

“Understanding Our Sense of Distance & Disconnection”

The Ministry of the Spirit

February 15, 2026

INTRO... Who remembers AoL?

Helpful 2026 Starting Point – Our Experience of "Static" and Disconnection and Distance from God!

1 **Cor 2:9-12** ⁹ But, as it is written, “What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him”—

¹⁰ these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. ¹¹ For who knows a person’s thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. ¹² Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God.

...?? - Is This True? ...That the Ministry of the Spirit includes some kind of vibrant exchange (revelation/communication) with us, that may not be perceived by mere natural senses?

We have/will Meet People in Scripture who are registering some kind of "Natural/Spiritual Disconnect".

...Nicodemus

...the Woman at the Well

...Asaph in Ps 73

Distance & ‘Disconnections’

Job's Dire Circumstances & Distance! [Even people living in righteous ways can be vexed by a sense of "disconnection"!]

Job 23:3-5 (Job speaking)

³ Oh, that I knew where I might find him, that I might come even to his seat!

⁴ I would lay my case before him and fill my mouth with arguments.

⁵ I would know what he would answer me and understand what he would say to me.

...THIS is the plea of a man who's life has gone up in flames! Who struggles to make sense of loss, pain, and heart wrenching conditions. ...And like all of us--He Feels the Distance & Disconnection of God!!

Job 33:12-18 (Elihu speaking)

¹² “Behold, in this you are not right. I will answer you, for God is greater than man.

“Job is wrong to claim innocence at the expense of God’s grace. We know that Elihu is right about this because in 42:6 Job does in fact repent: “I despise myself and repent in dust and ashes.” His suffering had driven him to say things about himself that were overly optimistic and things about God that were disrespectful. Even though Job was a righteous man, he was not a sinlessly perfect man. There was a sediment of pride that began to cloud the purity of his life when it was stirred up by suffering.” **John Piper**

Times of Suffering are nearly always times of great “static”!! ...In these Moments of “Distance & Disconnection”, we are likely to be confused about who God is!

Part of my intention in this message and the next is to allow the Bible to Pop our "Pie-in-the-Sky Bubble" that we somehow always & easily discern the Voice of the Holy Spirit! (1Cor 13:9, 12 !!! - "in part", "we see DIMLY" ...Rom 8 - "we have the firstfruits of the Spirit, but we don't even know how to pray as we ought!")

¹³ Why do you contend against him, saying, 'He will answer none of man's words'?

¹⁴ For God speaks in one way, and in two, though man does not perceive it.

¹⁵ In a dream, in a vision of the night, when deep sleep falls on men, while they slumber on their beds,

¹⁶ then he opens the ears of men and terrifies them with warnings,

- **"God Speaks"!!!** (v.14) ...ie, God 'communicates' his mind, thoughts, will! ...HOW Does This Happen?

- **In a Variety of Ways! ...(v. 14-16)**

"Job says God does not speak to human beings. Elihu says he does, and in more than one way. The idiom, 'one way, and in two' means 'in more than one way'... The words 'though man does not perceive it' are a way of saying that although God does speak—and speak repeatedly—people don't always realize it." **Christopher Ash**, "Job", PTW Comm.

Job 33:1, 4, 6 "But now, hear my speech, O Job, and listen to all my words. ...⁴ The Spirit of God has made me, and the breath of the Almighty gives me life. ...⁶ Behold, I am toward God as you are; I too was pinched off from a piece of clay."

[Here, God speaks through a human vessel of clay!]

¹⁹ "Man is also rebuked with pain on his bed and with continual strife in his bones,

²³ If there be for him an angel, a mediator, one of the thousand, to declare to man what is right for him,

²⁶ then man prays to God, and he accepts him; he sees his face with a shout of joy, and he restores to man his righteousness.

- **Yet, from One Source!**

1Cor 2:10-11 ¹⁰ these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. ¹¹ For who knows a person's thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God."

...So, the Ministry of the Spirit is what reveals things to man!! ...YET, some do not 'get it'!!

¹⁴ For God speaks in one way, and in two, though man does not perceive it.

...The "Unperceiving Rich Man" in Lk 16 ...SOBERING!!

The Rich Man's Dire Circumstances!

Luke 16:19-31

...Man NEEDS to hear something that will save him from eternal, dire consequences! ...Abraham explains a means (an adequate means) through which God speaks and reveals things to man. ...Moses and the Prophets!

-- Who are Moses & Prophets? What Sets Their Words Apart? ...

2 Peter 1:19-21 ¹⁹ And we have the prophetic word more fully confirmed, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts, ²⁰ 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.

...Moses & the Prophets were the "voice of the Spirit"!

"It is by the Spirit that Moses performs miracles (Exod 8:19) and leads the Israelites through the waters of baptism in the Red Sea. The Spirit gifts certain people for special tasks (Exod 31:1-11; 36:30-35) and comes upon prophets so that they speak the word of God (2 Sam 23:2; Isa 59:21; Jer 1:2, 8, 15, 19; 2 Tim 3:14-17; 2 Pet 1:21). The Spirit is not merely an empowerment for teaching wisdom but is himself a divine teacher. He is not merely the glory of the Lord emanating from the temple but is the Lord whose glory radiates from the temple that he indwells. He came to the temple and departed from it. He is not merely a revealing and searching power of God but is the divine revealer and searcher (1 Cor 2:10)." **Michael Horton**, "Rediscovering the Holy Spirit", p. 31

...A Lack of "Perception" does NOT Mean God is Not Revealing Himself!!

Job 33:14 For God speaks in one way, and in two, though man does not perceive it.

2 Sam 23:1-3 ¹ Now these are the last words of David: The oracle of David, the son of Jesse, the oracle of the man who was raised on high, the anointed of the God of Jacob, the sweet psalmist of Israel: ² "The Spirit of the LORD speaks by me; his word is on my tongue. ³ The God of Israel has spoken;

Heb 1:1 Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets,

Num 12:1-9 [God explains his various ways he communicates himself to prophets ...vs to Moses]

v. 6-8 ...Consider the clear variety of ways that GOD the Holy Spirit has chosen to communicate with man! Prophets WERE having a "real EXCHANGE" with God, and so was MOSES!

... "RIDDLES" (Heb. hîydâ)

P s 78:1-4 Give ear, O my people, to my teaching; incline your ears to the words of my mouth!

² I will open my mouth in a parable; I will utter dark sayings from of old,

³ things that we have heard and known, that our fathers have told us.

⁴ We will not hide them from their children, but tell to the coming generation

the glorious deeds of the LORD, and his might, and the wonders that he has done.

...Consider that these "strange and limited and riddle-like ways" are intended to come to us as well!

...Joel 2:28-29 *And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions. ²⁹ Even on the male and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit.*

>> WE live in days that include THIS as a more common element than previously! ...AND... We live in the day of "more sure words" (Peter), as spoken of by Paul—2Tim 3:16 "All Scripture is inspired by God and is profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness."

>> Please don't "impose" some man-based reasoning ("Cessationism") that reasons—"well if we have the "Sure Word of Scripture" we no longer need the more "riddle-like-abstraction" of dreams & visions. [Note: Moses had a "superior, more clear revelation", but God continued to speak to others differently!] ...The Age of the Spirit includes them BOTH! The Spirit gives dreams, interpretations, prophecies, words of knowledge ...AND... He "leads us into all truth"!! ...Nowhere are we taught that one of these is incompatible with the other or that one cancels out the other!

“The people of the Bible heard God speak in a variety of ways. He spoke through an audible voice, through dreams, visions, circumstances, fleeces, inner impressions, prophets, angels, and other ways, as well as through the Scriptures. ...I didn't have to be a theological genius to read the Bible and figure out God used to speak in many different ways to the people. But after God wrote the Bible, he apparently went mute, or so it seemed to me, for the only way I could hear him speak was through his book.” **Jack Deere**, “Surprised by the Voice of God”, p. 19