

THURSDAY—What is God saying to you?

Big Point: *God is speaking to each one of us.*

*If you've been around CedarCreek for awhile, you've heard us talk about Bill Hybel's book, *The Power of a Whisper*. We had the opportunity to hear Bill talk about his new book at our 15th anniversary celebration last October at the Huntington Center. The subtitle of *The Power of a Whisper* is "Hearing God. Having the guts to respond."*

Isn't that so true? When we hear God speak into our lives, it usually means that we have to abandon our agenda and our plans for His plans. Furthermore, God's plans usually require us to walk by faith, meaning that we have to leave the land of what we can predict and expect and step into the open and trust God's character and faithfulness for our lives.

We spent the week talking about courageous faith, but as we enter into the final portion of this week's study, we have to remember that it's one thing to have courage, but it is another thing to have a courage that is grounded in faith and trust in God.

READ...What does the Bible say?

Galatians 5:25 (New Living Translation)

²⁵ *Since we are living by the Spirit, let us follow the Spirit's leading in every part of our lives.*

Luke 9:23 (New Living Translation)

²³ *Then he (Jesus) said to the crowd, "If any of you wants to be my follower, you must turn from your selfish ways, take up your cross daily, and follow me.*

THINK...Find the answers

Read Galatians 5:25. What does it mean for us to follow the Spirit's leadings?

In Luke 9:23, Jesus challenges his disciples to turn away from their established lives and follow him into the unknown. What kind of courage did it take for the new disciples to walk away from their families and lifestyles to follow Jesus?

From Bill Hybel's book, *The Power of a Whisper*

"When people hear from heaven, they are rarely the same again. When the sovereign God chooses to communicate with someone— whether eight, eighteen or eighty years old— that person's world is rocked.

Without a hint of exaggeration, I can boldly declare that God's low-volume whispers have saved me from a life of sure boredom and self-destruction. They have redirected my path, rescued me from temptation and reenergized me during some of my deepest moments of despair. They inspire me to live my life at what boaters call "wide-open throttle"— full on!"

LIVE...What will you do now?

Usually, a “whisper” or leading from God is something that exceeds our ability to do on our own. While we’ve spent the week talking about having the courage to stand for our faith, we should also think about new roads that God might be calling us to courageously explore in order to build His kingdom and our faith.

While we’ve asked this question a few times in the last few months, it seems appropriate to ask it again: What has God been “whispering” about in your life lately?

PRAY...God, what do you want me to know & do?

Here’s an opportunity for you to write out a prayer to God about the things that you’ve been thinking about this week when it comes to the topic of living out your faith courageously. What do you think you need to do differently as a result of what you’ve studied so far this week? Commit those plans to God in prayer:

DAILY BIBLE READING COMMENTARY: Exodus 37-40

39:32 “so all the work...was completed.” Finally, the moment arrived when the different tasks assigned to various artisans were all completed, and the result was ready for formal presentation to Israel’s leader.

39:43 “then Moses inspected the work...” Fittingly enough, the one who had been with God on the mount and had passed on to the people the blueprints for everything connected with the Lord’s tabernacle personally inspected the work and confirmed its successful completion. “And Moses blessed them.” By this act, Moses set his final and formal seal of approval on the outcome of their earnestness and diligence, and expressed his prayer-wish that good would result to them from their God.

40:1-33 Finally, the time arrived for the tabernacle to be erected with the Holy of Holies and its accompanying Holy Place to the west, and the courtyard entrance to the east. In terms of pagan religions and their worship of the sun god, some significance might be seen in the high priest worshipping God with his back to the rising sun. All who entered the courtyard also turned their backs to the rising sun as they came in to sacrifice and worship.

40:17 The tabernacle was completed almost one year after the Exodus from Egypt. The people were at the foot of Mt. Sinai at that time.