



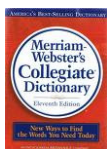
Do People REALLY Listen When You Speak?

Colossians 4:6: (NASB) *Let your speech always be with grace, as though seasoned with salt, so that you will know how you should respond to each person.*



There are few things in life that give you as good a sense of well being as the feeling you get when you truly believe that you have been clearly understood. Being understood elevates your confidence in others, relieves many of the pressures of today and opens up wider possibilities for tomorrow. To be understood is to be respected and we all want to be respected. So, how can we be better understood by those around us and better understand them as well? Communicate - simply communicate. Stay with us as we look into one of the most under-appreciated arts of humankind - the art of communication!

What does it mean to "communicate"?



com·mu·ni·cate verb

1: share

2a: to convey knowledge of or information about : make known <communicate a story> b: to reveal by clear signs <his fear communicated itself to his friends>

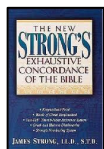
3: to cause to pass from one to another <some diseases are easily communicated>

Before we get into the serious business of understanding communication, let's listen to a classic example of NOT communicating...



Who's on first, Abbott and Costello

The Bible does not seem to talk about communicating in the way that we often refer to it, from the standpoint of understanding feelings. It does, however, give a number of examples of communicating through co-laboring, and through common cause. The only words translated "communicate" in the Bible are along these lines.

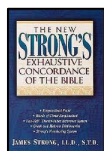


These next words are all VERY similar but deal more with actions between us and not necessarily words. Communication scripturally is more that we are headed down a common path.

Communicate: Strong's #2841 koinoneo (koy-no-neh'-o); *to share with others* (objectively or subjectively):

Galatians 6:6: *Let him that is taught in the word **communicate** <2841> unto him that teacheth in all good things.*

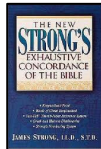
1 Timothy 5:22: *Lay hands suddenly on no man, neither be **partaker** <2841> of other men's sins: keep thyself pure.*



Communicate: Strong's #2842 koinonia (koy-nohn-ee'-ah); partnership

Hebrews 13:16: *But to do good and to **communicate** <2842> forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.*

Romans 15:26: *For it hath pleased them of Macedonia and Achaia to make a certain **contribution** <2842> for the poor saints which are at Jerusalem.*



Communicate: Strong's #2843: koinonikos (koy-no-nee-kos'); communicative, i.e. liberal:

Only use: 1 Timothy 6:18: *That they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to **communicate** <2843>;*

We are to be liberal in our giving, to have a great amount of generosity.

All of these words carry the sense of participation in another's life and not merely contributing input. They seem to imply an understanding - a sense of "being on the same page."

What does the process of communication look like?

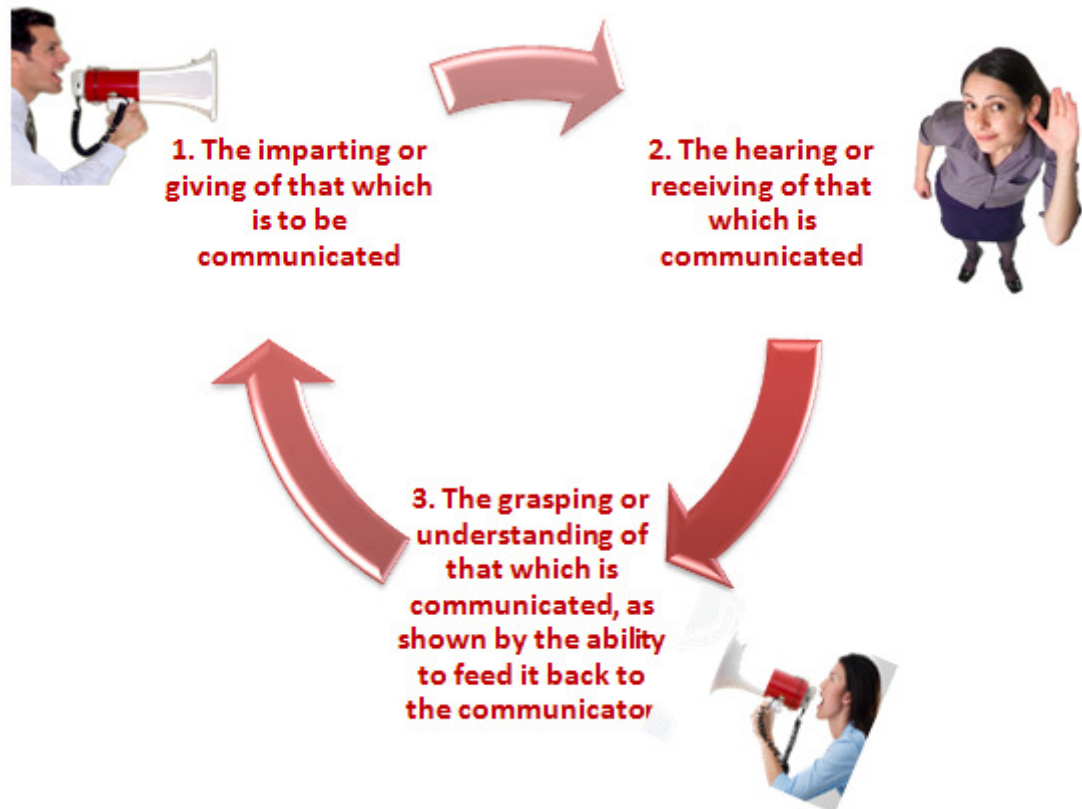
Communicate: Strong's #4790 sugkoinoneo (soong-koy-no-neh'-o); to share in company with, i.e. co-participate in:

Philippians 4:14: *Notwithstanding ye have well done, that ye did **communicate** with <4790> my affliction.*

In other words: "You're putting yourself out on my behalf; you are bearing some of the weight of my affliction."

Revelation 18:4: *And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye **be** not **partakers** <4790> of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.*

True communication really has three parts:





Becoming "the great communicator," Ronald Reagan

- I won a nickname, "The Great Communicator," but I never thought it was my style or the words I used that made a difference. It was the content. I wasn't a great communicator, but I communicated great things. And they didn't spring full bloom from my brow - they came from the heart of a great nation - from our experience, our wisdom and our belief in the principles that have guided us for two centuries.*

The greatest thing we can communicate to one another is the good news of the Gospel - the resurrection of Jesus and the redemption of all mankind.

The Apostle Paul was such a great communicator! He sets himself up to be heard and received:

1. The imparting or giving of that which is to be communicated

1 Corinthians 9:18-23: (NASB) ¹⁸What then is my reward? That, when I preach the gospel, I may offer the gospel without charge, so as not to make full use of my right in the gospel. ¹⁹For though I am free from all men, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I may win more.

²⁰To the Jews I became as a Jew, so that I might win Jews; to those who are under the Law, as under the Law though not being myself under the Law, so that I might win those who are under the Law; ²¹to those who are without law, as without law, though not being without the law of God but under the law of Christ, so that I might win those who are without law. ²²To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak; I have become all things to all men, so that I may by all means save some.

2. The hearing or receiving of that which is communicated

3. The grasping or understanding of that which is communicated, as shown by the ability to feed it back to the communicator

²³I do all things for the sake of the gospel, so that I may become a fellow partaker of it.

We are now in this together and can now spread it to the next person. If we are communicating something like the Gospel, it is not "me being heard by you," it is "Jesus Christ *through* me being acted on by you."

Finest Hour, House of Commons on June 18, 1940, Winston Churchill

- The whole fury and might of the enemy must very soon be turned on us. Hitler knows that he will have to break us in this Island or lose the war. If we can stand up to him, all Europe may be free and the life of the world may move forward into broad, sunlit uplands. But if we fail, then the whole world, including the United States, including all that we have known and cared for, will sink into the abyss of a new Dark Age made more sinister, and perhaps more protracted, by the lights of perverted science.*
- Let us therefore brace ourselves to our duties, and so bear ourselves that, if the British Empire and its Commonwealth last for a thousand years, men will still say, "This was their finest hour."*



What is written on the sticky note that Rick keeps in his office? (He doesn't remember the source.)

Communication is:
55% body language,
38% tonality and
7% words.



(This certainly means a challenge for the radio!)

What are some of the "must do's" of communication?

DO! Be **OBSERVANT** in your communication.

Galatians 2:9: And when James, Peter, and John, who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that was given unto me, they gave to me and Barnabas the right hands of **fellowship** <2842>; that we should go unto the heathen, and they unto the circumcision.

When Peter, James and John saw God's grace working in the Apostle Paul, they opened up to him. Peter, James and John were observant, even though things didn't work out the way they originally planned - they had already chosen a replacement for Judas. They were observant and embraced God's choice.

 **The only thing to fear is fear itself, FDR's First Inaugural Address 1933**

(Context : a post stock market crash environment, failing banks and high unemployment)

- *First of all, let me assert my firm belief that the only thing we have to fear is fear itself - nameless, unreasoning, unjustified terror which paralyzes needed efforts to convert retreat into advance.*

There was a communication of hope to face the fear. It helps to acknowledge the difficulty and put it into perspective. Communication is not so that we feel better, it is so that we *act* better.

DO! **KNOW YOURSELF** and **KNOW YOUR AUDIENCE** in your communication.

Apostle Paul carefully dealing with the Hebrew Christians: (more on this later)
Hebrews 10:21-25: (KJV) ²¹And having an high priest over the house of God; ²²Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water. ²³Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;) ²⁴And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: ²⁵Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

DO! Be **PRAYERFUL** in your communication.



Philippians 1:3-5: (NRSV) ³*I thank my God every time I remember you, ⁴constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, ⁵because of your **sharing <2842>** in the gospel from the first day until now.*

DO!

➔ Be **WISE** in your communication.

Paul carefully dealt with the issue of a runaway slave:

Philemon 1:4-7: (NRSV) ⁴*When I remember you in my prayers, I always thank my God ⁵because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith toward the Lord Jesus. ⁶I pray that the **sharing <2842>** of your faith may become effective when you perceive all the good that we may do for Christ. ⁷I have indeed received much joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, my brother.*

DO!

➔ Be **HUMBLE** in your communication.

Hebrews 13:15-17: (KJV) ¹⁵*By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name. ¹⁶But to do good and to **communicate <2842>** forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased. ¹⁷Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.*

If we are continually in a state of giving thanks to God, then we are in a humble position and our ego is not in our way. Our communication comes out more freely because we don't worry about our image.

Where does listening fit into communicating?

James 1:19-20: (NASB) ¹⁹*This you know, my beloved brethren. But everyone must be quick to hear, slow to speak and slow to anger; ²⁰for the anger of man does not achieve the righteousness of God.*



))) **The ballplayer and the baby, Ronald Reagan**

- *One day a former placekicker with the Los Angeles Rams...who became a sportscaster, told me about communications. He said he had been having dinner (with another ballplayer) and the young wife was getting the dinner ready and the men were talking sports and the baby started to cry. Over her shoulder the busy wife said to the ballplayer, "Change the baby." And he was a young fellow and was embarrassed. "What do you mean, 'change the baby?' I'm a ballplayer, that's not my line of work!" And she turned around, put her hands on her hips, and she communicated. She said, "Look, Buster. You lay the diaper out like a diamond, you put second base on home plate, you put the baby's bottom on the pitcher's mound, you hook up first and third, slide home underneath, and if it starts to rain, the game ain't called, you start all over again!"*

Hearing in the sense of recognizing the voice:

John 10:1-5: (NRSV) ¹*Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.*



Hearing in the sense of perceiving:

Matthew 10:27: *What I tell you in darkness, that speak ye in light: and what ye hear in the ear, that preach ye upon the housetops.*

The hearing should motivate us to action.

Matthew 13:13: *Therefore speak I to them in parables: because they seeing see not; and hearing they hear not, neither do they understand.*



Some listening tools:

"So, what you're saying is..."

"Wait - let me see if I got this..."

"Help me understand..."

"What I hear you saying is..."



Hearing in the sense of being enlightened:

John 5:24: *Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.*

Hearing in the sense of listening:

Luke 21:38: *And all the people came early in the morning to him in the temple, for to hear him.*

Revelation 2:7: (KJV) *He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God.*

How do we communicate with those who may not see things our way?

As we examine the art of communication, we will look to view it very briefly through the eyes of the Apostle Paul in the book of Hebrews...why was Hebrews written anyway? And by whom?

We believe the Apostle Paul wrote it because of the reasoning style used, even though he did not sign his name. The book of Hebrews provides many lessons in communication.



Why didn't Paul use his name? The message was far more important than the messenger! The Hebrew Christians were trying to bring Jewish law and tradition into Christianity. Paul stood firmly against that even though he used to be one of them. They resented him. So to give them a message they would receive, he didn't put his name on it.

With humility, we are provoked to love and good works. We have received a valuable communication.



Ask not what your country can do, *JFK Inaugural Address January 20, 1961*

- *...I do not believe that any of us would exchange places with any other people or any other generation!*
- *The energy, the faith, the devotion which we bring to this endeavor will light our country and all who serve it, and the glow from that fire can truly light the world.*
- *And so, my fellow Americans, ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country!*

Hebrews 1:1-6: (NASB) ¹God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers and the prophets in many portions and in many ways, ²in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world.

Paul immediately begins with the common ground of prophecy, as he introduces Jesus in the context of the Old Testament. They could relate to the "fathers and the prophets." He brings the past up to the present and explains that the next step in God's communication with us is through Jesus, His son.

³And he is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power. When he had made purification of sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, ⁴having become as much better than the angels, as he has inherited a more excellent name than they. ⁵For to which of the angels did he ever say, You are My Son, Today I have begotten You? And again, I will be a Father to him and he shall be a Son to Me? ⁶And when He again brings the firstborn into the world, He says, "And let all the angels of God worship him.

He quotes from Psalms 2:7-8, alludes to Proverbs 8:22-30, quotes from 2 Samuel 7:14, 1 Chronicles 22:10, 28:6, Psalms 89:26-27 and Psalms 97:7...all within the first six verses! He is going back to what those Hebrew Christians understood! He connected with them through their heritage so that they could understand where he was coming from.

Blood, toil, tears and sweat, *House of Commons May 13, 1940, Winston Churchill*

- *I would say to the House, as I said to those who have joined this government, I have nothing to offer but blood, toil, tears and sweat. We have before us an ordeal of the most grievous kind. We have before us many, many long months of struggle and of suffering.*
- *You ask, what is our policy? I can say: It is to wage war by sea, land and air, with all our might and with all the strength that God can give us; to wage war against a monstrous tyranny, never surpassed in the dark, lamentable catalogue of human crime. That is our policy. You ask, what is our aim? I can answer in one word: It is victory, victory at all costs, victory in spite of all terror, victory, however long and hard the road may be; for without victory, there is no survival.*

Provoke in a positive way....:

Hebrews 10:24: And let us consider one another to *provoke* unto love and to good works:

...Not in a negative way:

Acts 15:39: (KJV) And the *contention* was so sharp between them, that they departed asunder one from the other: and so Barnabas took Mark, and sailed unto Cyprus;



How is being respected related to communicating?

Never, never, never give in, Harrow School on October 29, 1941, Churchill

- ...never give in, never give in, never, never, never - in nothing, great or small, large or petty - never give in except to convictions of honour and good sense. Never yield to force; never yield to the apparently overwhelming might of the enemy...

2 Peter 1:4

2 Corinthians 13:3

Ephesians 3:20

There is a difference between "commanding respect" and "commanding attention."

We live in an age where people often command attention - many celebrities, sports figures and politicians fall into this category. When they enter a room you know it; when they speak, people stop and listen. When they move, people's

eyes follow them. But it is very surface oriented and we sometimes miss the depth of things.

Acts 8:9-13: (NASB) ⁹Now there was a man named Simon, who formerly was practicing magic in the city and astonishing the people of Samaria, claiming to be someone great; ¹⁰and they all, from smallest to greatest, were giving attention to him, saying, This man is what is called the Great Power of God. ¹¹And they were giving him attention because he had for a long time astonished them with his magic arts. ¹²But when they believed Philip preaching the good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were being baptized, men and women alike. ¹³Even Simon himself believed; and after being baptized, he continued on with Philip, and as he observed signs and great miracles taking place, he was constantly amazed.

Simon commanded attention because of the magic performed. Philip was able to do much with the people but in a very different way.

Commanding respect: There are leaders, true heroes, those who have accomplished or discovered truly magnificent things and those who set an example for us step up into this category. When they enter a room, you observe them, even if they are not drawing attention to themselves. When they speak, people listen - they *truly* listen - and when they move, people's hearts follow them. True depth of communication can come from someone whose life dictates that respect.

The Pharisees commanded attention, which is why they were so threatened by Jesus, who commanded respect.

Peter and John show up and miraculously bestow the holy spirit:

Acts 8:18-24: (NASB) ¹⁸Now when Simon saw that the Spirit was bestowed through the laying on of the apostles' hands, he offered them money, ¹⁹saying, Give this authority to me as well, so that everyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit. ²⁰But Peter said to him, May your silver perish with you, because you thought you could obtain the gift of God with money! ²¹You have no part or portion in this matter, for your heart is not right before God. ²²Therefore repent of this wickedness of yours, and pray the Lord that, if possible, the intention of your heart may be forgiven you. ²³For I see that you are in the gall of bitterness and in the bondage of iniquity. ²⁴But Simon answered and said, pray to the Lord for me yourselves, so that nothing of what you have said may come upon me.

Simon was quickly put in his place. He is a classic example of someone in our world today who commands attention but not respect.



I have a dream, free at last, Washington DC, August 28, 1963, Dr. Martin Luther King

- *Let freedom ring! When this happens, when we allow freedom to ring from every village and every hamlet, from every state and every city, we will be able to speed up that day when all of God's children, black men and white men, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics, will be able to join hands and sing in the words of the old negro spiritual; Free at last, free at last, thank God Almighty we are free at last!*

He communicated what he knew to be true of the unity of the Scriptures. Part of our communication here at Christian Questions is that God has a plan for everyone and all will have the freedom described by Dr. King.

A big part of communicating is listening and communication drives everything that we do. Make the choice to learn and apply the tools of communication and proclaim things that are great to stimulate and inspire one another to stand up and act.

*So do people really listen when you speak...?
For Jonathan and Rick and Christian Questions...
Think about it...!*

*And now even more to think about...
only in the **Full Edition** of CQ Rewind!*



"The way we communicate with others and with ourselves ultimately determines the quality of our lives." - Tony Robbins



"Deep listening is miraculous for both listener and speaker. When someone receives us with open-hearted, non-judging, intensely interested listening, our spirits expand." - Sue Patton



"If we are strong, our strength will speak for itself. If we are weak, words will be of no help." - JFK



"The tongue is the only tool that gets sharper with use." -Washington Irving



The power of the Word of God:

Genesis 1:3: God said 'Let there be light' and there was light.

Psalm 33:6,9: By the word of the LORD were the heavens made, and by the breath of His mouth all their hosts...for He spoke, and it was done; He commanded and it stood fast.

His Word is powerful because He KEEPS His word.

Joshua 23:14: Not one word of all the good words which the LORD your God spoke concerning you has failed; all have been fulfilled for you, not one of them has failed.

Isaiah 55:10-11: For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there without watering the earth, and making it bear and sprout, and furnishing seed to the sower and bread to the eater; so shall My word be which goes forth from My mouth; it shall not return to Me empty, without accomplishing what I desire, and without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it.

This is followed by a Kingdom promise which will surely happen!

John 15:7: We share in the power of His Word in our life when His word abides in us: If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it shall be done for you.

Matthew 5:37: Let your statement be, 'Yes, Yes' or No, no' and anything beyond these is of evil.

James 3:10: From the same mouth come both blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be this way.

The Bit and Rudder

The bit and rudder are small instruments that create new direction, depending on where we decide to go. Words also can change the course of a life, and we are the one making the choice.

As the horse owner, we can use the bit with wisdom to get the horse to go where we want. As the captain of a ship, we chart the course and then we use the wisdom to control the rudder. The new creature knows where we want to go, and will use the tongue—the power of language, to get there.

Direct the power of language, change the course of your life.

Direct the power of language, change the course of your relationships.

James 3:12: Can the fig tree, my brethren, bear olive berries? either a vine, figs? So can no fountain both yield salt water and fresh.

When we let our language be governed by destructive intent, we are living contrary to our nature. To heal any relationship (change the direction) language must be directed and mastered.



This language begins in the thoughts, the words we choose to use, the way we label and define events, people and ourselves.

The power of the tongue is the power of words, first spoken in my head.

Philippians 4:8: *"Whatsoever things are pure.....think on these things...."*

We choose to chart our course for life or death and it begins with our word, first unspoken as a thought, and then spoken to another.