

The Voice part 2
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2 Chronicles 7:14

If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land.

Why do we get to hear from the God of all creation?

Knowing God is the key

He wants us to approach Him like a friend that we desire to be with

When we approach God, we usually approach with a desire to receive a blessing or direction or instruction

He really wants us to know Him

Psalm 97:9

For you, O Lord, are supreme over all the earth; you are exalted far above all gods.

Matthew 1:23

“Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel, which means ‘God is with us.’”

John 15:15

I no longer call you slaves, because a master doesn't confide in his slaves. Now you are my friends, since I have told you everything the Father told me.

It is great that God calls us friends!

When He speaks to us, He is not expecting us to mindlessly obey His commands

God created us as His children, not machines

James 2:23

“Abraham believed God, and God counted him as righteous because of his faith.” He was even called the friend of God.

Genesis 18:22-23

So the men turned from there and went toward Sodom, but Abraham still stood before the Lord. Then Abraham drew near and said, “Will you indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked? “Will you indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked? Suppose there are fifty righteous within the city. Will you then sweep away the place and not spare it for the fifty righteous who are in it? Far be it from you to do such a thing, to put the righteous to death with the wicked, so that the righteous fare as the wicked! Far be that from you! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just?” And the Lord said, “If I find at Sodom fifty righteous in the city, I will spare the whole place for their sake.” Abraham answered and said, “Behold, I have undertaken to speak to the Lord, I who am but dust and ashes. Suppose five of the fifty righteous are lacking. Will you destroy the whole city for lack of five?” And he said, “I will not destroy it if I find forty-five there.”

18:32

I will speak again but this once. Suppose ten are found there.” He answered, “For the sake of ten I will not destroy it.”

Abraham was not so much trying to change God’s mind as he was trying to understand the justice of God’s plan

“Lord help me to understand the justice of destroying the righteous with the wicked. How is this just? Help me to understand.”

“Lord, how can a place like hell exist? If justice demands it then I pray for my lost family and friends and desperately ask that you send harvesters into their lives before it is too late. Let them hear the Gospel. You are just and merciful Lord.”

That is not a conversation from a machine

It is a conversation that the Lord is inviting us into, the process of bringing His kingdom to earth

John 15:13-14

There is no greater love than to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. You are my friends if you do what I command.

Romans 5:10

For since our friendship with God was restored by the death of his Son while we were still his enemies, we will certainly be saved through the life of his Son.

2 Corinthians 5:18 (Good News Translation)

All this is done by God, who through Christ changed us from enemies into his friends and gave us the task of making others his friends also.

When we communicate with God we should be communicating on a personal level

I am a friend of God