



*hearing God*

GOD COMMUNICATES



OUT LOUD  
.....  
IN STILLNESS  
.....  
THROUGH HIS  
WORD  
.....  
BY OUR  
FEELINGS  
.....  
THROUGH  
OTHERS

**GOD WILL SPEAK TO YOU  
PERSONALLY WHEN YOU LISTEN  
TO HIM INTENTIONALLY**



# FIRST PRINCIPLES:

---

THE FUNDAMENTAL  
CONCEPTS OR  
ASSUMPTIONS ON  
WHICH A THEORY,  
SYSTEM, OR  
METHOD IS BASED.



DR. SKI CHILTON

WITH DR. MARGARET RUKSTALIS AND A. J. GREGORY

# THE REWIRED BRAIN

The title 'THE REWIRED BRAIN' is centered on the book cover. The word 'THE' is in a smaller, black, sans-serif font. 'REWIRED' and 'BRAIN' are in a larger, bold, dark blue, sans-serif font. The text is overlaid on a graphic of a human brain silhouette. The brain is filled with a complex network of colorful lines (blue, green, yellow, red, purple) representing circuitry or neural pathways. Small colored dots are scattered throughout the network, particularly in the upper and lower regions of the brain.

FREE YOURSELF *of* NEGATIVE BEHAVIORS  
*and* RELEASE YOUR BEST SELF

# FIRST PRINCIPLES

IN THE BEGINNING GOD CREATED THE HEAVENS AND THE  
EARTH... AND GOD SAID...

GEN 1-2



God

Communicates

# FIRST PRINCIPLES

THE HEAVENS **DECLARE** THE GLORY OF GOD; THE SKIES **PROCLAIM**  
THE WORK OF HIS HANDS. DAY AFTER DAY THEY **POUR FORTH**  
**SPEECH...**

GEN 1-2

PSALM 19



God

God

Communicates

communicates  
with his  
creation

# FIRST PRINCIPLES

LONG AGO, AT MANY TIMES AND IN MANY WAYS, GOD SPOKE TO OUR FATHERS BY THE PROPHETS, BUT IN THESE LAST DAYS HE HAS SPOKEN TO US BY HIS SON...

GEN 1-2

PSALM 19

HEB 1:1-2



God

God

God communicates

Communicates

communicates

with his creation  
most clearly through  
his word—written  
and embodied (Jesus  
and the Bible)

with his  
creation

# FIRST PRINCIPLES

CALL TO ME AND I WILL ANSWER YOU, AND I WILL TELL YOU GREAT AND HIDDEN THINGS THAT YOU HAVE NOT KNOWN.

GENESIS 1-2

PSALM 19

HEBREWS 1:1-2

JEREMIAH 33:3



God  
Communicates

God  
communicates  
with his  
creation

God communicates  
with his creation  
most clearly  
through his word—  
written and  
embodied (Jesus  
and the Bible)

God communicates with  
his creation most clearly  
through his word—  
written and embodied  
(Jesus and the Bible), so  
we can hear him by  
going to him



# FIRST PRINCIPLES

LOVE | WELCOME | BEAR BURDENS | ENCOURAGE | INSTRUCT |  
CONFESS | FORGIVE | PRAY FOR | COMFORT | STIR UP

GENESIS 1-2

PSALM 19

HEBREWS 1:1-2

JEREMIAH 33:3

ONE ANOTHERS



God

God

God


God communicates with his creation most clearly through his word—written and embodied (Jesus and the Bible), so we can hear him by going to him

God communicates most clearly through his word—written and embodied (Jesus and the Bible), so we can hear him by going to him AND hearing him through others

Communicates

communicates with his creation

communicates with his creation most clearly through his word—written and embodied (Jesus and the Bible)

A group of six people (three men and three women) are sitting in a circle on white chairs in a bright, modern room. They appear to be in a meeting or discussion. The room has large windows with blinds on the right side. The overall atmosphere is professional and collaborative.

# HEARING GOD'S VOICE THROUGH OTHERS



# JESUS ENVISIONS UNITY IN COMMUNITY

JOHN 17:6-8, 20-21

## JOHN 17:6-8

6 “I HAVE MANIFESTED YOUR NAME TO THE PEOPLE WHOM YOU GAVE ME OUT OF THE WORLD. YOURS THEY WERE, AND YOU GAVE THEM TO ME, AND THEY HAVE KEPT YOUR WORD. 7 NOW THEY KNOW THAT EVERYTHING THAT YOU HAVE GIVEN ME IS FROM YOU.



## JOHN 17:6-8

8 FOR I HAVE GIVEN THEM THE WORDS  
THAT YOU GAVE ME, AND THEY HAVE  
RECEIVED THEM AND HAVE COME TO  
KNOW IN TRUTH THAT I CAME FROM YOU;  
AND THEY HAVE BELIEVED THAT YOU SENT  
ME.



## JOHN 17:20-21

20 "I DO NOT ASK FOR THESE ONLY, BUT ALSO FOR THOSE WHO WILL BELIEVE IN ME THROUGH THEIR WORD, 21 THAT THEY MAY ALL BE ONE, JUST AS YOU, FATHER, ARE IN ME, AND I IN YOU, THAT THEY ALSO MAY BE IN US, SO THAT THE WORLD MAY BELIEVE THAT YOU HAVE SENT ME.



## JOHN 12:49

FOR I HAVE NOT SPOKEN ON MY OWN  
AUTHORITY, BUT THE FATHER WHO SENT  
ME HAS HIMSELF GIVEN ME A  
COMMANDMENT—WHAT TO SAY AND WHAT  
TO SPEAK.



IF YOU ARE LISTENING, GOD MAY BE  
SPEAKING



# GOD SPEAKS HIS WORDS THROUGH HIS KIDS

ACTS 9:10-18

10 NOW THERE WAS A DISCIPLE AT  
DAMASCUS NAMED ANANIAS. THE LORD  
SAID TO HIM IN A VISION, "ANANIAS."  
AND HE SAID, "HERE I AM, LORD." 11  
AND THE LORD SAID TO HIM, "RISE AND  
GO TO THE STREET CALLED STRAIGHT,  
AND AT THE HOUSE OF JUDAS LOOK  
FOR A MAN OF TARSUS NAMED SAUL,  
FOR BEHOLD, HE IS PRAYING,

ACTS 9:10-12



12 AND HE HAS SEEN IN A VISION A  
MAN NAMED ANANIAS COME IN AND  
LAY HIS HANDS ON HIM SO THAT HE  
MIGHT REGAIN HIS SIGHT.”

ACTS 9:10-12



13 BUT ANANIAS ANSWERED, "LORD, I  
HAVE HEARD FROM MANY ABOUT THIS  
MAN, HOW MUCH EVIL HE HAS DONE TO  
YOUR SAINTS AT JERUSALEM. 14 AND  
HERE HE HAS AUTHORITY FROM THE  
CHIEF PRIESTS TO BIND ALL WHO CALL  
ON YOUR NAME."

ACTS 9:13-16



15 BUT THE LORD SAID TO HIM, "GO,  
FOR HE IS A CHOSEN INSTRUMENT OF  
MINE TO CARRY MY NAME BEFORE THE  
GENTILES AND KINGS AND THE  
CHILDREN OF ISRAEL. 16 FOR I WILL  
SHOW HIM HOW MUCH HE MUST SUFFER  
FOR THE SAKE OF MY NAME."

ACTS 9:13-16



# 4 REASONS WE FIND IT HARD TO LISTEN TO OTHERS

## UNPREPARED

---

We don't come to church with hearts prepared to worship Jesus

## DEFLATED

---

We condemn ourselves and allow Satan to condemn us

## INFLATED

---

We think we're better than the person talking to us

## SHAME

---

We have sin that we are hiding from others

17 So ANANIAS DEPARTED AND ENTERED THE HOUSE. AND LAYING HIS HANDS ON HIM HE SAID, "BROTHER SAUL, THE LORD JESUS WHO APPEARED TO YOU ON THE ROAD BY WHICH YOU CAME HAS SENT ME SO THAT YOU MAY REGAIN YOUR SIGHT AND BE FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT."

18 AND IMMEDIATELY SOMETHING LIKE SCALES FELL FROM HIS EYES, AND HE REGAINED HIS SIGHT. THEN HE ROSE AND WAS BAPTIZED...

ACTS 9:17-18



IF YOU WANT TO GO FAST, GO ALONE; IF  
YOU WANT TO GO FAR, GO TOGETHER.

”



# GOD SPEAKS THROUGH HIS CHURCH

ONE ANOTHERS

 TRANSFORMED



---

TRANSFORMING  
SMALL GROUP  
LEADERSHIP

---

GARRETT HIGBEE



THE BIBLE CONTAINS A  
MESSAGE THAT IS  
SIMPLE, HOPEFUL, AND  
YET SO  
COUNTERCULTURAL. IT  
IS A THEME THAT IS  
FOUND THROUGHOUT  
SCRIPTURE—A CALLING  
TO LIVE DIFFERENTLY....  
WE ARE NOW  
EMPOWERED, THROUGH  
CHRIST, TO LOVE  
OTHERS AS HE LOVED  
US...

 TRANSFORMED



---

TRANSFORMING  
SMALL GROUP  
LEADERSHIP

---

GARRETT HIGBEE



BUT THIS NEW WAY OF  
LIVING TAKES  
PERSEVERANCE  
THROUGH HARD TIMES,  
UNITY IN CONFLICTING  
TIMES, AND LOVE AT ALL  
TIMES. IT IS NOT ALWAYS  
EASY, AND **GOD NEVER  
INTENDED FOR US TO  
DO IT ALONE.** WE ARE  
CALLED, AS FOLLOWERS  
OF CHRIST, TO STRIVE  
FOR THE FAITH OF THE  
GOSPEL **SIDE BY SIDE.**

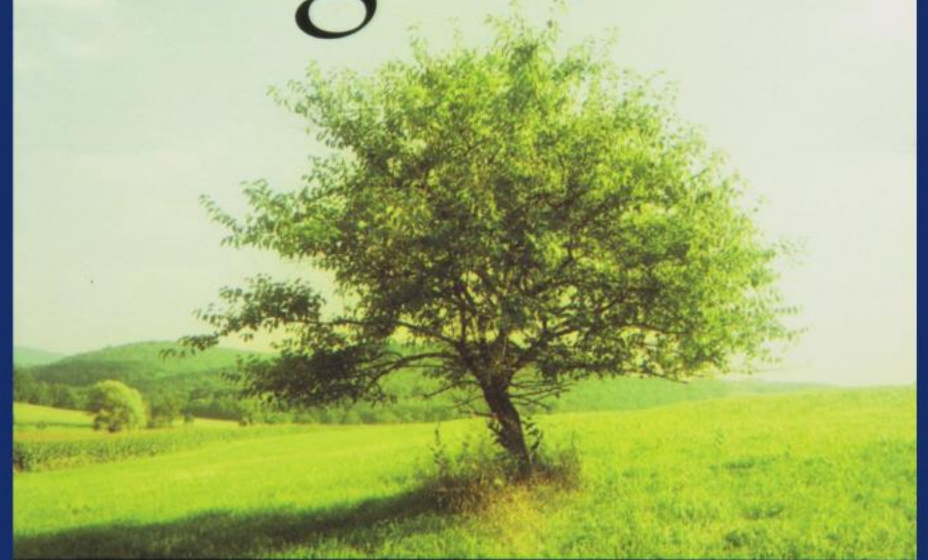
SOMETIMES OTHERS' WORDS ARE  
MORE RELIABLE AND EXACTLY WHAT  
GOD WANTS US TO HEAR

THE CHRIST IN HIS  
OWN HEART IS WEAKER  
THAN THE CHRIST IN  
THE WORD OF HIS  
BROTHER; HIS OWN  
HEART IS UNCERTAIN,  
HIS BROTHERS' IS  
SURE.

”

“It would be impossible to overrate Dietrich Bonhoeffer’s importance as a disciple, a great Christian, and moral leader.”—*The New York Times Book Review*

# Life Together



The Classic Exploration of Christian Community

DIETRICH BONHOEFFER



CONNECTION IS WHY WE'RE HERE. WE ARE  
HARDWIRED TO CONNECT WITH OTHERS,  
IT'S WHAT GIVES PURPOSE AND MEANING  
TO OUR LIVES, AND WITHOUT IT THERE IS  
SUFFERING.

BRENÉ BROWN, DARING GREATLY

YOU ARE  
LOVED

