

# Speak Easy

## hebrews 1

Hebrews chapter 1 is our text this morning.

The last time we were together we began this series in Hebrews and talked about how the author's great passion and his great plea was for God's people to pay attention to their spiritual lives and not neglect the things God wants to do for them.

He says in chapter 2, verse 1:

**Hebrews 2.1 (NIV) - We must pay the most careful attention, therefore, to what we have heard so that we do not drift away.**

That's the plea, that's the reason for writing. And with that goal in mind the author starts off the letter getting us properly adjusted for the kind of spirituality that we need.

It's kind of fun how this book begins. There's no introduction. There's no easing into it. The author just immediately dunks our heads into the heavenly realm and says:

**Hebrews 1.1-14 - God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds; who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become so much better than the angels, as He has by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they.**

**For to which of the angels did He ever say:**

**"You are My Son,  
Today I have begotten You"?**

**And again:**

**"I will be to Him a Father,  
And He shall be to Me a Son"?**

**But when He again brings the firstborn into the world, He says:**

**"Let all the angels of God worship Him."**

**And of the angels He says:**

**"Who makes His angels spirits  
And His ministers a flame of fire."**

**But to the Son He says:**

**"Your throne, O God, is forever and ever;  
A scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Your kingdom.  
You have loved righteousness and hated lawlessness;  
Therefore God, Your God, has anointed You**

**With the oil of gladness more than Your companions.”**

**And:**

**“You, Lord, in the beginning laid the foundation of the earth,  
And the heavens are the work of Your hands.  
They will perish, but You remain;  
And they will all grow old like a garment;  
Like a cloak You will fold them up,  
And they will be changed.  
But You are the same,  
And Your years will not fail.”**

**But to which of the angels has He ever said:**

**“Sit at My right hand,  
Till I make Your enemies Your footstool”?**

**Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation?**

The way to navigate life without drifting away from the Lord is by focusing on Jesus Christ, day in and day out. Meaning that we make Him the focal point of the things we think and do. Directing our thoughts toward Him. Making our goals concern His Kingdom. And pursuing His interests above anything else in life. That’s how you live like Abraham rather than Lot. Or David rather than Saul.

It reminds me of a passage in the Song of Solomon, where the beloved at one point says, “I was thinking about my king, how much I loved him, and I got up out of bed and went into the streets to find him.” Her focus on her husband drove her to pursue him.

Or, maybe a better example of this is when Peter walked on the water. They were there, rowing in the storm, Jesus came to them walking on the water, Peter said, “Lord, if it’s You, command me to come out.” He did, so Peter swung his leg over the side of the boat and walked out to Jesus. And the text says that when he stopped looking at the Lord he began to sink. His focus on Christ enabled him to do the impossible, but when his gaze was diverted from Christ he sank into the sea.

So, right off the bat this book arrests our attention and fixes it on Christ, for 2 major reasons. He is sufficient and He is speaking to us. That is why He should be the chief concern of our thoughts and lives.

When we look at these descriptions in chapter one and think about what these verses are saying, hopefully we’re somewhat humbled and in awe of who exactly Jesus is.

In a relationship with God we come with imperfections and struggles and all sorts of different burdens, but this chapter reminds us that the Person on the other side of the table, the One we’re giving our lives to, is the One through whom God speaks. He’s the creator of the worlds. He’s the One who sustains and upholds all things by the word of His power. He’s the One who dealt with our sins and purged them forever. He the One whose name is above every name and He is the heir of all things.

After I read those opening verses a few times I had to just laugh at the fact that I still struggle with doubt in the Lord. Now, we're human, living a life of faith isn't easy. But this is who we're dealing with. The Supreme God. And our Savior is sufficient for our lives. He's sufficient for anything. He caused the sun to rise this morning and He fills our lungs with breath. If need be, He can cause you and I to walk on water.

So, the first real concern we need to have when trying to live a spiritual life is simply to focus on who Christ is. Jesus is sufficient for any trial, any struggle, any baggage you might bring to your relationship with Him. And the more we focus on Christ in our lives, the more we will be sustained by Him. If we understand that He wants to supply spiritual manna for us, sustaining us day by day for what we need, then we're going to find that the things of earth do grow strangely dim in the light of God's power and grace and presence, as we see more and more His control and intentions for us.

One quick note before we move on from Christ's sufficiency and His supremacy - we see all these descriptors of Christ's power and majesty and inheritance and then in His Word the Lord turns around and says, "And I want to give these things to *you!*"

**Romans 8.16-17 - The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.**

The Lord wants to share His inheritance with you and me. In order to get there, we've got to see the Lord as our sufficiency in life. Living like Abraham. "Lord, I'll live on whatever plot of ground You want as long as You're there with me." Not turning to the gold standard or some other messiah to direct our lives, but seeing Christ as sufficient for all things. And then, understanding His power and His position, focusing on what He's saying to us.

Verse 1 and 2 again say:

**Hebrews 1.1-2a - God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son.**

God speaks through Jesus and He hasn't stopped speaking.

I know for myself it's easy to live a regular day in my life as if God isn't saying anything to me. But if I go back and look at the Bible and see how God spoke in the Old Testament, how the Lord spoke in the New Testament, how often God was revealing Himself to His people, I must come to the conclusion that God is trying to say something to me today if I will listen.

If He was so deliberate to speak to His people in the past, won't He be just as passionate and deliberate about speaking to us now? We're not in a period of silence. Our text says that God speaks through His Son.

In the Old Testament there were various ways that God spoke. Prophets. Judges. Angels. Law.

Now, Jesus is God's speaker, but He also speaks at different times in different ways. You can look at the Gospels and the book of Acts and see that there are a number of Jesus-approved ways that He speaks to us.

We have the Word - profitable for life and Godliness.

We have the Holy Spirit - given as a Helper to indwell us and bring us comfort and direction.

We see Jesus appearing to people in the New Testament in visions.

And we have the Body of Christ, left on earth to carry out the Lord's work, given gifts so that we can minister one to another, including the gift of prophecy.

Jesus established a number of ways to speak to us as His beloved people, all Scriptural but somewhat varied.

Why?

**John 16.1 - These things I have spoken to you, that you should not be made to stumble.**

The Lord wants you to focus on Him today so that He can speak to you so that you can understand all that He wants to do for you *and* so that you won't stumble or drift away from your relationship with Him.

I've got the Starbucks app on my iPhone. It's hooked up to our Starbucks account number so that you can load a few bucks on there and then pay with your phone so that you get discounts and points and all that.

A week or two ago we got this little pop up notification. It was the Starbucks app. It said, "You haven't used your account in a while. If you come back and use your app by Wednesday, we'll give you \$5 free on your account." So we hustled down to Starbucks and got ourselves 5 free dollars. Starbucks was reaching out to us to benefit us and sustain that relationship.

Jesus looks at my life and your life and says, "Man, do I have something planned for you. I'm bringing you in on My inheritance. I'm giving you a chance to have My power and My sufficiency direct and sustain your life. And I'm trying to talk to you so that you don't stumble and drift away from Me."

That's God's heart for us every day. There's always more He wants to do in our lives and more He wants to speak to us. In fact, later in John 16 the Lord said:

**John 16.12 - I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now.**

He has *many* things to say. And we should listen because the Guy talking is the supreme, preeminent, sin-purging sustainer of all things. And His goal is to sustain your life. To give you a good inheritance, which we can receive if we stay attached to Him, not drifting out there on our own.

The best way to do all that? Do what Peter did. Get out of the boat. Choose to live a spiritual life that *requires* commitment and dependence on Christ.

That's effectively the Abraham/Lot choice. Do you want to depend on what the land promises or what the Lord promises? Do you want to receive the incredible outpouring of God in your life and walk out on the water or does it make more sense to wait in the boat and hope the storms of life just go away?

We read the Bible and see how God describes the Christian life and how these first Christians lived and, logically, we should look at what God calls us to and say, "I can't do that! That's impossible. Unconditional love is impossible. Loving my neighbor as myself is impossible." And that's the point. Because when we realize that the spiritual life we're called to is impossible, the Lord says, "That's right. You can't do it without Me. Without Me, you're going to sink. But with Me, you can do anything. Because I'm the One who holds it all in the palm of My hand and one day I'm going to wrap it all up like an old cloak." And along the way the Lord wants to invite us into this relationship that is miraculous and supernatural and more than we can ask or imagine.

When we look at Jesus and hear what He says, the question is whether we're going to allow God to uphold our lives. Are we going to build our lives on His foundation? Are we going to look to Him as our sufficiency?

As we direct our gaze and our thoughts and our goals to Him, we will find Him sufficient and He *will* speak so that He can share with us what He's made and been given and earned as the Express Image of God.