditation practice, one of the objectives is to be still and listen to God's voice. I refer to the Voice of Silence (VOS) channel because we need to upgrade our I/O Devices in order to filter out the noise level that often causes confusion, distraction, doubt, fear, and so on. There are many people who can confirm that when they hear God's voice the message is clear and convincing. Just imagine a loving and responsible father who gives an instruction to his child. Naturally, he gets the child's full attention and makes sure the message is clearly understood. Then, he even looks after the child to see that the assigned task is done properly. Using this example, the VOS concept is to let each practitioner pay attention to the process of listening and detecting God's voice. When a practitioner finds the VOS channel, he/she hears God's voice and God will make sure the message is clearly understood. When you hear a voice and think that it is God's voice, but if you still have doubts or questions then you should ask to have the clarifications or explanations. If you are still confused or doubtful, then it is not God's voice, and perhaps it is the imaginary God's voice because when you really hear God's voice, I am absolutely sure that you will NOT have confusion nor doubt. We've learned that Noah and Moses were very clear on what they had to do after God spoke to them. Imagine yourself talking directly to the CEO of your company, during this brief conversation he makes sure you understand what he wants you to do and you certainly will not have any doubt in your mind about what you need to do. This is the level of clarity and confidence all of us need to have in order to navigate our ways through the challenging and turbulent storm that the entire human race is facing right now.

I hope these messages are useful to you. They are very helpful to me and I save them for the future reference. I look forward to our upcoming GPE Meditation class at SSM St Clare Hospital on **Thursday 05/20/2021 at 11:00h (CDT)**. This time the class will be conducted online by Stan Brooks. I will be at the hospital around 10:30h to have the system connected. For the participants who join online, please be ready at least 10-15 minutes early to make sure you are connected.

Thank you very much,
Vu Tran