

Examples Showing God Does NOT Work in “the Silence”!

1. Exodus 3:1–4:23 — Moses and God at the Burning Bush held *a real conversation* for quite a while — for 45 verses, in fact!
2. Exodus 19:16-19; Exodus 20:1, 18-19 & 22 — God spoke the Ten Commandments in majestic, thundering tones from atop Mt. Sinai.
3. Joshua 5:13 – 6:5 — Joshua before the siege of Jericho & “the Captain of the Lord’s Host” who commands, “Take off thy shoes, for this is Holy Ground!”
4. 1 Samuel 3:1-21 — The boy Samuel was called by God three times, ended up answering Him, and then received a message of importance from Heaven.
5. Isaiah 6:1-7 — Isaiah, hearing God ask, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” eagerly replies: “Here am I, send me.”
6. Daniel 8:16-26; Daniel 9:21-27; Daniel 10:5-21 — Gabriel spoke *face to face* with Daniel on THREE different occasions, and even *touched* him!
7. Luke 1:5-25 & 57-66 — Gabriel visited Zacharias, the father of John the Baptist, to foretell his son’s birth.
8. Luke 1:26-38 — Gabriel visited the Virgin Mary to foretell the miraculous birth of the Christ child.
9. Acts 9:1-8 — Jesus Himself spoke to Saul / Paul on the Road to Damascus — and even the men who accompanied him *heard the voice* but saw no one.

No doubt *many other examples could be found*, but these more than HALF DOZEN offer good Biblical evidence

- (1) from both Old and New Testaments,
- (2) of both deity and a high angelic being,
- (3) speaking AUDIBLY with normal words and thoughts,
- (4) in actual conversation with a favored human being who spoke BACK to them in normal conversation

and offer more than adequate evidence.

It’s quite interesting—and *indeed pertinent to our investigation*—that in not a single ONE of these instances was the “favored human being” even remotely EXPECTING their heavenly conversation! So *they did not initiate* the communication. In fact, ALL of them were *absolutely astonished* and in some cases *frightened* by the visit of the supernatural being! Daniel, on one of Gabriel’s visits; and Zacharias; and Mary all had to be reassured by the angel’s words: “Fear not.”

The conclusion we draw from all this is that GOD is the One who chooses not only the PERSON — the “favored human being”—to whom He speaks, but also the TIME and the PLACE that it happens. NO mere mortal has ANY control whatsoever over those circumstances.

We cannot meet God or angels by picking the time and going into “the Silence”—we can meet only evil, demonic spirits that way!



Beware of These TERMS . . .

Contemplative Prayer: Also known as Centering Prayer, Listening Prayer, Mantra Prayer, and Breath Prayer (*repeating* a single word or short phrase as you exhale). There is also the "Jesus Prayer" ("Jesus, have mercy on me, a sinner") that is constantly repeated silently or aloud while walking, sitting, or working. Contemplative Prayer uses a *mantra* to empty one's mind and reach the *Silence* (*see those terms below*). It's much too *mystical* to be Biblical, and much more *Hindu, Buddhist, and New Age* than Christian.

Labyrinth: A labyrinth is a serpentine **pathway of concentric circles**. A labyrinth and a maze are not the same: A **maze** has dead ends and many trick turns, whereas a **labyrinth** has only one single, curving path leading to the center and back out again—with no dead ends or forks. All labyrinths share the basic features of an *entrance* or mouth, a *single* circuitous path, and a *center* or goal. Enthusiasts claim that walking a labyrinth and praying at designated "prayer stations" along the way, enhances prayer, contemplation, and meditation.

Lectio Divina: Latin for "divine reading," you read just one or two Bible verses, and then—focusing on just a *single* word or phrase—you *repeat* it, mantra-like, in your mind, and *listen mystically* for God to speak to you! Popular in the Catholic and Emerging churches, but many find it boring and non-productive.

Mantra: A sacred syllable, word, or phrase *chanted repeatedly* to aid in focusing the mind. The term *mantra* is from Sanskrit—the ancient language of Hinduism—and literally means "to escape from thought." Teachers of Contemplative Prayer often *avoid* the Hindu word "mantra" and tell students to choose a "Sacred word" or "Prayer word" like "Jesus" or "Father," *etc.* (For many centuries, Hindus have invoked in prayer the name of one of their millions of *pagan* gods or goddesses—and continue to do so till this day.)

Meditation: In our Western world, "to meditate" means to think deeply about something, *turning it over slowly and carefully in your mind*. But in the pagan East—the mystical East of Hinduism and Buddhism—it means to EMPTY the mind in order to *open it to the SPIRIT world*, leading to *mystical* experiences with evil entities! — a colossal REVERSAL of meaning!

Emerging (or Emergent) Church: Liberal pastors seeking a radical revolution in how we "*do church*" survey "what people want" and then create a seeker-friendly, undemanding atmosphere, free of all doctrines and sermonizing. It's a "Whatever works!" philosophy. But they do include Roman Catholic elements (like candles, incense, *etc.*) as well as Spiritual Formation practices.

Mystic, Mystical, Mysticism: The "mystic" doesn't want to get his knowledge second-hand, say, from reading a sacred text or listening to a sermon from someone else. "Mystical" means using the *occult* (*hidden or secret*) techniques to make **direct, personal contact** with one's god or gods. The *Hindu yogi*, the *African witch doctor* go into a trance to commune with spirits to gain secret KNOWLEDGE or POWER. While in the silence of their trancelike state, this knowledge or power comes to them **personally, directly** from the spirit world of demons.

"The Silence": Center-stage in the drama of Contemplative Prayer is "**the Silence.**" Innocent victims are taught that "true" prayer is *silent, beyond words, beyond thought*. We're told we **MUST empty our minds** and achieve "a mental void," an altered state of consciousness! Twenty minutes every morning *and* evening you should sit quietly, perhaps with eyes closed, and tune out all thoughts, words, and day-dreams. If a stray thought intrudes, cancel it by saying your mantra—*repeating it as often as needed* to reach a state of pure Silence. Then you'll hear marvelous messages from voices—spirit voices you never heard before, bringing you wisdom you never knew before! It's the experience of a lifetime! If you practice this faithfully, you may hear *even the voice of Jesus Christ—or God Himself!* And it's really true—you actually **DO** hear spirit voices—but only those of FALLEN angels we call devils and demons!

Spiritual Directors: Also called a "mentor," a spiritual director is a personal trainer (male for men, female for women) who gives *one-on-one* guidance in Spiritual Formation. They even encourage "mutual confession" between student and tutor on very personal matters.

Spiritual Disciplines: Good disciplines like Biblical prayer, fasting, helping the poor, witnessing, *etc.*, are all *beneficial*, of course. But unscrupulous teachers quietly try to smuggle in among them *mystical dangers* like Contemplative Prayer!

Spiritual Formation: A broad, all-inclusive, "umbrella" term that covers this whole mystical field—as an umbrella hopefully covers you in the rain. A mystical movement through which Contemplative Prayer enters churches and brings believers into contact with evil spirits.

