

Talk?!

To whom?



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Thanks to Lord Jesus, the living word, who teaches us to open our hearts to Him and to our brothers in order to be healed from loneliness and from our inner wounds.

I dedicate this book to all who are tired of loneliness, of isolation and the lack of true communication with their fellowmen.

“If my people who are called by my name humble themselves, pray, seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land. Now my eyes will be open and my ears attentive to the prayer that is made in this place.” (2 Chr. 7: 14-15)



Introduction

When loneliness becomes a real problem? Is this God's plan for His children?

Communication is a necessity placed by God Himself in the heart of each one of us, as well as the feeling of unity, mutual support and affirmation coming from outside to maintain the integrity of the soul, knowing that what we do benefits others and is accepted and requited. More than that, the human being needs to find, in most cases, a group around him who share the same purpose, in order to walk and maintain his inner harmony. When he does not find this affinity, he begins to feel rejected, misfit, he goes wasting away, and ends up in a depressive process because he cannot exchange anything. It's not just the fact of being loved that is at stake, but the fact of having someone who receives his love and what he has to give. One way of rejecting someone is not to accept or receive what he has to offer, because our attitudes are an extension of our self. When what we do, we feel, think or say doesn't fit into the context of anyone else, life becomes a true isolation. This is where the enemy of our souls comes in with division, strife and rejection to destroy us, as he does with all humans.

The lack of healthy and sincere communication between people today is saddening God's heart. This leads to sin, to the evil ways, it causes disease and deep wounds in the soul and spirit and, consequently, the separation from Him. Therefore, the Apostle John wrote in 1 Jn. 4: 20, "Those who say, 'I love God', and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen." This leads us to think also that communication and relationship are directly linked to the practice of love. If we want to communicate with God, we need to relate harmoniously with our neighbor. And no one can relate well to someone he cannot know and, therefore, to love. What the Lord expects of us is that we recognize our insufficiency in this area. Most of all, He expects that we recognize our weakness and our distortion regarding to relate and communicate in a healthy way with our brothers. The sin of Adam led us away from the original design of God. That's the reason for the text of the previous page (2 Chr. 7: 14-15). We need to pray and ask for divine help to correct ourselves in relation to our relationships.

This book talks about how to communicate with God and with our neighbor.

Usually we communicate through the word, not only the human word but the word of God and this word is what truly heals and edifies us. It has life in itself to correct and straighten what was crooked. In it, there is the light of understanding. It is written,

- Jn. 1: 1-5: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it."

- Jn. 6: 63: "It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life."

God used men, the prophets, to communicate with His people; so He gave them His word. He also had a purpose beyond the simple communication between Him and men or between men among themselves: to do His work of redemption.

- Jn. 1: 6-9: "There was a man sent from God, whose name was John [*He was speaking of John the Baptist*]. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world."

- Ex. 4: 12: “Now go, and I will be with your mouth and teach you what you are to speak.” He was talking to Moses.

- Jer. 1: 4-10: “Now the word of the Lord came to me saying, ‘Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nation.’ Then I said, ‘Ah, Lord God! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy.’ But the Lord said to me, ‘Do not say, ‘I am only a boy’; for you shall go to all to whom I send you, and you shall speak whatever I command you. Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you, says the Lord’. Then the Lord put out his hand and touched my mouth; and the Lord said to me, ‘Now I have put my words in your mouth. See, today I appoint you over nations and over kingdoms, to pluck up and to pull down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant.’” He was calling Jeremiah as a prophet.

- Ezek. 33: 7-9: “So you, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. If I say to the wicked, ‘O wicked ones, you shall surely die’, and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand. But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways, and they do not turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life.” Here, he was instructing Ezekiel in what he should do as a prophet, that is, to warn the people about their actions not to sin anymore.

- Isa. 61: 1-3: “The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion—to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, to display his glory.”

Unfortunately, many fell asleep and did not listen to His direction. Many people are still sleeping and do not listen to God’s direction and disregard the human need for communication and a genuine relationship. Therefore, Jesus said:

- Jn. 4: 44: “a prophet has no honor in the prophet’s own country.”

In this book, we will cover some topics such as:

- Communication and good relationship are a human need.
- To communicate with God.
- To communicate with the neighbor.
- Communicating with sincerity and spontaneity promotes healing and union with God.

- To communicate with our whole being (our whole body participates in the communication).

- Not to open ourselves fully or not to comply with our word betrays the trust of our neighbor and also prevents him from speaking; it hinders the cure and generates emotional and spiritual barriers.

- Preventing someone from talking also prevents the manifestation of his being. His identity, fulfillment and self-esteem are suppressed.

- Real communication implies telling the truth, which makes us similar to God.

- The levels of interpersonal communication. The more carnal we are, the more difficult our communication becomes. The more we sanctify ourselves and surrender to the Holy Spirit the more we will have satisfactory relationships.

The current media provided by technology only give an appearance of true communication, bringing a false impression that we are not alone; however, they do not replace the presence of a human being with whom we can speak face to face, eyes to eyes, and is a creature who has mouth, ears, arms and the answers we really need to receive. Machines do not replace people. Answering machines are not a substitute for a human voice. While we push buttons on the electronic devices in front of us, thinking that we are relating to someone, our brain in fact is getting used to the indifference of human relationship, through what is being written, read or heard through a microphone; our brain is getting used to the convenience of not having to go to where the other is (of course I'm not referring to great distances); it is getting used to saving words in a limited field for writing (with defined character numbers) and having a social, professional and superficial conversation, and where we are forced to guess what goes on in someone else's mind because the dialogue is restricted. And our brain is getting used to the lie that we're saving our time to do something 'more important.' But what? For what? Behind a computer screen or a camera we don't see anyone, nor can we see their facial expression in response to what we're saying. We cannot see many things through these electronic intermediaries; in short: all are strangers speaking to a multitude of strangers. And that ends up being a loss, not a gain. The expression 'social isolation' has gained space in many people's lives, for the media encourages this, with the excuse of preventing contagious diseases, etc., but the real agent behind it all is Satan, infiltrating the humanity's life to place it under its cold and cruel dominion, taking away the free will given by God to the human being and making an army of irrational beings commanded, robotic and programmed by him. No artificial intelligence can replace the intelligence of the Holy Spirit placed in the brain of one of His children. The lack of dialogue is destroying families and relationships. This is a warning from God to His children, for the world is heading for this destruction. But the children of God watch that they are not deceived, and fight for their individuality and their right to think with the mind of Christ. More than that, for their right to make choices.

Our main characters are: Jeremiah, a little boy who really needed communication and good relationships with people; and "*The Truth*", a friend he finds and that teaches him how to supply his needs in a more satisfactory way. We will use also other characters who will receive what Jeremiah has to give and teach and, in turn, will give him the emotional supplies that he needs to build his dream: to relate well with others and fulfill the mission given to him by God as a prophet. The bricks are human and divine words, which have unequal values and weights, differentiating the strength and capacity of God and man to heal and free.

In the midst of the text, we'll put the biblical verses that will guide our reasoning. Try to read this book with your mind and heart open to the Lord's revelations for your life.

May God bless you.

Tânia Cristina

Notes:

- Words or phrases enclosed in brackets [] or parenthesis (), *in italics*, were placed by me, in most cases, to explain the biblical text, although some verses already contain them [not in italics].

- The version used here is the New Revised Standard Version, NRSV – 1989 (1995)
- NIV = New International Version (it will be used in brackets in some verses to make it easier for readers to understand).
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Feeling the need



Jeremiah was a bit thoughtful. He had heard several times the voice of his spirit boosting him to build what was missing. It was a dream that seemed never to be fulfilled or satisfied. He had built a good piece of it, but lacked essential bricks to finish the work. His little castle was strong. It was built the way he wanted. He had planted a few leaves, but suddenly, he realized that part of the walls around should be built. He needed help from other people. His bricks had already finished. In fact, he longed for other children who could participate in his dream too. It would be so nice if everyone could play together! He would have to risk and look for what he needed on his own.



“Jeremiah, you’ll have to go out and look for more bricks. Will you get enough to restore? Come on! Do not be lazy or coward; seek what you need,” he thought.

He went out to talk to other children. Maybe someone could help him with the bricks he needed to complete his dream!



He didn’t notice, but those loving eyes followed him and watched him, admiring his boldness. They saw how difficult it was for the little Jeremiah get this kind of brick. It was an important part of his dream. For now, they would observe his reaction until the right moment to manifest to him.



“Hey, little girl! Do you have little bricks with you? You know? I need bricks well made and not too big to put on my wall. If they are too large they will compromise my work of architecture. Maybe you can play with me later. What do you think? There is room enough in my castle for everyone. I plan a place of great joy, where we can play with every toy we wish. But, of course, only with good and constructive things!”

He stopped talking and thought, *“Umm, I think she is not listening to me. She is asleep; what thing is that? Is anyone willing to talk about building dreams? Why is she sleeping at this hour? It is not time to sleep. I don’t know if I should wake her up. It may be dangerous. I’d better look elsewhere.”*



Jeremiah tried once more, “Good morning, friend! I’m looking for some bricks to build my dream. Can you help me? I exchanged several of them the other day, but now they’re gone. I have none to exchange anymore. I only need to be supplied now. They don’t need to be varnished. There is no problem. What interests me is having the basic stuff, do you understand? The finish comes later. What do you think? Can you help me? Thus, you can also join me in the toys that I’ve put there. It will be very nice...”

“Oops! Another one sleeping? What happens to these people? They are so oblivious to everything... Don’t they have dreams too?”

Our little friend walked again. The world seemed weird. He had good bricks in his dream. It got very pretty, with style and personality. But he couldn’t leave the wall the way it was. He had to complete it. But how?



“Hey, you! What’s your name? I love making friends and chatting. It’s so good to have someone to chat, don’t you think? It helps time to pass and we learn many things. I have need of something at the moment, you know? I wonder if you could help me with some bricks. It may be the way you have it. I can even shape them later if necessary. I have some haste to lift my walls. It will soon be rainy season and maybe a lot of water will enter my land. It wouldn’t be interesting for that to happen because it would dirt the whole garden. I need a strong wall. How about we lift it up together?”

“Gosh! This one is also asleep. He does not seem very interested in building anything. What’s happening to everybody? Are they so far away from reality? Hey, Jeremiah, look, two more there. Run up there and ask; there is no harm.”



Poor Jeremiah! There were two more sleeping there without being able to talk to him. This way he would not have help to build his wall.

He was thinking, *“I’m sure that I heard that voice speaking to me. It gave me the dream and told me to put up walls around. Why, then, it didn’t give me enough bricks? Now I’ll have to obtain them on my own. But where? They are all oblivious and unconscious. They don’t have the same need than I. Will I have always to do everything alone?”*



He passed close to many other boys and girls. Everyone was asleep. They couldn't hear him. He tried for a long time.

After a long walk without obtaining anything, he decided to return home. There, sitting in front of his dream, he cried his loneliness.

A providential visit



A man said, “Hey, little friend! Why do you cry?”

Jeremiah replied, “Who are you and what are you doing here?”

“I am the *Truth* and I came to help you build your wall.”

“Hmm! Can I trust you after so much disappointment I went through? Am I so different from other people? Doesn’t anyone care about talking and making friends? I’m already tired of being so alone, you know? I feel very weird. Hey, what’s that you got there?”

“This? Ah! It’s a bag with some bricks. But it’s not exactly with these that you will rebuild what is missing,” the *Truth* said.



“Can you explain me better? What do you mean?”

“Actually, you’ve already built your castle with them. These bricks are repeated, do you understand?”

“And what does it matter? They are bricks, aren’t they?”

“I’ll explain it another way. Each brick has a right place in your dream. The ones you need to build your wall are the ones that other people have. You will have to exchange them for these. Not everyone has everything, you know? We need to exchange some. What we have in abundance, we exchange for what we lack and vice versa.”

“I like these. They are very good. Then, why do I need others?”

“Because I have already determined that it was so. You have something that many need and they will see that these bricks will be essential to build their dreams too.”

“Bah! Nonsense! They are all sleeping. They have no real dreams. They cannot dream like me, awake.”

“You went look for them in the wrong place, that’s all. I know a place where people are awake and ready to exchange their bricks with you,” the *Truth* encouraged him.

“So, do you show me?”

“Of course! But first you need to wipe your tears to see clearly. I must also empower you to explain to them what to do with the bricks that you have to exchange.”

“Ah! Look what I see here. I hadn’t noticed my garden very well. There is a stone right there in the place where I need to build the walls. It is big. I don’t have strength to remove it. What will I do?”

“Leave it to me. This is my part. I remove for you, little friend!”

“Wow! You have strength. You removed it with only one hand. How can this be?”

“For me, everything is possible.”

“Thank you. Now the path is clear. But what empowerment is this I need to talk to the people with whom I will exchange my bricks?”

“It’s called wisdom. It will make you apply the love and the truth that already exists in your heart.”

“Explain yourself better, please.”

“Sit down here, it will take some time.”

Jeremiah sat on the grass along with *The Truth* and spent long hours listening and learning.

“All right, son! Did you understand what I wanted to explain?”

“Yes, my best friend!”

“Come. Now I’ll take you to the place where people are awake.”

To practice

They went out together and Jeremiah carried his little bag with bricks. In each of them there was an answer for all those who needed to learn to communicate and relate well. They began to walk till *The Truth* said,

“I’ll stay here while you practice what you learned. Don’t worry; my eyes will be watching everything. When you need encouragement, look at them and you’ll feel comforted.”

“Ah! What a pity! I was feeling safe with your presence beside me.”

“Don’t be afraid, son! I have already prepared everything. The bricks you need are ready. Go now. I will never leave you or forsake you. I want to see how you do. I’ll be back later to talk about your victory.”

“Can you give me a hug? I need to feel safe... Thanks, *Truth!* See you soon.”

Jeremiah went down the road with his little bag in the hands until he saw a boy sitting on the grass.

Communication and good relationship are a human need



“Are you okay?” Jeremiah said.

“Sure, why?”

“Because you are so thoughtful. What is your name?”

“My name is Hubert and yours?”

“I’m Jeremiah. What were you thinking?”

“I was meditating a little on how to relate and communicate. Am I the only one who feels this need? Many people think I’m emotionally needy because of that. They say I don’t need anyone to feel myself well. But if God put me here, don’t you think it is His purpose that I have friends? If I don’t have an answer to that, I will not be able to build my dream. A brick is missing, do you know?”

“Maybe I have this brick.”

“How much is it?”

“These bricks don’t cost anything because I gained them for free. A friend gave me. But... Tell me more about your dream and why you need this brick.”

“Well! I plan to have a family one day. However, it has to be the right way. So I wonder: how to find someone who likes to talk too? What if I don’t find anyone like that? What will I do? That’s where my brick comes in. Am I the only one who feels this need?”

“No. Here is my brick. What do you read on it?”

Hubert read, “Then the Lord God said, ‘It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper as his partner.’ So out of the ground the Lord God formed

every animal of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. The man gave names to all cattle, and to the birds of the air, and to every animal of the field; but for the man there was not found a helper as his partner. So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then he took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. Then the man said, 'This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; this one shall be called Woman, for out of Man this one was taken.' Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and clings to his wife, and they become one flesh. And the man and his wife were both naked, and were not ashamed' (Gen. 2: 18-25)." "What does it mean?"

Jeremiah explained, "Exactly what you've read: communication and relationship between people is a human need created from the beginning, when God saw that the man could not live alone. There was a partner to all animals, but not to man. But He let the man notice this lack first. Then, He gave him a partner. Do you see? There's your brick. You are a normal person, of brilliant intellect and you will find someone you can also talk to. And in the sincere and open way you like. And have project affinity with you."

"Wow! Thanks for the brick, Jeremiah. Here is mine in return."

Jeremiah took the brick, put it in his little bag and said goodbye to his new friend. When he was far away he opened it and read on the brick, "Everyone needs your wisdom. I can see the light of God in you."

He thought, "*Wow! This brick is different, isn't it?*"



Then he looked at the sky and saw the eyes of the *Truth*. He heard His voice, "Didn't I tell you that to build this part of your wall you would need another type of brick? This is just the first. Go ahead, son."

"Thank you, my great friend! I feel more cheered up."

To communicate with God



“Who are you and why are you smiling? Were you talking to yourself?”

Jeremiah explained, “I was talking to *The Truth*. He is my friend, do you know? He knows how to make bricks very well.”

“What?”

“I mean that I’m looking for bricks to build my wall and He gave me others for me to exchange with whom is in need of them. Do you need bricks?”

“Maybe. What kind of bricks do you have there in this bag?”

“It depends. Which one do you need?”

“Let me introduce myself first. I’m Catherine and I have a dream: to know God’s purpose for my life. But there’s a problem.”

Jeremiah asked, “What is it?”

“Is it possible to talk to Him? Does everyone feel this need? Do we need to communicate with Him indeed? How is this done? First of all, who are you?”

“I’m Jeremiah and I am a dreamer. Right now I am looking for bricks to build my wall; so I have these ones to exchange. But... I have already discovered the bricks you need to build your dream.”

“So many? Is it not only one?”

“They are all the same type; read one by one and you’ll find out that they complement one another.”

“Okay. Give me the first. It is written, ‘They heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden’ (Gen. 3: 8). Hmm! Does the human being hear the voice of God? Does He talk?”

Jeremiah said, “Yes! There, at the beginning of everything He spoke with His children personally, face to face. They saw His face. Today He continues talking. Not in the same way, but He speaks to all those who want to talk with Him. In fact, the human being was designed to communicate with God. Here is the second brick: the man, when he sinned, turned away from Him and felt the need. Read.”

Catherine read, “Adam (Gen. 5: 3) knew his wife again, and she bore a son and named him Seth, for she said, ‘God has appointed for me another child instead of Abel, because Cain killed him’. To Seth also a son was born, and he named him Enosh. At that time people began to invoke the name of the Lord (Gen. 4: 25-26).”

“Did you see? It is necessary for man to seek God. He feels this need for thousands of years,” Jeremiah explained to her.

“And how do I do that?”

“Through the third brick, prayer. It is written, ‘And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your

Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. When you are praying, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do; for they think that they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. Pray then in this way: 'Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one, [for yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen']. For if you forgive others their sins, your heavenly Father will also forgive you; but if you do not forgive others, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses' (Matt. 6: 5-15).

"Did you see? It is not necessary to repeat the same thing, neither talk too much nor in front of so many people, because in the stillness of our homes and in our hearts, He hears us and answers us. But you have to open yourself fully and freely and ask Him to reveal Himself to you, to meet all your needs and teach you to forgive. So, your heart will be pure to talk to Him and to hear Him."

Catharine asked, "So is this way? Does He want me to ask things for Him?"

"Who else could you ask for? Only He can give you what you really need. He alone knows His purpose for your life."

"Jeremiah, the fourth brick says, 'Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. Is there anyone among you who, if your child asks for bread, will give a stone? Or if the child asks for a fish, will give a snake? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good things to those who ask him! In everything do to others as you would have them do to you; for this is the law and the prophets' (Matt. 7: 7-12).

"You did well for me, Jeremiah. You made me understand that it is necessary to communicate with God and there is no secret to it. Now, I understand what I must do here on earth. The last brick says that we must do to others as we want them to do to us. You did me well and I want to do the same with you. There is only one problem. I just have one brick. I don't know if we can do business. Four to one? Is it fair?"

"Of course! You can give me your brick and stay with these four. It is a fair exchange."

"Here it is. God bless you."

"Bye, Catherine, and may you always keep your heart pure."



Jeremiah went away and then he read in his new brick, "You are someone very important to God. Jesus loves you."

He looked at the sky and saw *The Truth*. His voice told him, "*I love you, son.*"

To communicate with the neighbor



Jeremiah was beginning to enjoy his experiences. He was seeing that was pleasing to relate with his neighbor and that there were still people who had good bricks to exchange with him.

He said, "Oh! Excuse me!"

"Why don't you look where you're going? You almost walk over me."

"What an exaggeration! We just bumped into each other. What's your name?"

"I'm Amanda and you?"

"I'm Jeremiah and I really need to finish my wall. Can you help me with bricks?"

"I don't understand anything. Why do you not communicate better? In fact, I think there's a lot of dialogue missing these days. That's why my dream is not completed."

"And which is it, Amanda?"

"To teach people to relate well. However, I have had some problems with this. Sometimes, I don't even know what to really say. Is it possible to relate well? Is it God's will that we say openly what we feel? What do I do when someone does something bad? May I speak what I feel too?"

"I've seen that you need my bricks. I'll read the first one for you, 'The man named his wife Eve, because she was the mother of all living' (Gen. 3: 20)."

"So what?"

He explained, "*Eve, Chavvah, means life (Hebrew, 'chay', 'hay'), life-giving, root of life, mother of humankind, mother of all living beings, and derives from the verb 'Chavah', which means 'To declare, to show, to make known, to live.' Chavah is part of the expression 'Lachavot dáat', which means 'to express an opinion.'* Eve talked to Adam (dialogue), which allowed the flow of life in common. Thus, the initial design of God for human beings was communication."

"Hmm... So I can talk."

"There is more, "But I say to you that if you are angry with a brother or sister, you will be liable to judgment; and if you insult a brother or sister, you will be liable to the council; and if you say, 'You fool', you will be liable to the hell of fire. So when you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift. Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are on the way to court with him, or your accuser may hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you will be thrown into prison. Truly I tell you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny'" (Matt. 5: 22-26)."

"So what?"

"It's necessary to be willing to reconcile and not to leave bad marks in the heart of anyone."

"Yeah... Now it became harder."

“But it is not impossible. I’ll read the third brick, “If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector [*A tax collector was a collector of taxes or customs in favor of the Romans; generally, a selfish, greedy and ambitious person, eager for money and for the benefits it offered. So the tax collector was despised and hated by the Jews*]. Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them” (Matt. 18: 15-20).”

“I understood: it is necessary to recognize the error and apologize. It is also allowed to argue those who affront us. It is not sin. And it is advisable to forgive so that a real liberation occurs. But what do I do if the person never comes to ask forgiveness because his pride does not let him see that he was wrong?”

“Those who forgive disconnect themselves from evil, but those who think they did not make a mistake and do not want to ask for forgiveness and do not even need to receive it remain trapped in the very chains they created. Another comment here is that Jesus did not forbid us to ask somebody for an explanation by the wrong things that were done to us. He set us the example on how to take a practical attitude. Who is coward thinks that nothing happened and deceives himself, accepting something that was not good. Who does not listen to the word of God and refuses to correct himself, has already demonstrated that he is a ‘Gentile and a tax collector’, as Jesus said, that is, he does not walk on God’s truth. It is His mediation in our sincere communication and in forgiveness that frees us to be happy. There’s more, ‘Be on your guard! If another disciple sins, you must rebuke the offender, and if there is repentance, you must forgive. And if the same person sins against you seven times a day, and turns back to you seven times and says, ‘I repent’, you must forgive. The apostles said to the Lord, ‘Increase our faith!’” (Lk. 17: 3-5).

“What else?”

Jeremiah read again, “Then Peter came and said to him, ‘Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?’ Jesus said to him, ‘Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times’” (Matt. 18: 21-22).

“And what else?”

“If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all” (Rom. 12: 18).

“Oh! Now I understood. But it takes practice and it is only possible with His help, right? Thank you, Jeremiah, for your explanation. I also think that you have suffered many disappointments in practicing communication. So what you say convinces us that these words are true. I’ll give you my brick in return. Sorry, I just have this one. Okay?”

“This brick is wonderful. I take it. Goodbye, Amanda, lovable, worthy of being loved.”

The Truth said, “Son, what does the brick say?”

“It says, ‘What you say is true. It’s not only by words but by your example, because they are real and alive in you.’”

“I’m glad you begin to realize the type of brick that you are carrying with you. It’ll be a very good wall, Jeremiah.”

“Look ahead. A little girl who also carries bricks.”

“Go there, son, and talk to her. Maybe she needs your bricks. I’m still with you.”



Communicating with sincerity and spontaneity promotes healing and union with God



“May I know what you are doing with so many bricks? What is your name?”

“Raphaëla; and yours?”

“Jeremiah. I’m looking for bricks to put on my wall. Are you doing the same?”

“Yes, but I don’t know where to find the right bricks.”

“Maybe I can help you.”

“I’ll tell you my problem. Often, my spontaneity and sincerity put me in trouble with many people. They are not accustomed to show what they really think or feel. Then, when I show myself to them exactly as I am, I begin to feel different. Tell me one thing. How should we communicate, after all?”

“In fact, continue to show what goes on inside you without hiding anything, especially from God. When we talk to Him exactly what we think or feel, without religiosity, we can achieve the true healing that is already available to us in His kingdom. Read these two bricks. Here they are.”

“Well,

- “Rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing. Who knows whether he will not turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind him, a grain offering and a drink offering for the Lord, your God? (Jl. 2: 13-14).

- “He called a child, whom he put among them, and said, ‘Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven’” (Matt. 18: 2-3).

“Did you see?”

“Gosh! Then, I’m not as weird as I thought.”

“I know the story of a woman who was commended for her spontaneity, and was cured from her sins and her difficulty of relationship. It is here, in the third brick. Read for yourself.”

“Okay. Let’s go, “Now when Jesus learned that the Pharisees had heard, ‘Jesus is making and baptizing more disciples than John—although it was not Jesus himself but his disciples who baptized—he left Judea and started back to Galilee. But he had to go through Samaria. So he came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob’s well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon. A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, ‘Give me a drink’. (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food). The Samaritan woman said to him, ‘How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?’ (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans). Jesus answered her, ‘If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, ‘Give me a drink’, you would have asked him, and he would have given you living

water'. The woman said to him, 'Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?' Jesus said to her, 'Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life'. The woman said to him, 'Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water'. Jesus said to her, 'Go, call your husband, and come back.' The woman answered him, 'I have no husband.' Jesus said to her, 'You are right in saying', 'I have no husband;' 'for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!' The woman said to him, 'Sir, I see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem'. Jesus said to her, 'Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth'. The woman said to him, 'I know that Messiah is coming' (who is called Christ). 'When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us.' Jesus said to her, 'I am he, the one who is speaking to you.' Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, 'What do you want?' or, 'Why are you speaking with her?' Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, 'Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?' They left the city and were on their way to him... Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony, 'He told me everything I have ever done'. So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there two days. And many more believed because of his word. They said to the woman, 'It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world'" (Jn. 4: 1-30; 39-42)."

"Did you pay attention? She was talking to someone she had never seen before, which seemed shameful to others. She did not care to tell the truth about herself, nor with what people would think of her. And suddenly, she received the healing, the respect of all and was still an instrument to heal many people. Cool! Isn't it?"

"Yeah! But I see another brick shining there in your hand. What does it say?"

"This is even hotter, for the spontaneity and the sincerity sprang up from the heart of the very Son of God. He was not ashamed to show that He was in fear and anguish too. Listen, "Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, 'Sit here while I go over there and pray.' He took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be grieved and agitated. Then he said to them, 'I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and stay awake with me.' And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed, 'My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet not what I want but what you want.' Then he came to the disciples and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter, 'So, could you not stay awake with me one hour? Stay awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.' Again he went away for the second time and prayed, 'My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done' (Lk. 22: 43-44: "Then an angel from heaven appeared to him and gave him strength. In his anguish he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down on the ground"). Again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes

were heavy. So leaving them again, he went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words. Then he came to the disciples and said to them, ‘Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? See, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Get up, let us be going. See, my betrayer is at hand’” (Matt. 26: 36-46; Mk. 14: 32-42; Lk. 22: 39-46).”

“It’s chilling, striking!”

“Yeah! That’s why it is written, “Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise. Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective” (Jam. 5: 13-16). Did you see? Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. This is humility: to ask for help when it’s necessary, and recognize that prayer alone will help to fix the error. A huge brick, huh? How do you expect someone to guess what you want, feel, think and need if you don’t talk to the person?”

“Yeah! I learned a lot. Do you want my brick in return? It is smaller, but it’s all I have to give. Oh! What is this? How did you make it grow?”

“It is a matter of giving the correct value. Thank you very much, Raphaela. I see that you were healed and are already healing others. Goodbye, little sister.”



“*Truth!* What is written here? Have you seen? ‘There is a great power in the simplicity and humility that God gave you.’ Is that why you made it grow? I’ve never seen this before.”

“Do you see how appearances can deceive? Man look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart. God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, so that no one might boast in the presence of God. Look! Another little friend needing bricks.”

To communicate with our whole being (our whole body participates in the communication).



Jeremiah said to the girl, “You look scared. What happened?”

“I’m just like that. Before my mouth begins to speak, my body is already showing what I’m feeling. You were talking with those eyes in the sky, weren’t you?”

“Yeah! What’s so strange about that? We talk to whom we want. It’s my friend, *The Truth*. Isn’t He nice?”

“I don’t know. I’m still a little scared. I am Esther, and who are you?”

“I’m Jeremiah and I am in need of healthy relationships that help me put the right bricks on my wall.”

“Umm! What a strange conversation. It sounds like something from Mars. Are you coming from there?”

“Your name is Esther, is it not? I’ve seen that you like to live in the stars. You like different things. Well! I explain. I have a dream, you know? And I need bricks to build my wall. Do you have some to give me?”

“I have only one, but I think it’s I who need bricks to lift up my walls. I seek more sensitive people like me, who ‘catch the fish’ in the air, do you know? But is there anyone like that? Is it normal for people to communicate without speaking?”

“Yes, it is possible, when there is intimacy and spontaneity. The other person understands quickly. I’ll read what is written in this brick for you, “The Lord turned and looked at Peter. Then Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said to him, ‘Before the cock crows today, you will deny me three times.’ And he went out and wept bitterly” (Lk. 22: 61-62).”

“Wow! He just looked and the other one wept.”

“They’ve already known each other for long time and there was no need to say anything else.”

“Is it just the eyes that speak? Is it only through them and through our word that we can communicate?”

“No. Our emotions are also involved. So there is no need to fear them. When they’re in the right hands, they are actually under control of someone much bigger. Did you grasp the meaning of what I said?”

“Of course! You’re talking of your friend, right?”

“Yeah! I know a story about Him and I will tell you. He also wept. There was no need to say anything else. Everybody understood. Do you want to hear it? It says, “When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, ‘Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.’ When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, ‘Where have you laid him?’ They said to him, ‘Lord, come and see.’ Jesus began to weep” (Jn. 11: 32-35).”

“Hmm! I always learned that men do not cry. Strange!”

“There’s more, “As they were leaving Jericho, a large crowd followed him. There were two blind men sitting by the roadside. When they heard that Jesus was passing by, they shouted, ‘Lord, have mercy on us, Son of David!’ The crowd sternly ordered them to be quiet; but they shouted even more loudly, ‘Have mercy on us, Lord, Son of David!’ Jesus stood still and called them, saying, ‘What do you want me to do for you?’ They said to him, ‘Lord, let our eyes be opened.’ Moved with compassion, Jesus touched their eyes. Immediately they regained their sight and followed him (Matt. 20: 29-34)”. Before the blind men see, He touched their eyes, that is, He spoke to the men through His hands. This means that the hands also speak, they communicate and heal. In fact, the whole body of a person can participate in the communication. Looking at his (her) body, we can even say who he (she) is and what he (she) feels or what he (she) lived, isn’t it really?”

“You need to be sensitive to that.”

“Do you want to exchange bricks?”

“Of course! I really enjoyed these. Stay with mine.”

“Goodbye, Esther, may God bless you and use you as light to the world.”



“Didn’t I tell you, *Truth?* There are still people who like the ‘Space.’ It’s good to live free in the stars.”

“I’ve already read the brick. Now it’s your turn.”

“It says, ‘God bless your sensibility, protect it and give you wisdom and mastery to use it.’”

“Let’s go ahead?”

“Our little brother seems angry, huh?”

“He needs a special brick.”

Not to open ourselves fully or not to comply with our word betrays the trust of our neighbor and also prevents him from speaking; it hinders the cure and generates emotional and spiritual barriers.



“Why are you angry? What’s your name?”

“I’m Daniel and I do not think it’s fair.”

“Fair, what?”

“People who do not speak what they truly think or do not allow us to speak openly, do you understand?”

“Apparently, you suffered a few disappointments. But don’t worry about it; there is a solution and an answer. God is fair.”

“Who am I talking to?”

“I’m Jeremiah and I’ve cried a lot because of so much injustice. You need some bricks.”

“What for?”

“Now! Don’t you remember your dream anymore?”

“I had already forgotten it. Yeah! I dream of justice and to have true friends in whom I can trust. We cannot trust anyone these days.”

“I have a very good friend. I trust him completely.”

“Really? Is there still people like that?”

“He is invisible, but when he lives within someone, he makes that person someone trustworthy, do you understand?”

“Explain better.”

“When we don’t have much intimacy with God yet, our own ego directs us. One day we are well, another day is another story. Thus, even unintentionally, we do things that sadden others. So this brick says, ‘The heart is devious above all else; it is perverse—who can understand it? I the Lord test the mind and search the heart, to give to all according to their ways, according to the fruit of their doings’” (Jer. 17: 9-10). The other one complements the reasoning, “Thus says the Lord: Cursed are those who trust in mere mortals and make mere flesh their strength, whose hearts turn away from the Lord. They shall be like a shrub in the desert, and shall not see when relief comes. They shall live in the parched places of the wilderness, in an uninhabited salt land” (Jer. 17: 5-6).”

“Do you know what I dislike? I don’t like a person who doesn’t do what he says. This thing destroys trust in relationships. And then he comes lying and saying, ‘I swear it’s true.’ Or, then, he says, ‘I was in doubt.’ I get nervous with this.”

“Do you know what this brick says? It will comfort your heart and confirm that what you feel is real. Someone had already felt this before, do you know? I will read, ‘Again, you have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, ‘You shall not swear falsely, but carry out the vows you have made to the Lord’ (Lev.19: 12). But I say to

you, ‘Do not swear at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. Let your word be ‘Yes, Yes’ or ‘No, No’; anything more than this comes from the evil one’” (Matt. 5: 33-37) cf. Jam. 5: 12: “Above all, my beloved, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or by any other oath, but let your ‘Yes’ be yes and your ‘No’ be no, so that you may not fall under condemnation.””

“I liked that. So, do I have someone to defend me from these things?”

“Yes. He once said, “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you clean the outside of the cup and of the plate, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence. You blind Pharisee! First clean the inside of the cup, so that the outside also may become clean. Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs, which on the outside look beautiful, but inside they are full of the bones of the dead and of all kinds of filth. So you also on the outside look righteous to others, but inside you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness” (Matt. 23: 25-28). He does not approve hypocrisy. It is not part of healthy communication, neither pleases God.”

“Let’s make an exchange, Jeremiah. You give me these bricks and I give what I have.”

“All right. God bless you, Daniel, and be your judge and your deliverer forever.”



“Did you see? He needed good bricks. What does the brick that he gave you say, son?”

“It says, ‘Through your life I learned what God’s love and justice mean.’”

“Store this one to build your wall.”

“Thank you. Umm! There is someone else over there, quite serious. Come on.”

Preventing someone from talking also prevents the manifestation of his being. His identity, fulfillment and self-esteem are suppressed.



“Hello, can I help you?”

“I don’t know. I feel so small and despised. Who are you and what you can do for me?”

“I’m Jeremiah and I can help you to put some bricks in your destroyed walls.”

“How do you know that my walls are destroyed?”

“Your eyes speak. What’s your name?”

“Asher. Do you know, Jeremiah? I cannot feel myself accomplished because whenever I want to say something or to communicate in a deep way with my friends, something stops me or someone makes me keep my mouth shut. This kind of thing chains me, and I can’t rejoice.”

“I can give you a brick to put an end to this, “But the word of God is not chained” (2 Tim. 2: 9b).”

“Do you mean that I am free to say what I think?”

“You have the release of someone who is greater than anyone or anything to speak what you have in mind, and what He wants you to say. Communicate freely, especially when you have to tell the truth.”

“Do you know someone who overcame this barrier too?”

“Of course! Just listen to what is written in the brick, “Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech [NIV: ... who was deaf and could hardly talk...]; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, ‘Ephphatha’, that is, ‘Be opened.’ And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. They were astounded beyond measure, saying, ‘He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak.’” (Mk. 7: 31-37) ... Listen to another story, “Then they brought to him a demoniac who was blind and mute; and he cured him, so that the one who had been mute could speak and see. All the crowds were amazed and said, ‘Can this be the Son of David?’” (Matt. 12: 22-23).”

“Let me see if I understood. No matter the cause of the blockage; the two men were prevented from being who they really were, right? They couldn’t communicate or say what they wanted, nor work; therefore, nor to be accomplished persons. Probably they felt ‘good for nothing.’ But someone had the power to release them. That’s why you told me that He is greater than any person or hindrance.”

“Another important brick, “I am the Lord your God, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt. Open your mouth wide and I will fill it” (Ps. 81: 10).”

“This one finished with the riddle. Thank you, Jeremiah. Now I understood what I have to do.”

“Goodbye, Asher. Rejoice and be accomplished with the gift that was given to you.”



“I’ll read my brick now, ‘The joy with which you work and your personal fulfillment are an encouragement to me.’ Wow! I never thought to hear this. Only you could write this on a brick to me. Thank you, my good and faithful friend!”

“I can already see one more person ahead who needs your bricks. Go there, I’ll tell you what to say to him.”

The real communication implies telling the truth, which makes us similar to God



“Why are you so quiet? What’s your name?”

“My name is Solomon and I am meditating on the peace that I long for in my relationships.”

“This is good. Are you succeeding?”

“No. That is why I am longing for it. Things don’t always go the way we planned, right? Often we are tempted to do even what we don’t want and then everything goes down the drain. I no longer know what is happening. Everything looked so well. I had so many friends, and suddenly, they didn’t talk to me anymore because of one of them. There is no explanation and I feel insecure and sad. But I still yearn for good. What are you taking out of your bag? You didn’t tell me your name.”

“I’m Jeremiah and I’m taking out some bricks I have to help people to build their walls. Can I read to you?”

“Please. Maybe they show me something.”

Jeremiah read, “Why do you not understand what I say? It is because you cannot accept my word. You are from your father the devil, and you choose to do your father’s desires. He was a murderer from the beginning and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks according to his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of lies. But because I tell the truth, you do not believe me. Which of you convicts me of sin? If I tell the truth, why do you not believe me? Whoever is from God hears the words of God. The reason you do not hear them is that you are not from God.” (Jn. 8: 43-47).

“Who said this?”

“My friend, *the Truth*.” Jeremiah went on reading, “Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me’ (Jn. 14: 6).”

“Now I’m starting to have a light in my mind. I can see where I went wrong and where it is the error of my supposed friends. What else is written on the bricks?”

“Many things,

- “Lying lips are an abomination to the Lord, but those who act faithfully are his delight (Prov. 12: 22).

- “The righteous hate falsehood, but the wicked act shamefully and disgracefully (Prov. 13: 5).

- “There are six things that the Lord hates, seven that are an abomination to him: haughty eyes, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked plans, feet that hurry to run to evil, a lying witness who testifies falsely, and one who sows discord in a family [*NIV, a man who stirs up dissension among brothers*] (Prov. 6: 16-19).

- “I did not speak in secret, in a land of darkness; I did not say to the offspring of Jacob, ‘Seek me in chaos’ [*NIV*, ‘*vain*’]. I the Lord speak the truth, I declare what is right (Isa. 45: 19).

- “These are the things that you shall do: Speak the truth to one another, render in your gates judgments that are true and make for peace, do not devise evil in your hearts against one another, and love no false oath; for all these are things that I hate, says the Lord (Zech. 8: 16-17).”

“Now I know that whoever is truly His has to behave differently. That’s what brings His blessing upon the relationships and encourages the healthy communication. Thank you, Jeremiah, for your help. This is really a gift. Do you accept my single brick?”

“Of course! I was just waiting for it. Goodbye, peaceful man. May the Lord grant you what you asked.”



“How beautiful, son? What does this brick say?”

“It says, ‘May the Lord multiply your gift, quench your thirst and give you peace.’ Yeah! You’re right. When we use our gift correctly and help others, we feel peace.”

“I can already see another little girl who needs your bricks. Go there; I tell you what to talk to her. But this conversation will be longer because she is quite studious and seems to be looking for answers.”

The levels of interpersonal communication. The more carnal we are, the more difficult our communication becomes. The more we sanctify ourselves and surrender to the Holy Spirit, the more we will have satisfactory relationships.



“Hello. What is so interesting about this book? You seem to be looking for something. You’re so focused on it!”

...

“Hey! I’m talking with you; are you listening to me?”

“Oh, I’m sorry! I’m so absorbed. I am studying.”

“Studying what, may I know?”

“Psychology. I think it’s the right book to explain what I need. Who are you?”

“My name is Jeremiah and I’m trying to build my walls; my relationships, you know?”

“My name is Alice and I’m also looking for answers to my relationships.”

“That is good. Are you succeeding?”

“I did not find yet.”

“Your name is Alice, isn’t it?”

“Yes, it’s Alice. Why do you ask?”

“Well! Alice means ‘noble, sincere, protector, defender.’ Are you looking for this for your relationships?”

“You could say that, because I try to be sincere and protect and defend good friendships, but it seems like I’m in a dilemma.”

“How so?”

“To be honest, I’m about to give up on this. How can we talk to someone without disagreeing or arguing? It seems like there are people who are happy to invade our space, you know? They always want to make guesses and end up provoking us into an answer we don’t want to give; and the other relationships we have end up being indirectly compromised. I’m tired of this!”

“Don’t give up. This is difficult for anyone because of our human limitations. Everyone has a temperament, and without knowing *the Truth* things get complicated. But when you are a friend of the Truth, you gain special wisdom for these cases.”

“Is *the Truth* your friend? I would like to meet him.”

“He is very nice. He shows me his eyes when he wants to, but I know he’s always watching me and helping me. He always says, “This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you... By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another” (Jn. 15: 12; Jn. 13: 35).”

“Wow! Tell me more about him. Does he have an answer to my question? How do you deal with such different people without losing your balance?”

“You like psychology, don’t you? So I’m going to show you how human communication works and then you’ll discover why it’s so good to talk to some people, but so difficult with others.”

“Then explain to me.”

“You need to know the levels of communication we reach when we interact with someone. First of all, we need to know our real position in relation to the person we are talking to: if he are an authority over us, if he are a figure of authority like us, but not over us, if we are the authority over him, or if we are at the same level of spiritual growth. Here we are talking about leadership, about whether or not we are subject to counseling, orders or simple guidance, because if we are relating only as brothers and friends, without the intention of directing each other, we begin to occupy a position of equality. Let’s explain better. I’ll tell you the scientific line that I find easiest to understand. All right?”

“Go on.”

“Our mind can be divided into three levels: the child, the adult and the father. This is what was formerly called the unconscious, ego and superego. The child is our unconscious part, where emotions prevail most, in all their spontaneity; whether for the positive or the negative side. The adult corresponds to our conscious, where the most rational and practical things in our life are, where we have maturity and control, self-esteem, professional capacity, etc. The father represents our superego, where there is balanced moral control over our actions, in the positive case, or oppression and repression in sick or negative cases, without the participation of the Spirit of God, where the human being wants to dispute authority with the Lord, with its neighbors and even with itself. Therefore, our total, unconditional and unrestricted surrender to Him is important, because only then will the authority He gave us be exercised as He exercises it: tempered with the mercy and dominion of His own Spirit in accordance with His word. It is in this place where we quickly discover the difference between a carnal authority and one truly appointed by God. The authority coming from God does not repress or oppress us, but corrects us for good, leaving no burden or weight on us. The carnal, on the contrary, burdens us with laws and rules.”

“I understand. Continue.”

“As I said, when we are talking to someone we need to know which level we are in relation to that person. Not that the conversation needs to be static all the time, but the change from one level to another needs to be harmonious. For example: pretend you call a friend and the conversation begins with a tone of joking or good friendship. We are talking, then, at the child’s level, where there is equality, we can play and we don’t need to scold or judge. Then, we start talking about more serious things like family, work, health; then, we move on to the second level of communication where the adult comes in, that is, the questions and answers are more objective and direct, more mature and more consistent. Still at this point, the level is equal. Let’s assume that one of these persons needs counseling at this stage. Then, he or she puts himself/herself back in the position of submission (child) to the other (father) and lets himself/herself be instructed. The other starts to act as a father figure, the first receives guidance and there is no quarrel or discussion, as each one knew how to occupy the correct position. Then, both of you return to the conversation as adults or end the phone call again, maintaining the child’s well-being and friendship. This is what we must have in our relationships with anyone so that we have peace and good friends. When we have the Spirit of God in us, we will know how to instruct and we will allow ourselves to be instructed.”

“And then? What happens when the other person starts wanting to give orders without having authorization to do so?”

“When the other person, without being summoned by God, unduly places himself / herself in a position of authority without being so, then the conversation becomes unequal, because a meaningless discussion begins where pride, false accusations, lies, arrogance and disrespect come into play. What do you think will happen? This person who started the dispute will pull the first one to the father’s level of authority, to be able to defend himself / herself. And if this is a true authority from God, the other will pay the price for insubordination and irreverence. This is the point where Satan corrodes relationships and undermines a leader’s authority if he / she is unaware of the game. If he / she is together with the Holy Spirit, he / she will soon realize and ‘raise the shield;’ otherwise, he / she will be injured. Hence the need for vigilance. This doesn’t just happen to spiritual leaders; also, with all friends and brothers in Christ.”

“Yes, I realize that it is difficult to change someone’s personality.”

“Yes it is! But we can avoid misunderstandings, you know?”

“What do you mean?”

“Sometimes, arguments start because the troublemaker reminds us of someone from our past who did the same thing and that we didn’t like. Or who still lives with us, but doesn’t have the same spiritual tune, can you understand?”

“Oh yes, one is spiritual and the other is carnal!”

“Exactly!”

“And now, what to do?”

“You must have been through many situations like this, but couldn’t identify the reason and ended up hurting yourself or being more incisive with someone you didn’t want. And you may have even felt guilty about something that wasn’t your fault, right?”

“Yes that’s right. I’m now remembering a similar situation and with a person who always does this. She starts the discussion and doesn’t even realize why, because she’s authoritarian and, even though she wants to help, she ends up crossing the line. I’ve cut off my relationship with her several times. But when I try to go back and give it another chance, it’s the same thing again. If only I didn’t care so much about it!...”

“Have you ever prayed for revelation?”

“Of course! I’m just not sure if it was really a revelation?”

“Why?”

“Because I dreamed some strange things, about people far away, even from my childhood, and it wasn’t pleasant at all. It wasn’t a question of forgiving them or not, but rather a nuisance to have to remember that.”

“And were any of their reactions the same as the person you have these problems with?”

“Now that you’re saying it, to be honest, yes. And that always provoked and irritated me. I woke up, sat on the bed and talked to Heavenly Father.”

“And He told you about enemies, didn’t He?”

“How do you know?”

“I’m going to take my last bricks out of the bag. They say,”

- “The Lord has heard my supplication; the Lord accepts my prayer. All my enemies shall be ashamed and struck with terror; they shall turn back, and in a moment be put to shame.” (Ps 6: 9-10).

- “The Lord judges the peoples; judge me, O Lord, according to my righteousness and according to the integrity that is in me. O let the evil of the wicked come to an end, but establish the righteous, you who test the minds and hearts, O righteous God. God is my shield, who saves the upright in heart. God is a righteous judge, and a God who has indignation every day.” (Ps. 7: 8-11).

- “When my enemies turned back, they stumbled and perished before you. For you have maintained my just cause; you have sat on the throne giving righteous judgment.” (Ps 9: 3-4).

- “The wicked shall depart to Sheol, all the nations that forget God.” (Ps. 9: 17).

- “O Lord, look at my affliction, for the enemy has triumphed!” [KJV: O LORD, behold my affliction: for the enemy hath magnified himself; ARA: for the enemy has become insolent] (Lam. 1: 9b).

- “To the roots of the mountains I sank down; the earth beneath barred me in forever. But you, LORD my God, brought my life up from the pit. “When my life was ebbing away, I remembered you, LORD, and my prayer rose to you, to your holy temple. “Those who cling to worthless idols forfeit the grace that could be theirs. But I, with a song of thanksgiving, will sacrifice to you. What I have vowed I will make good. Salvation comes from the LORD.” And the LORD commanded the fish, and it vomited Jonah onto dry land.” (Jon. 2: 6-10 – NIV).

“Jeremiah! They all talk about enemies and the malice of the wicked, but also about God’s justice, do you understand? What does this have to do with the person I have problems with and the dream about my family?”

“Alice! You’ve already discovered what attitudes you didn’t like in your family, haven’t you? And you discovered the same characteristic in this person, correct? And you said you’ve already forgiven them all, didn’t you?”

“Yes, but why do they still bother me? And why do the bricks talk about enemies?”

“Because our true enemy is not of flesh and blood; You realized that we are talking about attitudes that disturb. Demons insist on controlling the emotions of human beings. Did you realize?”

“Of course! So, our enemy is spiritual, and even knowing that we have a powerful Lord, he still becomes insolent and wants to touch us. But how does he do this?”

“Most people are born into a family that does not know *the Truth* and continue to repeat the same attitude they saw in their ancestors and this continues for several generations. When someone ‘wakes up’ from this unconsciousness and tries to do something different from their relatives, this enemy doesn’t like it and starts to touch the memories that the person has carried with him since he was born, but lived among his family and relatives. We are not always aware of all the difficult situations in our lives, but they are there. Some don’t matter much because they didn’t leave an emotional impact on us. Others, however, bother us, because they were ‘imposed’ on us, at a time when we did not have knowledge of *the Truth*. It is an experience that entered our lives at a time where we didn’t have the free will to say ‘I don’t want’, ‘I didn’t choose.’ But the children of God have knowledge of the spiritual world, they know that there are emotional and spiritual ties that often last and that for each of them and for each memory of them there is a revelation, a prayer and a specific deliverance from God. This freedom is achieved as we grow with *the Truth*; our salvation is being perfected. Even seeing the Lord’s seal of lordship on our forehead, the enemy still tries to deceive us and pull us into the past, often using people who do not want to evolve spiritually with God or using the unconscious memories in our Nervous System, where we have no conscious reach today. Therefore, in every battle we face and in every revelation we receive, we have to eliminate oppression, fears, threats, etc. that have affected us in the past. Spiritually we were freed from all this, but our soul still maintains the old memory and behavior, needing to be recycled. In other words, we need to touch our internal memories to receive something comforting directly from God, because with Him on our side, we have the option to do differently. He can help us close gaps in our soul and

have new experiences to replace the old ones. Now, knowing this, we know how to defend ourselves, you know? Do you know how?"

"Yes, I can imagine; with the words of the bricks. With faith, or rather, with a greater degree of it, the gift of faith."

"That's it."

"Did you notice, Jeremiah, that the words are written in red, as if in blood?"

"Hallelujah! You realized the antidote to fight the enemy: the blood of *the Truth*. He died for us on a cross so that we could be healed of our wounds in body, soul and spirit. With the wounds healed, the enemy can no longer create trouble for us. No medicine and no human word have this power; only the blood of *the Truth*. Only this holy blood can reach our family roots and our path of life, even our future, for we need to sow today for the future; sow to correct the error of the past and acquire the values of the kingdom of God. His blood in our unconscious memories, already automated, so to speak, sets us free. Did you notice the words on the last brick? As he did with Jonah, the Lord will command the great fish 'to vomit us onto dry land', that is, to free us. From there you can see what God has given you and what you are in His eyes."

"Now I get it. I ask Him to shed His blood within me, forgive my sins and cleanse me of my old habits, so that I do not imitate my ancestors, and that He gives me His wisdom to talk to people today and take different actions. Who knows, maybe I can see His eyes like you do, Jeremiah, and talk to Him too!"

"You can. He's looking at you now. He heard all this talk and is cleaning and healing your wounds. Keep talking to Him and He will show Himself to you. I have one last brick to give you as a guarantee of healing for you."

"And what does it say?"

"The LORD appeared to us in the past, saying: 'I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with unfailing kindness. I will build you up again, and you, Virgin Israel, will be rebuilt. Again you will take up your timbrels and go out to dance with the joyful.'" (Jer 31: 3-4 – NIV)."

"Thank you, Jeremiah. But I only have one brick to give you."

"It's more than enough for me. Be at peace, girl of noble blood, sincere daughter of God, protector of the weakest and defender of *the Truth*."



"Perfect, son! Let's go back home? I think that now you have what you need to complete your wall. After all, the big stone has already been removed. What it's written on this brick?"

"It says: 'Your intimacy with God revives in everyone's hearts the desire to be His too.'"

"Hey! Where did you go now?"

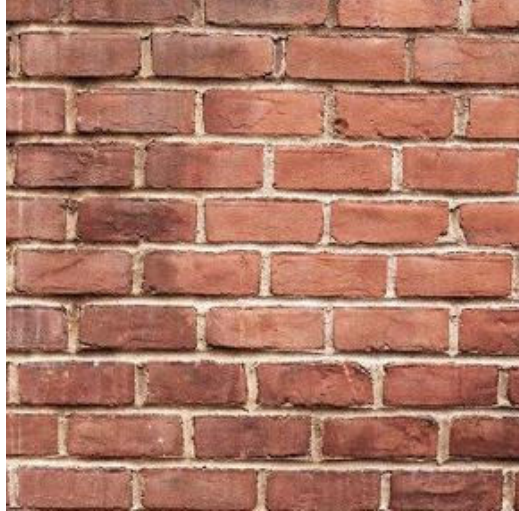
After a while...

"What joke is this? Did you arrive first than I? And why did you not appear to the others as well?"

“I never arrive late. Besides, I wanted you to feel safe and at ease with them, without my presence there in a visible way.”

“What do I do now?”

“Let’s go to your land to lay the bricks on the wall.”



Jeremiah went and began to work. After all, now he had the correct bricks and it would be easier to finish what he needed. Finally, he finished. Really, that place could be called a good land!

How beautiful it was! But something was still missing: other children to play with him in his garden. When would they come? He waited a little longer and began to hear their voices and their laughter. This was real, not a dream. They came and filled the garden. Jeremiah was no longer a lonely boy. Now he had someone to talk to, because God had set His sovereign will there. He had friends who felt the same need than he and would fill it. There was a difference between to speak alone and to talk with someone. Before, he only spoke; but now there was a conversation because there was an exchange. His mourning was turned into laughter by his best friend: *The Truth*. He would keep his walls protected and would bring other children to play with him.

