



## CROSS CHAT & Songs of Praise



### WHEN YOU TALK WITH GOD BE SURE YOU TAKE TIME TO BE QUIET AND LISTEN FOR HIS VOICE

I PRAY PEACE & GRACE IS ABUNDANTLY YOURS THROUGH GOD OUR FATHER & JESUS CHRIST OUR KING & SAVIOR.

I find divine peace through God when fleeting thoughts of the day give way to precious night time conversations with my Lord. Sweet peace is a gift of God's love. Conversation is generally a two-way communication. Because we are humans here on earth & not yet spiritual beings in Heaven we have to open our minds to hear, feel or see how God talks to us. As Pastor Bobby said last Sunday, "Do not limit God; think out of the box."

We know that God's Word is the ultimate, divine conversation He provided to us. Think about it, when you write something it is your thoughts, comments & feelings that you are conveying. God's communication in the Bible is His communication with us & is much more important as His divinely inspired words are filled with past, present & future, life & death decisions that affect everyone eternally. The Bible is the complete "manual for humans". Jesus is in control of everything. **Colossians 1:15-17**, "*The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For in Him all things were created, things in heaven & on earth, visible & invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities. All things were created through Him & for Him. He is before all things & in Him all things hold together.*"

How else does God communicate with us so that we can praise Him & give Him all the glory? Our existence on earth is physical & we think in the physical. God gave us sight, sound, taste, touch, smell & thoughts so we may enjoy the earth in which He created for us to dwell. We can see the beautiful colors He created & used to paint the heavens, the earth & everything in it for the delight of our eyes. He used the sun/moon/stars to guide us through the days & nights. He created the rainbow so we will remember the covenant He made with man to never destroy the earth by a flood again. He gave us delightful smells that permeate the air we breathe; remember to "stop and smell the roses." He gave us melodic, sweet sounds of birds chirping, rippling waters flowing in streams, winds blowing, laughter of children, music of instruments & voices in praises to Him, etc. He gave us the ability to touch a person's heart with our love as well as the touch, assurance & warmth of holding someone's hand. We can feel the soft, fur of a puppy or kitten, the strong muscles of a horse, the sun on our faces, etc. He gave us a plethora of foods with different tastes for each one. (However, I must interject here that it is puzzling when people encourage you to try a new type of meat & they say you will like it because it tastes just like chicken.... So why not just eat chicken?)

Look around you, God talks to you not only through His voice, but through all of His creations as well. He may use other people in conversations with. You may see or read something. You may get revelation knowledge from a passage in the Bible that you have read many times & suddenly realize it is meant for you. The Holy Spirit resides inside you & speaks to your heart guiding you towards the right paths to take. Of course, with God's gift of free-will, it is still our decision which path to take. So be still & listen through the many avenues that God has provided for us to talk with Him, to thank Him, to praise Him & yes, to ask Him for your needs. **Isaiah 30:21**, *Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you saying, "This is the way, walk in it."* **1 Kings 19:12**, tells us to *listen to His still, small voice*. Be still, listen, look around, pay attention to God's creations & the messages He sends daily in many ways.

Mary Bowden

**DO NOT DISPARE, DO NOT GIVE IN TO THIS WORLD WHICH IS ONLY YOUR TEMPORARY HOME – LET GOD IN & KEEP THE FAITH**

Have you ever felt like everything & everyone around you has you trampled down so far that you feel like giving up? Have you contemplated in giving in to the worldly negativity that can consume you? Stop! Don't step into the nothingness the world has to offer. **(Romans 12:2)** ...*Do not conform....*

On the map of life, don't fall over the edge of a "flat world" & become entangled in the lights of worldly indulgence. They may seem bright & inviting as an escape from your troubles, but they are temporary, fade & leave you with nothing & you will not find peace for your soul. The only one that will be happy is the devil who delights in your misery & is happy to lead you astray. **(2 Cor 11:14)** ....*satan disguises himself as an angel of light....*

Like a volcano that erupts with resounding thunder, smoke & lava, so too feelings of negativity & anger can explode in all of us. It takes more strength to let insults thrown at you go than to respond in kind. Instead of lashing back, speak calmly because the truth is just as strong as negativity. And God knows the truth. **(John 8:32)**...*and the truth will set you free.....*

**Where can you go for help?**

First you go to God, your Creator. If you believe in Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit resides in you all the time. He is always there for you. **(James 4:8)** *Draw nearer to God & He will draw nearer to you.*

God provided the Holy Bible. **(2 Tim 3:16-17)** *all Scripture is God-breathed & is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting & training in righteousness so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.*

You also have the opportunity to talk with various church family who can listen & help guide you in your situations. Even in troubled times, God always provides a way out if you give Him control. **Jeremiah 29:11**, "*for I know the plans I have for you,*" declares the Lord, "*plans to prosper you & not to harm you, plans to give you hope & a future.*"

God bless & keep you safe in His arms of love. Mary Bowden

**Excerpt from Jesus Calling: "Hear my voice"**

Stop worrying long enough to hear My voice. I speak softly to you, in the depths of your being. Your mind shuttles back & forth, hither & yon, weaving webs of anxious confusion. As My thoughts rise up within you, they become entangled in those sticky webs of worry. Thus, My voice is muffled & you hear only white noise.

Ask My Spirit to quiet your mind so that you can think My thoughts. This ability is an awesome benefit of being My child, patterned after My own image. Do not be deafened by the noise of the world or that of your own thinking. Instead be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Sit quietly in My Presence, letting My thoughts reprogram your thinking.

**Deuteronomy 30:20**, *and that you may love the LORD your God, listen to his voice, and hold fast to him. For the LORD is your life, and he will give you many years in the land he swore to give to your fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.*

**Genesis 1:27**, *So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.*

**Romans 12:2**, *Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is-his good, pleasing and perfect will.*





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Franklin Graham

December 8 at 10:51am · 🌐

The Bible says, "The LORD was moved by prayer for the land" (2 Samuel 24:25). Our country needs prayer.



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