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# LOVE SPEAKS

21 WAYS TO RECOGNIZE  
GOD'S MULTI-FACETED VOICE



CARL WESLEY  
ANDERSON



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GOD'S MULTI-FACETED VOICE

BY  
CARL WESLEY  
ANDERSON

[www.borntoblaze.com](http://www.borntoblaze.com)

BORN  TO BLAZE

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MINISTRIES



## PRAISE FOR *Love Speaks*

*“Love Speaks completely took me by surprise. I read books about hearing God all the time, and am always encouraged, but they don’t grip me the way that Love Speaks did. Carl shares so many stories along with some great illustrations of teaching that just help the reader connect to God’s voice in a variety of ways. A picture is worth a thousand words, and there are so many word pictures that help in this book that will help you, the reader, advance in your journey of hearing God’s voice! I love his writing style and felt hungry for this very dear subject to my heart.”*

—**Shawn Bolz**, Bestselling author of *Translating God; Hearing God’s Voice for yourself and the world around you*, author of *Growing Up with God, Keys to Heaven’s Economy* & others, a host on *Dreams & Mysteries on Daystar*

*“For anyone who wants to grow in hearing God’s voice, Love Speaks is for you. In this book, Carl searches the Word of God for how He is speaking the message of love to people. This book would make a great devotional study for individuals or groups. I highly recommend Love Speaks to anyone wanting to expand their relational exchange with God!”*

—**Danny Silk**, President of Loving On Purpose  
Author of *Keep Your Love On, Loving Our Kids On Purpose & Culture of Honor*

*“The very heart of this book is an invitation to understand how much we are deeply loved, totally known, and seen by the Father. Carl does such a great job inviting us into a new journey of recognizing the voice of the Glorious Trinity, and how that is so different and how very personal it can be for each one of us. In this book, Carl, with such care and great detail, lays out before us the inexhaustible ways in which God has spoken, both past and present. This book will be a great resource in understanding your friendship with God!”*

—**Rachel Carroll**, Senior Leader, Greater Chicago Church

*"Anyone who has ever had any kind of a true encounter with the living Lord, by default wants more! I've walked with God for a lot of years but probably like you, long to hear God speaking more often, directly to me, with the assurance that it really is His voice.*

*"In Love Speaks, Carl Anderson gives a biblically based, behind the scenes look, at how we can recognize God's voice. And the page turner for me, were all the true life stories that illustrate each of the various ways in which God speaks. Some of them, jaw-dropping examples of God's creative responses to our prayers.*

*"If you need to be convinced that God "enjoys" hearing from you and your eagerness to hear from Him, read this book! Guaranteed you will develop a new awareness of His voice with an anticipation that God wants to and WILL speak with you every day!"*

—**Todd Isberner**, President of Share Media Services

*"Rev. Carl Anderson has written a very timely teaching on how to understand God speaking to us. Even though we are born for such a time as this, these days often are marked by intense battle and demonic turbulence (in all forms and shapes). As confusion often abounds, we need to hear from God all the more (cf. Rom. 8:6). In a humble, gentle, and extensive way Brother Carl brings us to living with God... with His unconditional heart and with His living voice. Many examples make this vital instruction easier to read and understand. I gladly endorse this man of God and his very opportune book Love Speaks to you.*

—**Father Marc van Rossem**, Priest, serving in The Netherlands & China

*"Jesus promised His followers would know His voice (John 10). Sadly, many Christians have not mastered the art of hearing His voice. Carl Anderson, in this excellent book, Love Speaks, has given us a clear, fresh, unique and Biblically-based presentation, written for every day followers of Jesus. Carl shares illustrations and stories that give practical insight to enable people to better hear the voice of the Lord."*

—**Rev. Alan & Dorothy Langstaff**, Kairos Ministries

*"Love Speaks by Carl Anderson is an amazing and unique gift to the Body of Christ in our time. It covers the bases as well as or better than any other book I am aware of, and maintains biblical balance with practical usability for real people looking for answers in how to discern God's voice and truth and guidance. I trust it will receive a broad readership and become the first of many more books from this anointed and committed brother in our Lord!"*

—**Dr. Lance Wonders**, Academic Dean, ACTS International Bible College, Twin Cities, Minnesota

*"When we finished reading Brother Carl's manuscript, as past magazine publishers we immediately recognized a prominent theme running through and that is how "God speaks to mankind." Brother Carl outlines through scripture all the many ways from first person audible to third person words of knowledge and everything in between.*

*"Page after page, chapter after chapter, you will discover the many different ways that God gets and stays in contact with His people. And He does this through the varying ministries of the Holy Trinity: the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.*

*"Just as an angler carries a myriad selection of lures to fish, so too does God speak in a myriad of ways. As anglers, we learned years ago to keep changing our presentation methods to stay up with the changing nature of the fish. Carl's new book confirms that God acts in similar ways. God has a multi-faceted approach with constantly changing methods to "catch" our attention and minister His love to us, and through us, to others.*

*"We highly recommend Carl's book. It will inspire you to both grow in God's love, and share His love in becoming a better "fisher of men" as Jesus has called all of us to be."*

—**Al and Ron Lindner**, Lindner Media

*"I have known Carl Anderson for over 25 years. In a day where hearing God's Voice is paramount, Carl's newest book addresses and equips the reader in hearing the Voice that saves, guides, and strengthens those who heed it!"*

—**Chuck Porta**, Founder, Ram's Horn Ministries

*“Carl Anderson’s book will inspire anyone wanting to know how to hear from God. It is well balanced with scripture and narratives to keep you engaged throughout. Carl is a master story teller, who’s love for God comes through on every page, and his excitement for us as believers to hear from God is contagious! I would highly recommend this readable and thoughtful book to anyone who is on the journey of going deeper in their faith.”*

—**Donna E. Johnson**, M.S./M.A., Assistant Campus Pastor, Bethel University, St. Paul, Minnesota

*“The title of this book whets our appetite for a feast. Indeed the title reminds us that our God is the God who speaks, in his Word and through his Son. And by speaking God reveals himself as the Lover. Rather than discerning God’s character a priori, Anderson lets our Trinitarian God speak by his Word—and enriches our understanding of the Word from his own experience.*

*“Anderson offers us twenty-one ways to expect to hear from God. I am grateful to see that Anderson, from a Pentecostal perspective, confirmed that the Holy Spirit only works in agreement with God’s Word, neither adding nor subtracting from that Word.*

*“Yet too many Evangelicals, while agreeing in principle, forget to expect the active leadership of the Spirit. His is also an important emphasis that should correct a dead and merely ‘ethical’ kind of Christianity (Do this! Don’t do that!). If I have specific disagreements with the book, these can all be resolved by going to the Word of God who speaks—as Anderson would have us do.*

*“As a Reformed Evangelical, I am glad to call Anderson a friend and pleased to see this new book—a gift to God’s church. May God use Anderson’s book to draw us closer to the Lover who Speaks, expecting to hear Him.”*

—**Pastor Rick Shenk**, Senior Pastor, Village Evangelical Free Church

*“A comprehensive and practical and personal approach to hearing the voice of God. Read it and listen for His love for you.”*

—**Jane Campbell**, Editorial Director, Chosen Books, a division of Baker Publishing Group



*“Carl’s book is a must read for everyone who desires to go deeper in God. Abba, Father loves to speak to us and reveal His heart in our everyday lives and Carl passionately and practically teaches you how to listen and respond to His loving voice. Get ready to enjoy new realms with God!”*

—**Ryan Bruss**, Producer for Sid Roth’s, “It’s Supernatural” and also serves as Apostolic Leader of Antioch Charlotte and Revive International

*“How refreshing!! Love Speaks, by Carl Anderson, is one of those rare books that you have always wanted to read. Grounded in the Word of God and intently rooted in love, Carl takes us on a journey of discovering the myriad of ways that God speaks to us. From the very practical to the fascinatingly poetic, Carl removes the barriers we all have in hearing His voice. This book is a must for every son and daughter who wants to hear the Father’s voice.”*

—**Chris DuPré**, Associate Pastor, Life Center Church, Harrisburg, PA,  
Author of *The Wild Love of God*

*“We become comfortable with God when the uncommon becomes common. His ways are not our ways and therefore, to the natural man His ways are counter intuitive. But we are children of God born of His Holy Spirit. Carl opens our hearts and minds to the creative nature of God the Father in Love Speaks. He is limitless! May we never limit the variety of ways God is speaking to humanity every minute of every day.”*

—**Dr. Randy Alonso**, President, International Ministerial Fellowship

*“Through a combination of systematic study and research, scriptural examples and personal experience, Carl has put together an easy to read and understand teaching on how God communicates with His people. You may be surprised to learn how many times the Father has been speaking to you and you just didn’t realize it. This should be a mandatory text in Bible Schools. Pastors may also find it beneficial to use this for small group studies.”*

—**Ian Peters**, Apostolic Overseer, Omega Team (An International Apostolic Network)

*“God’s word is the very rudder to steer us through the oceans of contemporary culture. I believe that the Bible is our ultimate source of authority; that God will never speak in any way that contradicts His words contained within the scriptures. However, this doctrine is not intended to tie us down, but rather becomes a true north on a compass as we go out in adventures in the mission of God.*

*“Carl has provided a wonderful map and guidebook that I encourage you to read. He highlights many ways we can hear and discern the voice of God. This book has helped me hear God clearer, celebrate the diversity of how He speaks, and increased my desire to spend more time in His presence.”*

—**Mitch**, Evangelist, Author and Founder of Crown Jesus Ministries, Ireland

*“Carl Anderson’s book strikes me as a biblically sound, readable primer for hearing the voice of God, accessible to the average believer. The writing is simple, direct and full of gems designed to draw his audience into a more intimate life of communication with the Three.”*

—**R. Loren Sandford**, author, conference speaker, founding pastor, New Song Church and Ministries, Denver, Colorado

*“I’ve worked with Brother Carl for well over two decades now, and I’ve always been amazed at how good a “hearer” of God’s voice he is. So much of his ministry is based around being able to listen and obey, having an ability to track the Holy Spirit and move with Him. It’s been an honour and a blessing to see the man in his ministry. In Love Speaks, Carl teaches us all what he demonstrates in ministry life: a keen ability to hear and obey the multi-faceted voice of the Lord.”*

—**Rónán Johnston**, Worship Leader, Song Writer & Author, Dublin, Ireland

*To all my fellow travelers on this Kingdom journey of discovery,  
longing to hear God's voice of love more clearly and more often,  
with assurance that it really is HIM.  
This book is for you.*







# LOVE

*"The Lord appeared to me from afar, saying,  
'I HAVE LOVED YOU with an everlasting love;  
therefore I have drawn you with lovingkindness.*

# SPEAKS

*'Call to Me, and I will answer you,  
and I WILL TELL YOU  
great and mighty things, which you do not know.'"*

*(Jeremiah 31:3, 33:3)*

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FIRST EDITION

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Edited by Sarah Elizabeth Anderson and Ron Olson.

Cover and Interior Design by Suzann Beck, BeckHaus Design, Inc.

Born to Blaze Ministries Publishing  
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Our Vision: "To Empower & Equip Believers as Witnesses for the Savior, to Call People to Repentance, & to Inspire Passionate Discipleship as We Prepare for Christ's Return"

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ISBN 978-0-9762910-1-5

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## FOREWORD BY J. LEE GRADY

When I was in my 20s I was praying about whether I should enroll in graduate school. Then one morning in my devotional time I came to Psalm 32:8 and it seemed to be flashing like a neon sign. It said: “I will instruct you and teach you in the way which you should go.”

The Holy Spirit was emphasizing to me that God would teach me and that I didn’t need additional schooling. That’s not to say graduate school is wrong for everyone else; it was just not God’s plan for me at that time. And God used a Scripture to clearly show me what path I should take.

The Bible promises that God will guide us. But many Christians find it difficult to hear God’s voice. And in some charismatic churches we complicate things when we try to make guidance mystical or weird—as if you have to hear an audible voice from heaven about what color shirt to wear. That is why I am so glad that my friend Carl Anderson has written this insightful book, *Love Speaks*.

God’s guidance should not be difficult for us if we truly know that our heavenly Father loves us and wants to direct our lives. Years ago I learned from author Henry Blackaby that there are four distinct ways we receive divine guidance:

1. You can hear God’s voice by reading the Bible. Friends have sometimes complained to me: “I just never hear God speaking.” Yet when I ask if they read the Bible regularly, they say they’re too busy.

God supernaturally inspired 40 authors over a period of 1,600 years to compile His love letter to us. After the Bible was written in Hebrew and Greek, many people were martyred because they translated it in a modern language. God went to a lot of trouble to compile the Bible. Yet today Bibles are collecting dust in the homes of people who are too busy to read God’s most direct message to Planet Earth!

When you read Scripture with a prayerful heart, God can cause a verse to jump off the page as a direct message to you. British preacher Charles Spurgeon recognized this years ago when he wrote: “When I have been in

trouble, I have read the Bible until a text has seemed to stand out of the Book, and salute me, saying, ‘I was written specially for you.’” Expect God to speak directly to you from Scripture.

**2.** You can hear God’s voice through the supernatural inspiration of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is not an eerie presence that just hangs around. He lives in every born-again Christian, and He comforts us and actively speaks to us. He can do this in many ways: through dreams, visions, warnings, a sense of conviction, or—most often—through what we know as the “still, small voice” (1 Kings 19:12) of the Spirit.

I have had prophetic dreams and visions over the years, but the most common way the Spirit speaks to me is through a deep sense of inward knowing. I will never forget a time in 1985 when God spoke to me while I was driving my car in Florida. A message came to me, not audibly but in my spirit: “You will move to Washington, D.C.” It seemed to come out of the blue, and I knew it did not originate with me. Four years later I was offered a job in the Washington, D.C., area and I worked there for three years.

The ability to hear the Spirit’s voice is developed over years as we grow in Christ. If you really want to hear Him, you should ask God to fill you with His Spirit. As you allow more of the Spirit’s presence and power in your life, you will set aside your selfish agendas and sinful habits so God can communicate without any hindrance.

**3.** You can hear God’s voice through people. God never intended for us to live in isolation. We are members of His body, the church, and you will hear God better when you are in fellowship with His people. God can speak to you through a pastor’s sermon, a friend’s wise counsel, a mother’s rebuke, a mentor’s phone call or a prophetic word given to you by one of God’s Spirit-filled servants.

God uses the gift of prophecy, but you should never chase after prophecies. I know Christians who will travel across the country to attend a prophetic conference to get a word from God, yet they have not read the Bible in months or sat still long enough to hear from God on their own. Never treat the holy gift of prophecy like fortune telling. When God needs to

speak to you in an unusual way, He has faithful messengers who will deliver it to you at the exact time you need it.

**4.** You can hear God's voice through circumstances. Not everything that happens to you is God's will. But God is sovereign, and He has power over nature, over government leaders and over all the details of your life. He opens doors that no man can shut. If you have been praying about getting a job at one company, and suddenly you get an offer at a different company, this may be God's sign that He has a better place for you to work.

My oldest daughter wanted to attend a college in Tennessee, and we were praying about her decision. Right after we prayed I got a call from the president of a college in Georgia. He was inviting me to speak at the school, but in our conversation I learned that this school was willing to offer my daughter a scholarship. She ended up enrolling in that school, meeting her future husband there and graduating four years later. God was totally involved in that phone call from Georgia!

Just recently, my wife and I were praying about moving to Georgia to be closer to our children and grandchildren. We were leaning toward moving to a city on the east side of Atlanta, but then my elderly father fell and sustained a traumatic brain injury. Detour ahead! His accident was our clear indication that we needed to be near him, so we moved to his city on the west side of Atlanta. God knew where we needed to be, but in this case he used my father's need to redirect us.

In this book, Carl Anderson offers more than four ways that God lovingly directs us. In fact, you will find all four of these, plus another seventeen more possibilities in these pages!

I pray you will open your heart, tune your ears and listen for the still, small voice of God in your life. Put on your seat belts—because listening to God and following His direction is truly the adventure of a lifetime.

J. Lee Grady

Former Editor, *Charisma* magazine

Director, The Mordecai Project

Author, *Set My Heart on Fire* and other books

LOVE SPEAKS

## INTRODUCTION

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### “Can You Hear Him—NOW?”

God is an ever-present God who is speaking in every generation. The question is, how clearly can you recognize His creative, multi-faceted voice?

He revealed Himself to Moses as the “I AM.” A person’s name reveals something of their identity—of who they are. God wanted us to know this aspect of His name, for His name reveals His nature. He is the “I AM.” He is ever-present. For you, today.

He was, He is, and He is to come.

He revealed Himself to Jeremiah as the God who is love, as He takes initiative to love you first. He said, “*I HAVE LOVED YOU with an everlasting love; therefore I have drawn you with lovingkindness*” (Jeremiah 31:3).

And out of His divine love nature, He speaks personally, “*Call to Me, and I will answer you, and I WILL TELL YOU...*” (Jeremiah 33:3).

Thus, His love, and His voice, are forever intertwined.

Down through the centuries, many Christians have testified of experiencing God’s love through hearing His voice by personal contact with Him.

He revealed Himself to Martin Luther in His established Word. Luther came to such a strong conviction of the importance of the Word that he was able to stand strong in the face of adversity. When put on trial for his convictions of the truth of grace through faith alone, he remarked in simple conviction, “My conscience is captive to the Word of God.”<sup>1</sup>

It was said of Luther that he read his Bible with more zeal than anyone had read it for a thousand years. Thus, I begin this book with this absolute

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<sup>1</sup> Quoted from Heiko Oberman, *Luther: Man Between God and the Devil* (English edition, Yale Publishing, 1989).

foundation of God's voice speaking to you: His holy Bible, the Word. In fact, this is the number one way to hear from God, and the tried-and-true test of all the other ways to hear. (You can read more of this way in Chapter 1.)

Can you  
really hear  
His voice?...  
The answer is  
an emphatic,  
“Yes!”

Another Christian who made a profound impact for many believers is Roman Catholic leader St. Francis of Assisi. His practical ministry of love to the poor, for animals, and for all creation has inspired people in every generation since the 12th Century.

And St. Francis felt the love of God through hearing the voice of God. The *actual* voice.

Yes, he did. In fact, it happens to be the rarest aspect of God speaking: The Father's Audible Voice. (You can read more of this way, and the story, in Chapter 21.)

The Bible is the most common way God speaks to us. The audible voice of the Father is the least common way. And in between these two bookends of ways, there is an adventure of listening and receiving confirmation that will surprise you far beyond any experience you've had with God thus far.

I chose Moses, Jeremiah, and these stories to open this introduction as they represent the shared experience of millions of Christians down through the centuries. We all need to hear from God better, and re-center our lives around daily commitment to our Lord Jesus Christ.

Both Scripture and salvation-history teach us that He has spoken, is speaking today, and will continue to speak.

By “salvation-history” I mean that connected stream of history in which God keeps appearing, revealing Himself, relating to a people through covenant, and unfolding His pre-creational plan of salvation centered in Christ, the God-man. Thus, God might just choose to speak to you today in creative ways, just as He has always spoken, through the many facets of His voice.



## Why Did I Write This Book?

I wrote this book to help everyday followers of Christ like me develop a new awareness of the voice of God calling out in His love. And I want to open up non-Christians to the idea that a personal relationship with the Father, through commitment to following His Son Jesus Christ, is the best choice you can ever make. His Holy Spirit becomes alive inside of you, and through Him, you can communicate in an ongoing dialogue with God the Father and God the Son.

The Lord is breaking into the chaos all around us and being a good, good Father to us all. His love is eternal.

He has already visited tomorrow, so He can speak and bring hope to your heart, today.

When I check the breaking news stories every morning, I find that the world has gone mad. Nations are being shaken. Societies are crumbling. Politics are spinning out of control. Even the earth itself seems to be affected and is being shaken with global epidemics and natural disasters. People are afraid. The times are uncertain.

Perhaps you are attending church on Sunday and just living out the mundane of the daily grind of life, not feeling a personal contact with God in those common moments. Is His love real, and for you, today?

Or, perhaps you are in the midst of some kind of trial of faith, and wondering if God can really be “ever-present” for you, personally. Is His love real, and for you, today?

What if He is actually taking initiative to speak to you every week, in His love, in the midst of your circumstances, be they *mundane* or *extraordinary*?

Can you really hear His voice and thus experience His love no matter what is happening today, or what may happen tomorrow? The answer is an emphatic, “Yes!”

In over two decades of reaching out in faith to hear the voice of God, I have realized that every time I recognize a *contact* from the Lord to me personally, I feel the love of the Father. His personal, eternal love is reaching out to me in the midst of uncertain times.

And the more contacts you have with God on a regular basis, the more you experience His leadings and His love.

And what about hearing from God when you don't have all the answers? What if I told you that many followers of Jesus have had deep, meaningful contact with God, and felt His love through hearing His voice, in the midst of their trials? It's true.

During the years of writing of this book, I myself have been in a particular trial of faith. I have been in a real difficult battle in fact. Some days I succumbed to unbelief, doubt, and even fear. At times I even cried out, "Why me, God?"

To which there seemed to be no immediate answer.

Yet during those very times, His voice continually called out to me and I experienced His presence and His love, in spite of not understanding the "why."

"*Agape* is a love for the unworthy..."

I never felt alone. I always felt loved. And I kept hearing His voice speaking to me.

My days of knowing His love and hearing His voice far outweighed the days of doubt.

His love has spoken to me over and over again, even though I didn't, and still don't, have all the answers to my "why?" questions.

### Defining the Title: LOVE. How do we spell the word, "LOVE?"

For a Christian only, we don't spell LOVE, L-O-V-E. Instead, we spell it like this: A-G-A-P-E. That's right.

*Agape.*

This word is unique to the Christian's understanding of God. For the ancient Greeks (and the modern world) the words that describe love include a variety of ways like friendship, or love for a *worthy* object, like a sports team, or a *worthy* person, like a spouse or a child. The revolutionary event of the cross of Jesus Christ reveals a revolutionary love that is as impactful in modern times as it was then.

"*Agape* is a love for the *unworthy*, for one who has forfeited all right to the lover's devotion," writes Bruce Milne. "The Old Testament has witness for this in God's love for Israel, and in Hosea's love for his faithless wife.

"Holiness and love conjoin perfectly in the person and work of Jesus Christ. As God, He embodies divine holiness that is separate from and resistant to all sin and evil, yet His very coming is God's loving, gracious response to human guilt and helplessness.

"They unite also in the ministry of God the Holy Spirit whose essential ministry is the renewal and sanctification of God's people in fulfillment of God's purpose of love (*agape*)."<sup>2</sup>

Revolutionary, yes? So Paul writes, "*But God demonstrates His own love (agape) toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us*" (Romans 5:8).

So LOVE is GOD's LOVE, as GOD IS LOVE (*also see 1 John 4:7-19*).

*Agape* love.

But in our culture of misunderstanding of certain words, it is helpful to define just who GOD is to a Christian.

### **How do we spell the word, "GOD?"**

For a Christian only, we don't spell GOD, G-O-D. Instead, we spell Him like this: Father-Son-Holy Spirit. This is called by many, the Trinity or Triune God.

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<sup>2</sup> Bruce Milne, *Know the Truth: A Handbook of Christian Belief* (InterVarsity Press, 1982, 1998), p. 88.

This revelation, relationship, and intimate voice is only accessible to a Christian. Many millions of people outside of true faith in Christ are praying to God from a distance. They still spell GOD, G-O-D.

And people outside true faith in Christ are kept from an intimate relationship with their Heavenly Father through their sinful nature. It still separates them from Him. Thus, without Jesus you cannot really know God as Father.

Enter: *agape*.

As soon as a person opens their heart in repentance to Christ, His love and His voice are poured out.

And even many people inside a true relationship with Christ have been raised in religious backgrounds that simply did not emphasize intimacy with God in hearing His voice. But change can happen, starting today! We get the exclusive opportunity to worship Him up close. In fact, we worship Him from within, for His Kingdom has come within our hearts. It's a choice every person has to make to say, "Yes!" Almighty God can become Intimate Abba to a follower of Christ.

### The Trinity Speaks

As Jonathan Edwards once noted after studying the topic of the Triune God extensively, "I think [the doctrine of the Trinity] to be the highest and deepest of all Divine mysteries."<sup>3</sup>

As a diamond or special gemstone reflects the light shone upon it in many facets, so God's glory upon you continually reflects many aspects of His voice to discern and His love to experience, and all 3 Persons of the Trinity are actively involved.

To put it very simply, as you study each way God speaks, think of His contact with you in these terms (while remembering that this is all a mystery):

**1) The Father** speaks primarily externally, through His Providence, circumstances, nature and creation, and other ways.

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<sup>3</sup> Jonathan Edwards, *Works* (England: Banner of Truth Trust, From an unpublished treatise on the Trinity).

These signs of His love are quite literally everywhere. And each sign then bears witness within your spirit, through the Holy Spirit's confirmation.

*"For God (the Father) so loved (agape) the world that He gave His one and only son" (John 3:16).*

**2) The Son, Jesus Christ** speaks primarily through both His Word (the Bible) and through His Body (other believers). We are all part of the one Body of Christ no matter what our church background. His Word (the Bible) is the foundation of all revelation and the trusted source of confirmation for everything we hear from God.

*"The Son of God (Jesus) who loved (agape) me, and gave Himself for me" (Galatians 2:20).*

**3) The Holy Spirit** speaks primarily internally, from within your human spirit, as He now inhabits your heart with the divine Kingdom of God. His voice flows out of your mind and can be discerned by your spirit. And He confirms all direction at least two or three times through both internal and external means.

*"I urge you by the love (agape) of the (Holy) Spirit"*  
(Romans 15:30).

Note: The Holy Spirit as a Person comes to abide inside every believer in Jesus Christ. His workings require the believer to actively participate in a sanctifying, holy lifestyle that involves a dying to self and old, selfish priorities.

So throughout this book, perhaps consider a fresh surrender to Jesus Christ, and a fresh commitment to participation with the Holy Spirit, as He leads you to die to yourself and your old ways, and learn new ways to communicate with Him.

Thus, with the Holy Spirit's help, you can learn to truly listen to God's multi-faceted voice and follow Christ who said, *"If anyone wishes to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me"* (Matthew 16:24).

## Defining the Title: SPEAKS. 21 Distinct Ways

Now the second word to define is, SPEAKS.

The promise from Jeremiah is, “*Call to Me, and I will answer you, and I will TELL YOU...*” (Jeremiah 33:3). The premise of this book is that there 21 ways that God’s answer, His *telling*, might be coming. His voice is multi-faceted, and so amazing that sometimes He sends His answer in multiple ways through creative means and circumstances.

There are three main sections with seven ways in each, categorized from “very common” to “common” to “uncommon” for a total of 21 ways. So there are 21 chapters to read. Each one contains a possible new way that God might be contacting you this very week. As mentioned, all of them require an ongoing prayer dialogue between the Holy Spirit and you.

Your faith will grow the more ways you recognize His voice. And the more ways you recognize, the closer you will draw near to God, even as He draws near to you in His *agape*.

As you approach each way God speaks, remember two opposite truths, held in tension and part of the mystery of the Trinity:

- 1) Each Person of the Trinity is part of the One God, so each Person is involved in unity in every contact in this book, though one of them might be primary.
- 2) Sometimes it is the Father Himself taking initiative, sometimes it’s Jesus, and sometimes it is the Holy Spirit taking initiative to speak.

Note: At all times, Father’s love is the ultimate source and, Love Speaks!

And His love brings His security to His sons and daughters, pouring through Jesus and the Holy Spirit. You are a child of God. You can hear from your Father directly. And you can call Him, “Abba” (see Romans 8:15).

## Practical Application, and the “Counterfeit Voices”

The fourth section is a very practical section with applications and challenges. It isn't enough to just hear the voice and experience the love of God for yourself. The world around you is waiting to receive what you've been given. This section will help you form new interactions with God through His Holy Spirit, and new ways to share Father's love with people.

The Appendix adds another dimension to this teaching. It is called, “Counterfeit Voices.” There are many “counterfeit voices” to be aware of through the influence of New Age and other false religions.

For example, New Age teachings promote a loss of God as the glorious, infinite, personal Trinity. “Humans are simply congealed energy, the All in self-reflective mode. You create your own reality. Both death and morality are an illusion, and hence ‘we are God.’ These teachings not only misunderstand the fallen nature of man and our human condition, but the seriousness of our sin before God. There is no Savior to cleanse our guilty hearts, no personal, loving God to share our tears.”<sup>4</sup>

This Appendix will help you discern the original from the counterfeit in your everyday life.



## My Prayer For You

I am praying for you, the reader of this book. “*May the Father give you a spirit of wisdom & revelation of the knowledge of Him*” (Ephesians 1:17-18).

I am praying you will recognize the multi-faceted aspects of God's wonderful voice, and increase your weekly contacts with Him in an ongoing dialogue.

I am praying that every time you recognize a contact from the Lord to you personally, you will know that it is your Heavenly Father reaching out to you

4 Bruce Milne, *Know the Truth: A Handbook of Christian Belief* (InterVarsity Press, 1982, 1988), p. 139.

## LOVE SPEAKS

in His unshakable, eternal love in the midst of uncertain times.

I am praying that as you read this book, you will establish a strong communication signal from God, and you will never again experience a dropped call or weak signal in prayer, like people do with their mobile phones.

God will never again have to say to you, “Can you hear Me—NOW?”

God is still *ever-present*. He is the *I AM*. And, His everlasting love speaks.

Can you hear Him, NOW?

—Carl Wesley Anderson, Buffalo, Minnesota, July 5th, 2016.



# SECTION I

# 7

## VERY COMMON

WAYS THE LORD SPEAKS







## CHAPTER

# 1

### WAY #1: THE ESTABLISHED WORD

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#### Give Me the Book!

*“In the beginning was the Word (Logos, Greek), and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God” (John 1:1-2).*

On a visit to southwest England a few years ago, I decided to visit the town of Bristol, where John and Charles Wesley had their key base of ministry. They helped lead the Methodist movement, and since I was named after them with my middle name (my middle name is Wesley), I thought the least I could do was search out where they used to live, pray, study the Bible, and preach.

They saw revival spread from there outward and all over England and the world. I had heard that their original ministry base was there and still preserved. I walked to the place where I thought it was, but all around me instead was a very modern shopping mall. I kept walking, and suddenly the walls of a huge store seemed to give way to a small stone walkway with a statue of Wesley on his horse in the front. The walkway led back to an old building, the oldest surviving Methodist church and building in the world.

Modern developers had literally built this huge, modern shopping mall all around it!

The inside was an amazing gathering room with a wrap-around balcony and a stunning wooden pulpit two stories high with impressive stairs leading up to it. From there some 250 years ago, the focal point was the preaching of the Word, and the preacher could be seen plainly, both by those standing on the floor and those gathered round on the upper level.

I knew that the Word of God was important to the Wesley brothers, and the revival power of God that accompanied the Word preached had brought thousands of people to Christ in the decades of the mid-1700s and beyond.

I mounted the stairs and stood prayerfully in their pulpit. As I did so, I began to pray and even sense the presence of God. An old King James Edition of the Bible was open in front of me and I prayed for a deeper impartation of the understanding of the Word of God. The walls around me themselves seemed to speak. People had stood all around that pulpit and literally trembled as they heard the power of the Word preached by the revivalists of that day.

Always let  
the Bible lead  
the way.

I love John Wesley's passion for the study of the Word. The centrality of Scripture and its function as the core of belief for every Christian caused him to call himself, "a man of one book."

This chapter will now highlight how emphasizing the study of the Word of God is the most common way in all of Christendom that God is speaking. It is the beginning, middle, and end of every understanding we have of God communicating to us.

In fact, the Bible is the foremost authority in our lives, and though this book lists 21 different ways that God can potentially be speaking to you today, this first one is the anchor of all the rest. Without it, you would be a ship caught adrift in the waves of experience without an anchor of truth.

In fact, the many experiences you'll read about in this book that have happened to me, as the author, and to countless other Christians down through the centuries, are not the basis of teaching or truth.

From the outset, I want you, as the reader, to be encouraged to always keep Scripture as the source of all teaching in this book and the practical applications of each Section. Study the Word for yourself and develop your own firm convictions. Do not fall for the trap of forming your beliefs merely on the basis of your own spiritual experiences or the experiences of other people.

Always let the Bible lead the way.



Let's define this first way of hearing from God in the Word.

**The Established Word of Jesus, a simple definition.** *Logos*, Greek. This word can be best defined as, “the established body of Truth” in the whole of Scripture. Expect that Jesus will guide you every time you study the Word in its original context.

The *Logos* is important for doctrine, correction, training in righteousness, and truly understanding how the God of both Testaments has chosen to lead, train, and speak to His people in all generations. Whenever you sit down to a Bible study and learn about the time the original passage was written, and try to understand the exact context of what the writer was trying to communicate, you are studying the *Logos*.

*“For you have been born again, not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, that is, through the living and abiding Word (Logos) of God.” (1 Peter 1:23).*

Theologians build their lives upon careful study of the historical contexts, the nuances of original languages like Hebrew, Latin, and Greek, and understanding the audience and the author. Sometimes it is helpful to read their thoughts on a particular passage, though you do not need to be a theologian to understand it.

You always ask yourself the famous six questions as you study the context of the Bible: Who, What, Why, Where, When, and How?

## **The Father Reveals His Son Through His Word**

So how does God speak today through His Word? Let's turn to a few scriptures that best answer that question in light of its importance for balance in the beginning of this journey of seeking to hear all the ways that God is speaking in the midst of these uncertain times.

In John chapter 1, John writes,

*"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God" (John 1:1-2).*

In Hebrews chapter 1 we read,

*"God, after he spoke long ago to the fathers by the prophets in many portions and in many ways, in these last days has spoken to us by His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world. And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power" (Hebrews 1:1-2a).*

Oh wondrous thought! The Father spoke through many various ways down through the centuries, and now He speaks through His Son, and His Son is the exact representation of His glory and majesty.

*"God has spoken!" wrote Andrew Murray. "When man speaks it is the revelation of himself. When God, who dwells in light that is inaccessible, speaks out of the heights of His glory, it is that He may reveal Himself. The Son Himself had to come as the Word of God to us, the bearer of the life and love of the Father. The Son Himself had to come to bring us into living contact with the Divine Being, to dwell in our heart, as He dwells in God's heart, and so to give us the living experience of what it means that God speaks to us."*<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> Andrew Murray, *The Holiest of All: an Exposition of the Epistle to the Hebrews* (Retypeset edition, 1993, Baker Book House Company).

And Paul gives us this:

*“Every scripture is God-breathed (given by His inspiration) and profitable for instruction, for reproof and conviction of sin, for correction of error and discipline in obedience, and for training in righteousness (in holy living, in conformity to God’s will in thought, purpose, and action)” (2 Timothy 3:16, The Amplified Translation).*

And then let’s turn back to John 1 for a moment.

*“And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth” (John 1:14).*

How’s that for a firm foundation? The first place to start in your journey of daring to listen and begin a dialogue with God is right there in front of you, in your Bible.

The Word is the Living Jesus!

He is alive on every page.

Scripture is teeming with life, and all the Father’s life is found in His Son. “It is not flesh and blood that reveals Christ,” wrote Bonhoeffer, quoting from Matthew 16:17 and Peter’s revelation of who Christ was, “but the Father in heaven, where and when He will.”<sup>6</sup>

Do not fall for the trap of forming your beliefs merely on the basis of your own spiritual experiences or the experiences of other people.

I remember hearing a preacher many years ago, and He was revealing how Jesus was present, in some way, in every single book of the 66 books of the Bible. If you search for Jesus, you can find Him somewhere in every book. Allow the Father to guide you to the true revelation of the Son throughout the Word.

<sup>6</sup> Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *Christ the Center, A New Translation* (Harper & Row Publishers, 1978), p. 51.

## What My Scripture Says, I Say

“For many Christians the supreme reason for according the Bible the status of God’s Word written is simply the fact that GOD HIMSELF addresses us in it,” writes Bruce Milne. “God speaks in the words in the Bible in such a manner as to remove all doubt as to its divine origin, character and authority. In the final analysis only God can be an adequate witness to himself. All other testimony such as historical evidence or philosophical deduction can at best possess only secondary value.

“Multitudes of Christians in every generation have testified that, as they read the Bible and hear it expounded, they are moved to recognize its inherent authority. This was focused by Augustine when he put into God’s mouth the words, ‘Indeed, O man, what my Scripture says, I say.’”<sup>7</sup>

And for Martin Luther, his firm convictions of the truths of Ephesians 2 led him to absolutely stand upon the importance of the Bible as the source of revelation of God’s truth.

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## Give Me The Book!

Let us pause here and return for a moment to John Wesley, and how he considered the study of the Logos, the established Word, the foundation for all of our seeking and discovering God’s will and the answers to our most basic questions.

“I am a creature of a day, passing through life as an arrow through the air. I am a spirit come from God, and returning to God: just hovering over the great gulf; till, a few moments hence, I am no more seen; I drop into an unchangeable eternity!

“I want to know one thing,—the way to heaven; how to land safe on that happy shore.

“God himself has condescended to teach me the way. For this very end He came from heaven.

“He has written it down in a book.

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<sup>7</sup> Bruce Milne, *Know the Truth: A Handbook of Christian Belief* (InterVarsity Press, 1982, 1988), p. 45.



“O give me that book! At any price, give me the book of God!

“I have it: here is knowledge enough for me. Let me be *homo unius libri: a man of One Book!*

“Here then I am, far from the busy ways of men. I sit down alone; only God is here. In His presence I open, I read His book; for this end, to find the way to heaven. Is there a doubt concerning the meaning of what I read? Does anything appear dark or intricate?

“I lift up my heart to the Father of Lights: ‘Lord, is it not said in Your Word, ‘if any man lack wisdom, let him ask of God?’ You give liberally.

“You have said, ‘if any be willing to do Your will, he shall know.’ I am willing to do, let me know Your will.

“I then search after and consider parallel passages of Scripture, ‘comparing spiritual things with spiritual.’

“I meditate therein with all the attention and earnestness of which my mind is capable. If any doubt still remains, I consult those who are experienced in the things of God: and then the writings whereby, being dead, they yet speak.”<sup>8</sup>

So if you follow in Wesley’s footsteps you will find the will of God and His understandings speaking to you in many ways.

I love Wesley’s technique of comparing parallel passages, meditating on the Word, and consulting others to help confirm truth. I love his passion for Scripture.

I, too, want to be a “man of one book.”

Another “man of one book” was a short and stout plumber in the northwest of England, a few centuries after Wesley. He became one of the Pentecostal movement’s most widely-known evangelists. His name was Smith Wigglesworth. He never learned how to read up until the time of his conversion. After his conversion, he asked his wife to help him learn how to

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<sup>8</sup> John Wesley, Preface to his published *53 Sermons* (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1983), p. 13.

read so that he could read the New Testament on his own.

He shared, “Fill your head and your heart with the Scriptures. Memorize passages from the Word so you can learn to quote it. You must be so soaked with the Word of God, so filled with it, that you yourself are a living epistle, known and read of all men. I have a love for the Word, and an absolute confidence in the God of the Word.”<sup>9</sup>

Wigglesworth only read the New Testament the rest of his life.

### **Tips for Sword Sharpening**

Think of the Word as a sword, always by your side. Paul talks about comparing the Word to a sword in Ephesians. A sword needs sharpening to be an effective weapon; a blunt blade will do no harm to your enemy.

Sharpening your sword of established truth is akin to careful study, meditation, and application of the Word in obedience of faith.

It also requires practice.

Picture yourself out for a walk down the path in medieval times. You round the bend in the road and suddenly are faced with the edge of a battlefield. You were not aware that a battle was taking place. As you enter the edge of the field, your enemy notices you and begins to advance in your direction. The honest truth is, you will not live very long unless you know how to draw your sharpened sword out of its sheath and begin to use it.

When you objectively study and meditate on the Logos, you need to ask yourself this question:

What DID it mean?

In other words, learn who the original author was, who the original intended audience was, and the historical backdrop to the situation. All Scripture is God-breathed, so in its original context it contains power.

<sup>9</sup> Stanley Howard Frodsham, *Smith Wigglesworth: Apostle of Faith* (Radiant Books, 1948), p. 111.

Another element in studying the Logos can be summarized in three simple steps:

1. Observation (What does it say?)
2. Interpretation (What does it mean?)
3. Application (What does it mean to me personally?)

Conformity to the Word of God always brings holiness and leads to obedience and action. Being able to answer number 3 in all honesty can bring a wonderful sense of the presence of God to you.

### **Practical Application:**

By Study & Strong Belief You Swim Against the Stream

Understand that by taking a position of objective study you are swimming against the rising tide of an all-inclusive, one-world religion that is sweeping the West (and many mainline churches, too) in post-modernism. For example,

1. Biblical beliefs are out. They are “so last century” in people’s minds. They are now irrelevant—to be discarded and not held.
2. Being “fully alive” is in—no matter what religion inspires passion.
3. There’s no room for objective reality or absolute truth.
4. The “higher form of knowing” would be based on mystical experiences and self-knowledge. The latter supposedly leads to “knowing a universal god—or the spirit of love in everyone.”<sup>10</sup>

That is where society in the West is currently heading. There is also a stream of mystical delusion in the Church; whole groups base their Sunday morning services on “experience in the Holy Spirit” without a balanced emphasis on the study of the Word. Many people today have come to

<sup>10</sup> Adapted partially from a blog entitled, “*From Gnostic Roots to Occult Revival*” by The Lighthouse Trails Research Group.

value emotions and feelings in place of truth. It's time to develop both a balanced view of "experiences with God's Spirit" and learning the "truth of God's word."

As you learn to emphasis study of the Word, you will grow daily and find any experiences deeper as you anchor them in the truth. Learn the context of it, learn to formulate strong understandings by comparing scripture with scripture, and staying true to its original meaning and intent.

And when you study it and memorize it, you can stand on it and hold firm, and thus develop strong convictions about it.

### **Practical Application: Stand on the Rock of the Word**

You can also imagine the Logos as the bed-rock of established truth that you can stand upon to be elevated above your circumstances and share in God's vision for them.

Here is a sample of five general situations where you can achieve victory by meditating and standing upon the established Word of God. On the left is the *need* and on the right is the *answer*.

Memorize the scriptures on the right and no matter what your own circumstance, believe them to be true. Meditate and stand upon the Word in faith.

It is like you are truly "in Christ" as you stand upon His Word; it is the Old Testament word picture of Christ as our "high tower" of strong defense against our enemy.

I encourage you to study the Word of God and learn to discipline yourself daily in consecration to the truth in any area of need that may not be on this list.

Whatever the need, there are answers in the Word!

## THE NEED

Healing  
 Encouragement  
 Repentance  
 Peace  
 National Crisis



## THE ANSWER

Isaiah 53:4-5, 1 Peter 2:24  
 Psalm 27, 2 Corinthians 4  
 Psalm 51, 1 John 1:9  
 Psalm 23, Philippians 4:6-7  
 2 Kings 19:14-19, Revelation 12:11

### Practical Application: Develop Your Own Non-negotiables

When I use the term *non-negotiable*, I am reminding you that your faith, and mine, is rooted in firm commitment.

Jesus is called, among other titles, “the faithful witness” (“witness” means martyr) in the Book of Revelation.

He is called that for a reason.

His blood was shed as He remained true to the Father against all the human and Satanic opposition of His life. He was uncompromising against sin and embodied the fullness of the truth.

He is still the truth and is calling people to “witness” to that truth today.

When you take a stand for Jesus, and you truly study His word, it speaks to you. HE speaks to you. And you then develop your own firm convictions.

No matter what pressures come your way, with governmental authorities or other people asking you to conform, to abandon “absolute truth” and submit to their religious openness, you must be able to stand firm.

Unique in this world-gone-mad of earthly religions and global terrorism is the concept of who GOD is to a believer when it comes to listening prayers.

I find great comfort, in the midst of worldwide terrorism and religious upheavals, that there is a distinct difference between myself, a follower of Christ and, say, a Muslim person or a Hindu person or a Buddhist person.

Jesus Christ stands alone as God's challenger of every other earthly, man-made religion. He alone brings us revelation that God is a Father and longs to speak, in His love, to His people. He gives me "ears to hear" Him, up close and personal. Muslims, Hindus, Buddhists and others simply never experience God on a personal level of a love relationship. Jesus brought us access to our Father, through the Holy Spirit. Both His Father and our Father. That is life-changing.

Christians are the only people on earth that share this love relationship, with open lines of communication between our Father and ourselves. He comes through the Person of Jesus and the power of the Holy Spirit.

Martin Luther declared boldly, in his famous speech when he was summoned before the religious leaders to give an account of his writings, "My conscience is captive to the word of God."<sup>11</sup>

Perhaps some of you will become "faithful martyrs" as you testify in the coming years of your relationship with Jesus, and what it really means to you.

Here are three of my "non-negotiables" (my "hills to die on") if I am ever called to publicly testify of my relationship with Jesus Christ in opposition to some kind of governmental regulation:

- 1) **Jesus is the only way, and the best way, to develop relationship with God the Father.** There are not many paths to God. There is only one God, and one path, and Jesus is that path.
- 2) **Jesus is Lord.** I submit to His Lordship first and foremost and will not allow any government to control my spiritual life. I only worship Jesus as Lord.
- 3) **God's Word is filled with absolute truth and faithful promises,** and I will absolutely follow it and trust in it.

*"And they (followers of Jesus) overcame him (Satan) because of the blood of the Lamb and the word of their testimony, and they*

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<sup>11</sup> Quoted from Heiko Oberman, *Luther: Man Between God and the Devil* (English edition, Yale Publishing, 1989).

*did not love their life even unto death”* (Revelation 12:11).

Dietrich Bonhoeffer once said, “To endure the cross is not tragedy; it is the suffering which is the fruit of an exclusive allegiance to Jesus Christ.”

Begin today in emphasizing study of the Word of God, learning sound doctrine, and developing new disciplines (like the discipline of memorizing the Word) and it will light the way in the darkness in front of you.

Become a “man of one book” or “a woman of one book.”

So here is our very first way of God’s leading and speaking. It is the eternal and established Word, speaking. It is the most common, and the bedrock foundation, for all the other 20 in this book.

Very Common Ways		
WAY		SCRIPTURE
1	The Established Word of Jesus	John 1:1

# LISTEN TO GOD'S VOICE. EXPERIENCE HIS LOVE.

What if hearing God's voice in new ways could help you continually experience His love, even when your life's journey seems uncertain and you don't have all the answers?

*You can! And it's easier than you think.*

No matter what your faith background, you can grow stronger in His eternal love as expressed through the voice of God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. This book is an invitation to discover that God's love is real. And His love is speaking to you. Personally.

- Learn and recognize 21 ways the voice of God is reaching out to you.
- Grow in your ability to discern the authentic voice of God.
- Practically apply this teaching to help you share God's love to the world.

*"For anyone who wants to grow in hearing God's voice, Love Speaks is for you. I highly recommend this book to anyone wanting to expand their relational exchange with God!"* — Danny Silk, President of Loving on Purpose

*"Love Speaks is a page-turner and filled with true life stories that illustrate each of the various ways in which God speaks. Some of them, jaw-dropping examples of God's creative responses to our prayers."*

— Todd Isberner, President of Share Media Services

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