What Happens When God Speaks? Part 2
Deuteronomy 6:10-25

Scripture Focus
Deuteronomy 6:10-25

Key Verse
Deuteronomy 6:12

TDM Competency
Relate Biblically: Nurture relationships that reflect the supremacy of Christ through marriage, family, church, and community investments.

Overview
The tendency of every person is to forget the works of God and become self-sufficient. Moses called the people of God to intentionally and continuously remind themselves of God’s work, so that they would remain dependent on Him. It is in man’s sinful nature to seek independence. Often in times of ease and prosperity brought about by God, man will turn from God and profess his own independence.

Theme
God will be rightly represented by His people or He will punish His people. God expects His people to obey His Word. When God speaks, He does so in order that His people will know His will and follow Him submitting to Him as Lord.

Desired Learner Response [Aiming at the Heart for Life Transformation]
Response: To relate biblically to God by knowing His expectations, obeying Him and passing His Word to the next generation.

Note to Teacher: In response to incredibly helpful feedback from teachers, the TDM lessons will be limited to a maximum of 5 pages. Thank you, teachers, for your continued feedback.

Outline
I. Fact Is Spoken (v. 22)
   II. Fear Is Invoked (vv. 23-27)
   III. Faithfulness Is Required (5:28–6:9)
IV. **Fulfillment Is Inevitable (6:10-25)**

A. The conquest of the land would not include destruction of Canaanite towns, houses, cisterns, and other facilities. God would allow those items to remain in order to immediately provide for His people.

**Ask:** How has God provided for you and your family? Allow one or two people to share a testimony regarding God’s provisions.

B. Moses wanted the Israelites to keep before them the understanding that God was in control of their conquest (vv. 10-12).

1. God was responsible for providing all they would have in the Promised Land. This lesson is one that we must not overlook in our own lives. We have nothing apart from the intervention of God. Even when that which is in our possession seems to have been acquired through natural causes like work, gifts from others, etc., we must remember that all we have is from God. Putting our possessions in right perspective is key to rightly relating to God.

2. Moses repeatedly reminded the people: “Do not forget.” It is the sinful tendency of man to become self-sufficient in times of economic and physical well-being. *Lead* your class to see that all of us have the sinful inclination toward self-sufficiency. We must intentionally remind ourselves of the hand of God in our lives and that everything in our lives is by His grace.

**Ask:** Have you gone through a period in life when all was going well and you began to move towards self-sufficiency rather than depending on God?

**Note:** We must constantly stay on guard to the tendency towards self-sufficiency.

3. Israel’s confidence to conquer and control the land was:

   A. Based on the Lord’s promises (v. 10). *Emphasize* to your class that anytime God acts, it is a demonstration of His nature. In this verse, His actions demonstrate that He is faithful to His promise. It is easy to put man’s blessings as the central focus of this passage, but that would be an improper way to study the Bible. Central to this text is the character of God. He is always faithful to carry out all that He promises to do. *Encourage* your class to give thanks to God for He is perfectly consistent in a world that is constantly inconsistent.

   B. All the blessings that the Children of Israel were about to receive were exclusively based on God’s initiative in leading the way, not in anything they had earned (v. 10). *Reaffirm* to your class that the blessings of God in our lives are not earned but given by God because He is merciful and gracious.

4. Read Hebrews 6:13-18. **Note** that although there is faithfulness on the part of man in the blessings of God, the emphasis is that God demonstrates His giving nature based on His own initiative.
C. God would not only provide land but also all those products of the labor and achievement that had taken the Canaanites centuries to build. Again, the focus is not on the blessings given to Israel. Rather, rooted in the promise of God to Abram in Genesis 12:1-3, God put Israel in a position in which to make them a great and blessed nation. He allowed the material possessions to remain in Canaan in order to continue His promise of raising a people that would represent Him in the entire world. The provisions would allow them to concentrate on being obedient, worshipful people of God without the burden of physically building the city’s infrastructure. The material blessings served as a means by which they could devote themselves to the Lord.

**Ask:** How can we use that which God provides as a means to serve Him?

**Note:** We must view the material blessings in our lives as a means by which we can serve and honor the Lord rather than items given to us to satisfy ourselves. It may just be that God has given us all we need to serve Him, yet we continue to spend time and energy pursuing more stuff than God intended for us to use to serve Him.

D. This lack of physical destruction was unprecedented in warfare and was a testimony of God’s intervention and power. (See items preserved in v. 11.)

E. Moses provided yet another reminder to stay faithful (vv. 13-15).

1. The only way they could prevent the potential for the spiritual amnesia in v. 12 was to continually renew their commitment to obedience, faithfulness and love. We must not give way to the temptation to believe that we are without the capacity to rebel against God. Daily, we must yield our will to His will, recognizing that our hearts are bent towards rebelling against God.

2. Moses commanded the people to:
   
   A. Fear God: They were to never respond to God in a casual way but rather to live under the knowledge that God would punish people that rebel against Him. We have reduced the fear of God in today’s church culture to only having respect for Him. It is much more than respect. Fearing God includes a realization that God will hold us accountable to obey Him. Just because we are under grace does not mean we can live as we sinfully desire. God punishes His children when they disobey, and sometimes that punishment is severe. Fearing God includes not only respect but also a healthy concern that God will punish us when we disobey Him (v. 13a).

   B. Serve God: Faithfulness to God is never confined to a vocal confession or a heart inclination. Faithfulness to God is demonstrable by action (v. 13b). **Ask:** What are you and/or your family doing that demonstrates you are faithful to God? **Ask:** If you eliminate anything that takes place on church property or as a church-planned function, what are you and/or your family doing that demonstrates you are faithful to God?

   C. Swear by God: They were to do nothing that was inconsistent with God’s nature or His commands. All that Israel would commit
themselves to was to be precisely in line with God’s Word (v. 13c).

3. It is common for God’s people to develop “spiritual amnesia” after their deliverance. **Ask:** Has there been a time in your life where you had a greater sense of dependency on God than other times? **Note:** Scripture does not give a description of someone growing less dependent on God, but rather emphasizes increasingly realizing our own insufficiency, thus increasingly depending on His sufficiency. Certainly there are times of trials that cause us to recognize our dependency on God. However, it is not consistent with God’s expectations for our lives if we revert back to more self-sufficiency after the trial has passed. The trials teach us the level of dependency on Christ we are to continuously have.

F. Moses recalled the first two commandments (vv. 14-15).
   1. Moses simply rephrased the first commandment.
   2. Moses emphasized God’s judgment and punishment of His people who break their loyalty to Him alone. God will not be misrepresented by His people but will act in a way that upholds His righteous standard.
   3. To sin in either way was to forget the source of blessing and invite the covenant curse of removal from the land. They would not be allowed to live as citizens in God’s land when they did not act like children of God. This removal from the land did not imply they would be removed as the people of God but rather affirmed that they were the people of God for God punishing His disobedient people.
   **Note:** When people face the chastisement of God, it is not an opportunity to question if God has forsaken them but rather evidence that they belong to God. God punishes His children as any loving father punishes children that he loves.

G. To test God is to make demands on Him that are contrary to His nature (vv. 16-17).
   1. Demanding evidence of God’s care for His people trivializes the power and promises of God. God’s people are to trust that He will always act in perfect harmony with His perfect nature. Even when life’s circumstances seem contrary to what we think God will do, we are to trust that He will never do what is contrary to who He is.
   2. When we test God it is as if we doubt whether He is faithful to His revealed character. It is as if we are asking if He really is holy, perfect, loving, caring, compassionate, etc. This type of questioning is dangerous for it is a passive way of calling God a liar.
   3. Matthew 4:7
   4. Exodus 17:7 – They wanted supernatural intervention to satisfy their spiritual curiosity.

H. Favorable results, based on the people doing what is “right and good,” reveal the conditional aspect of the covenant (vv. 18-19).
   1. God’s promises to the fathers were unconditional. God would raise up a people for Himself. He would bring them into a Promised Land. He would establish through them a kingdom that will know no end.
2. All generations of Israel could receive the blessings by faith. Every generation of Israel could be a part of that which God promised to do, but He required their obedience to His Word as the means by which they could participate in His plan.

3. Failure to be faithful would result in judgment but never cancel the purpose of God for His people. The purpose of God for His people was for Him to make His power known to the entire world. A disobedient people would receive the powerful retribution of God, thus His plans were never thwarted whether they obeyed or disobeyed.

Ask: What makes us doubt God?

Note: God is always true to His Word. We often doubt God when events occur in our lives that bring about sorrow, suffering and pain. It is imperative for the believer to ask, “How can I rightly represent Christ in the midst of this trial?” Since our lives are not our own, we do not ask for gain or relief for the sole purpose of personal satisfaction but rather that the greatness of God may be revealed in all our circumstances.

I. The people were again reminded of their responsibility to pass God’s plan and promises to succeeding generations (vv. 20-25).

1. This transmission was to be done through reciting God’s acts in the past to future generations. Just as we saw in 6:7, God’s call to His people included the continual passing of His testimony to the next generation. It is a fundamental purpose of every generation of believers to pass the Word of God to the next generation. No believer is exempt from this responsibility.
   A. II Timothy 2:2
   B. Titus 2:1-10

2. The answer to the children’s questions would be provided in story form.

3. A summary statement of the entire narrative is, “He brought us out…to bring us in” (v. 23). This is the testimony of every believer. God brought us out of guilt and death that He might bring us into innocence in Christ and eternal life. Salvation is by grace through faith. All men stand before God guilty of breaking His law and rightly deserving of eternal death. Jesus took our death penalty and guilt on the cross so that we might be forgiven and declared innocent in Him. We are to share that story with every person in every generation.

J. Moses attempted to make clear that covenant keeping is a vehicle by which genuine saving faith might be displayed, not a means to gain salvation. Salvation has always been by grace through faith and not of any works (vv. 24-25).

Ask: Have you recognized any self-sufficiency in your life?

Ask: Will you repent of that self-sufficiency, recognizing that it offensive to God and damaging to your call to represent Him well to the world?