



Managing My Relations: COMMUNICATION 101

Pastor Patrick Winfield II



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GENESIS 2:4-9

- ***4 This is the account of the heavens and the earth when they were created, in the day that the LORD God made earth and heaven. 5 Now no shrub of the field was yet on the earth, and no plant of the field had yet sprouted, for the LORD God had not sent rain upon the earth, and there was no man to cultivate the ground. 6 But a mist used to rise from the earth and water the whole surface of the ground.***



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GENESIS 2:4-9

- ***7 Then the LORD God formed the man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and the man became a living person. 8 The LORD God planted a garden toward the east, in Eden; and there He placed the man whom He had formed. 9 Out of the ground the LORD God caused every tree to grow that is pleasing to the sight and good for food; the tree of life was also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.***



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We Are Speaking Spirits

The most incredible evidence of the power of speaking is **EVERYTHING**. That's how God created the universe: **BY SPEAKING IT FORTH!** Then God made man in His image.



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We Are Speaking Spirits

In the Hebrew text of Genesis 2:7 where it says *“And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a LIVING BEING...”* Literally, “man became a SPEAKING SPIRIT.”



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Dabar - Words

- The verb דַּבַּר (*dabar*) means to formalize with words: to deliberately establish and pronounce something's name or definition. This causes the thing to become "real" in the mind of whoever understands this word, name or definition, and this in turn explains why all of creation was *spoken* into being, and Man in turn "named" all the animals by their name and finally his Wife by hers (Genesis 2:19-23).
- This principle sits at the base of nominal reasoning and thus human awareness and ultimately Information Technology.



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Dabar - Words

- Noun דָּבָר (*dabar*) means word. It also means "thing" since the naming of a thing causes the experienced reality of the thing. All thus created "things" together form the whole of experienceable reality, which in turn is called the Word of God.
- The consonants D-B-R paint a picture of exactly how speaking works. The picture is "pathway for the son." Do you see what this means? Speaking is the way that a parent provides a path for the son. It is the transmission of life guidance from the father to the son. The fundamental and essential element of communication is **relationship**.



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Conversation Time

Talk to a neighbor about what you just learned and what is your personal application.



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COMMUNICATION

My times are in Your hand; deliver me from the hand of my enemies and from those who persecute me. Psalm 31:15 NASB

- The word is 'ēṭ, Hebrew for “time.” But Hebrew doesn't have an abstract concept of time like the Greeks. Time in Hebrew is always experienced and practical. We can see this when we realize that 'ēṭ is derived from 'ānâ and 'ānâ is a verb about conversation.



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- It means, “to answer, to respond, to testify, to speak, to shout.” In other words, Hebrew conceives of time as a function of communication. Time occurs wherever beings are in conversation. This means that “time” for humanity is a measure of its conversation with God. Where there is no conversation by either party, time ceases to exist.



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- When David says, “My times are in Your hand,” he isn’t limiting the conversation to the external world. He is declaring that his personal, internal, private conversation is also intimately connected with God. He is expressing what it means to be human. God-talk is at the foundation of temporal existence.



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Communicating Is Connecting

- In our Greek-based world, communication is about *information*, not *relationship*. Consequently, we think we have “spoken” when we transfer information. Therefore, writing is communication. So is information transfer at a distance (like radio and television and e-mail). In the Greek world, whenever information is passed from one person to another, communication occurs. That model is the basis of most evangelism and many sermons.



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Communicating Is Connecting

- In the dynamic of that relationship, I actually hear what is said. Unless the personal relationship exists, no communication really occurs.
- When Hebrew uses the word *dabar* here, the imagery is revealing. The consonants D-B-R paint a picture of exactly how speaking works. The picture is “pathway for the son.” Do you see what this means? Speaking is the way that a parent provides a path for the son. It is the transmission of life guidance from the father to the son. The fundamental and essential element of communication is **relationship**.



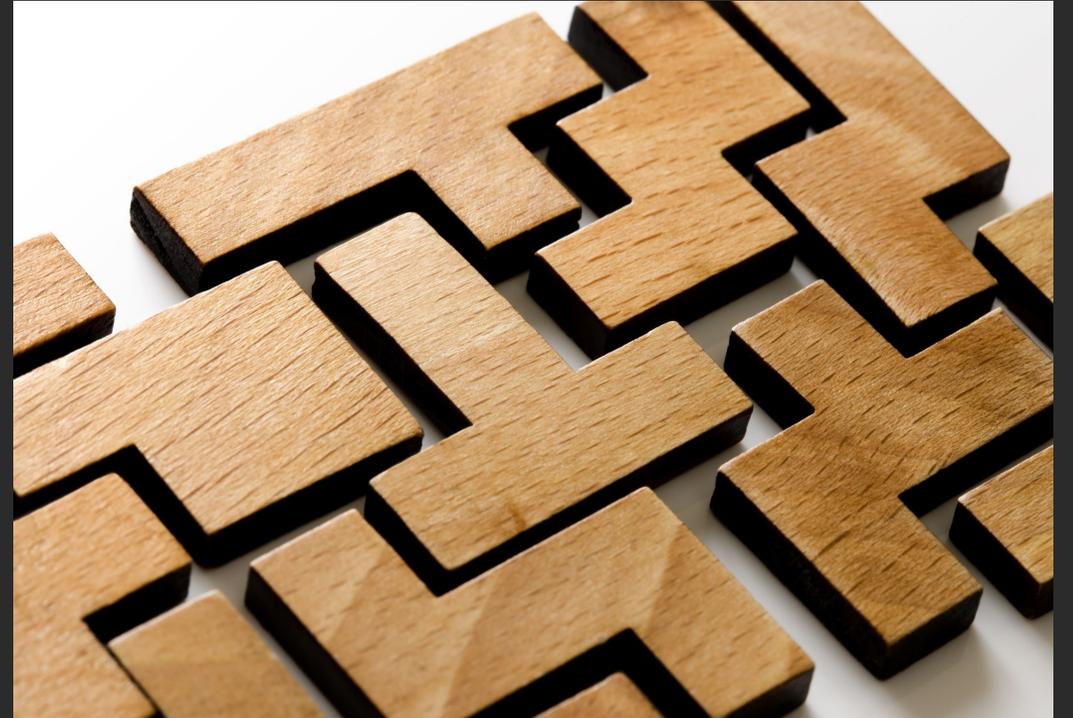
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Building Blocks of Communication

Four building blocks create the foundation for successful communication:

- 1. the people,***
- 2. the message,***
- 3. the context, and***
- 4. effective listening.***



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Building Blocks of Communication

- The four elements are at play in every communication opportunity, whether you're presenting in front of 1,000 people or making small talk with a coworker.
- Before communicating, consider each of these four building blocks. As you walk to your next meeting, think to yourself, "Who will be there? What do I need to know about them? What kind of listener do I want to be right now?" Before you hit "Send" on your next email, ask yourself, "How's the timing of this email? Is email appropriate, or should I pop in for a quick chat?" You're making communication choices all the time.



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Just Don't See People, SEE People!

Matthew 9: 36-38

36 Seeing the crowds, He felt compassion for them, because they were distressed and downcast, like sheep without a shepherd. 37 Then He *said to His disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. 38 Therefore, plead with the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest."



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Just Don't See People, SEE People!

- See - *horáō* – properly, see, often with *metaphorical* meaning: "to see with the mind" (i.e. spiritually see), i.e. perceive (with inward spiritual perception).
- Felt compassion - *splágxnon* – properly, the internal organs ("viscera"); (figuratively) "*gut-level compassion*" (*visceral* feelings); the capacity to feel deep emotions (sympathy, empathy, etc.).



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Just Don't See People, SEE People!

- Distressed - *skýllō* (from *skylon*, "skin, pelt") – properly, skin alive, mangle (flay); (figuratively) harass, extremely annoy.
- Dispirited - rhapizo, through the idea of sudden motion); to fling (properly, with a quick toss, which indicates an extended projection); by qualification, to deposit (as if a load); by extension, to disperse -- cast (down, out), scatter abroad, throw.
- **The people are pictured as sheep harassed and prostrated by fatigue.**



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People Building Blocks

- Whether you're the sender or the receiver of a message, it's important to think about the other person's perspective.
- An emotional connection is a special bond that we have with those we know or admire. It's more than talking about surface level topics, like the weather or what you had for lunch. An emotional connection is about sharing feelings, being vulnerable, seeking to understand each other, and meeting one another with trust.



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People Building Blocks



Communication gets tricky because all people have mental filters, certain levels of knowledge, personal concerns, or preconceived notions, that affect the way we interpret messages. Those mental filters dictate how we decode or understand a message.



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People Building Blocks

Think of a conversation you have coming up soon. What assumptions might your conversational partner have about you or the topic? What do you want the other person to think, to feel, to do? Let your answers inform the words, the tone, and the body language you use during the conversation. If you want to be a great communicator, begin with the people building block. Do your best to understand a message from the other's perspective.



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The **man** doesn't know there is a **Snake** underneath.. The **woman** doesn't know there is a **Stone** crushing the man.



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Understanding others' struggles and pressures can be likened to encountering a snake and a rock in someone's path.

Imagine you're walking through a forest and you see a person struggling to move forward. At first, you notice they're trying to navigate around a snake, carefully avoiding its venomous bite. However, as you approach, you also notice a heavy rock blocking their path. From a distance, you might have only seen the snake and assumed that was the sole obstacle, but closer observation reveals the additional challenge of the rock.



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Similarly, in human interactions, we often only see the surface struggles or challenges someone faces, much like spotting the snake. However, beneath the surface, there may be hidden pressures and burdens, represented by the rock, that we are unaware of. These could include personal, professional, or emotional difficulties that weigh heavily on the individual.



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The analogy illustrates the importance of empathy and understanding in our interactions with others. Just as we wouldn't judge someone solely based on their struggle with a snake without considering the presence of the rock, we shouldn't hastily judge others without considering the broader context of their lives and the pressures they may be under. Showing empathy and offering support can help us better understand and connect with one another, even when we can't see the full extent of their challenges.



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Process of Communication



The *message or content* is the information that the sender wants to relay to the receiver.

Additional subtext can be conveyed through body language and tone of voice. Three elements of the communication process are — sender, receiver, and message.



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Communication Context

Bad timing, bad location makes for a horrible listener. Always be sure to tune into the context, timing, location, and relationship, and see how effective you become.



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Engaged Listening

James 1:19, 20

19 You know *this*, my beloved brothers *and sisters*. Now everyone must be quick to hear, slow to speak, *and* slow to anger; **20** for a man's anger does not bring about the righteousness of God



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Engaged Listening

- Start with a godly disposition: pray for wisdom, expressing our earnest desire to care for the relationship over being proven right.
- Seek to understand the other person over our desire to be understood (the other person will more likely understand our position if we make the first move).
- Give our undivided attention (if triggered by something said, we will stop listening as we internalize our response).



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Engaged Listening

- Respectfully communicate our understanding of what the other person said (repeating this step until there is a meeting of the minds).
- In short, our attitude makes it or breaks it. Good listeners follow the example of Christ: they exercise grace and humility in listening beyond hurtful words (often borne in pain) to the heartfelt cries of the other person.
- Resultantly, they sow seeds of peace over anger. Indeed, good listening is an art and a gift that brings new life.



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