



HOAW Newsletter

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HELPING MEN LIVE LIVES OF INTEGRITY AND HONOR

Communication Fidelity

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Currently, we are experiencing unprecedented unbridled and unrestrained communication in the form of manipulated misinformation or the suppression of free speech. Such communication is too often used to mislead or hurt the respondent. The power of the tongue can heal or destroy. **Proverbs 12:18** - "There is one whose rash words are like sword thrusts, but the tongue of the wise brings healing."

Other scripture cautions us to watch what we say.

Proverbs 10:20; 13:3; 29:20 "The words of a good person are like pure silver, but an evil person's thoughts are worth very little. Whoever guards his mouth preserves his life; he who opens wide his lips comes to ruin. Do you see a man who is hasty in his

words? There is more hope for a fool than for him."

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Ephesians 4:29 "Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear."

Colossians 3:8; 4:6 "But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth... Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person."

James 3:3-6; 9-12 When we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we can turn the whole animal. Or take ships as an example. Although they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are

steered by a very small rudder wherever the pilot wants to go. Likewise, the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts. Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark. The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole body, sets the whole course of one's life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell."... "With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse human beings, who have been made in God's likeness. Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this should not be. Can both fresh water and salt water flow from the same spring? My brothers and sisters, can a fig tree bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Neither can a salt spring produce fresh water."

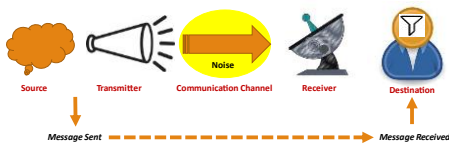
1 Peter 3:9 "Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult. On the contrary, repay evil with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing."

In this day, we often communicate our thoughts and feelings through Facebook, Twitter, others social media and email. Sometimes, we hide behind our screens and communicate things we would not communicate in person for good or for bad.

Communication between God and us, or between another person and ourselves, can easily be misrepresented, misunderstood, or manipulated for purposes of ill will or harm.

Communication is the process of transfer of information from sender to receiver. **Communication fidelity** (the degree of exactness with which something is copied or reproduced; the integrity of the message) depends on how the message and the attending noise is filtered when received. Godly wisdom informed by God and His word, is the best means of separating interfering noise from the message itself.

Communication Elements



For purposes of illustration, let's assume the **SOURCE** is another person and the message he seeks to send is his understanding of a specific scriptural passage. He **TRANSMITS** his message via a computer. The **COMMUNICATION CHANNEL** he has chosen for his message is email.

In a nutshell, communication channels are mediums through which you can send a message to its intended audience. For example, phone calls, text messages, emails, video, radio, and social media are all types of communication channels.

Attending the message is the **NOISE** in the communication channel itself (i.e., distortion, misspelled words, capitalization for emphasis, use of underscoring or bold text, use of emoji's, selection of supporting passages that only back the conclusions of the sender, colloquialisms, idioms, etc.). This noise can change the intended purpose of the message sender altogether.

The **RECEIVER** is the computer of the person who has been sent the message. The receiver also includes the eyes, mind, and heart at the **DESTINATION**, which in this situation is you. The message received is processed through a **FILTER** of notions that come from one's culture, family environment, theological position, spiritual and personal maturity, intellect, etc. These notions can influence what is read and misinterpret entirely what was intended by the person sending the message depending on the **NOISE** in the **COMMUNICATION CHANNEL** and the **FILTERS** existing in the mind and heart of the person receiving the message.

The bookends of any communication include a **SOURCE** and a **DESTINATION**.

All communication begins with a **SOURCE**. There are many sources. For our purposes, let's define these sources as **God** (and His word), the **world** (culture, philosophies, ideologies), the **flesh** (messages we give to ourselves), or the **devil** and his minions.

The **DESTINATION** for communication may be a particular audience, a specific group, or a person.

Regardless of the **SOURCE**, the message can be communicated

verbally, non-verbally, in writing, visually or electronically.

When I was trained as a naval intelligence officer, I was taught that nonverbal communication was often more revealing of the true intention of the message bearer, than what was actually said.

For instance, someone who is lying might stare or look away at a crucial moment — a possible sign they're moving their eyes around as they try to think about what to say next. The research conducted by Geiselman at UCLA corroborated this, finding that people sometimes look away briefly when lying.

Roughly 65% of our communication is non-verbal. Non-verbal communication might include facial expressions, tone of voice, movement, appearance, eye contact, gestures, or posture.

When we communicate by means other than in person, where body language cannot be observed, nonverbal's are not helpful in determining the true intent of the communication.

'Noise' in the **COMMUNICATION CHANNEL** between transmission and reception can distort or clarify the transmitted message. The **NOISE** can be cultural, political, theological, personal, or spiritual.

The message can be misrepresented, garbled, altered, twisted, changed, falsified, misleading or interfere with the true intention of the transmitted message when the **COMMUNICATION CHANNEL** is compromised by untruths or lies. This interference can be mediated or clarified by tuning your listening skills through the discipline of seeking the truth. This can be done by asking questions such as "Did I

understand you correctly? Let me repeat back what I heard you say, what I understand you to mean.”

Another approach may be to simply ask, “What is informing your message, what circumstances are influencing your remarks, what supports your argument, what is influencing your comments?” Determining what shapes the messenger’s observations or proclamations will help you better understand their true intent. Are their comments based on truth or fiction? Is the message based on personal bias, incorrect perceptions, or uninformed observations? What merit should you, the hearer, attach to the remarks?

Any communication is impacted by the ‘noise’ interference represented by the FILTERS in place between the transmission of information and the reception of that information.

Interfering NOISE could be language barriers, ethnicity, social and cultural values, environmental factors, intellect, maturity, personal bias or presuppositions, emotions, distractions, motives, worldview, theological frameworks or conflicts, physical impairments, sin, or influences from the world, the flesh or the Enemy and his minions.

The NOISE can exist in the message itself, the channel by which it is communicated, in the receiver, or in the individual who is the destination of the message.

To mediate the NOISE interference, an understanding of the facts, evidence available, Scripture, and a Biblical worldview; the lens through which we make sense of our observations from God’s point of view. What we choose to inform, condition, and establish our understanding will

provide counsel to how we interpret what we hear or read.

Questions to ask ourselves or the one communicating with us...

- What informs your comments?
- What is the source of your information?
- What are the facts that support your contentions?
- What does the Bible say about the matter?
- What is truth and what is fiction?
- What are my or the messenger’s biases or predispositions on the matter?
- What is the purpose or objective of the communication?
- How is God honored by the conversation?
- Is the intent to build up or tear down?
- What are the motives behind the communication?
- What am I being asked to do with the message communicated?
- Is the request made of me spiritually and biblically sound?
- What filters am I using that may distort the message I am receiving?

Answers to these questions should give you the information you need to either disregard or consider the import of the message received, or to limit the influence of negative factors that are interfering or distorting the message.

The RECEIVER can be our eyes, ears, our brain, our mind, and/or our heart. Whatever is received must be evaluated and tempered by wisdom; more specifically godly wisdom, not worldly wisdom.

Paul, the Apostle, equates **worldliness** with spiritual immaturity in [1](#)

[Corinthians 3:1-3](#), where he addresses the believers in the church of Corinth in regard to their worldly behavior. Though they were believers—he calls them “brothers”—they were spiritual babies who could not understand the deep things of God that Paul wished to share with them. They had never progressed past learning the basics of the faith and were seemingly content to remain there. This lack of maturity led to their behaving as though they were still part of the unsaved world. They quarreled among themselves as to which of them was greater because of which of the apostles they followed ([1 Corinthians 1:11-13; 3:4](#)), when in reality they followed none of them, following instead their own lusts and desire to elevate themselves above others. Paul exhorted them to grow up and mature in the faith so they would cease from worldly behavior. The epistles depict worldliness as the exact opposite of godliness. The world’s wisdom is not wisdom at all ([1 Corinthians 3:18-19](#)). ***“Let no one deceive himself. If anyone among you thinks that he is wise in this age, let him become a fool that he may become wise. For the wisdom of this world is folly with God. For it is written, “He catches the wise in their craftiness...”***

“Godly wisdom is, of course, from God and honors God. Godly wisdom starts with the fear of God and results in a holy life. Worldly wisdom, on the other hand, is not concerned with honoring God but with pleasing oneself. With worldly wisdom, we may become educated, street-smart, and have “common sense” that enables us to play the world’s game successfully. Godly wisdom enables us to prepare ourselves for eternity. With godly wisdom, we trade earthly values for biblical values ([1 John 2:15-16](#)). We recognize we are

citizens of another kingdom, and we make choices that reflect that allegiance (*Philippians 1:27; 3:20*). Having godly wisdom means we strive to see life from God's perspective and act accordingly." GotQuestions.org The message we receive should always be processed through mediated by the FILTER of godly wisdom. God and His word are the sources of godly wisdom.

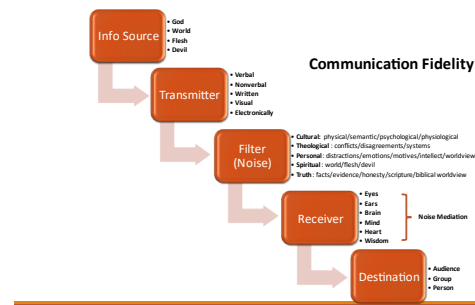
James 1:5 tells us that if you ask for wisdom, God will give it generously without finding fault: **"If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him."**

When the information conveyed is processed through the FILTER of godly wisdom, the action(s) you take will become obvious.

Possible Actions:

- Disregard the message entirely because any response will be misunderstood or co-opted for further harm.
- Determine the truth of or within the comments and respond accordingly, in accordance with godliness.
 - ✓ What is worth retaining?
 - ✓ What should be discarded?
 - ✓ What should be further investigated?
- Forward the correspondence to higher authority if deemed harmful or threatening. Stop any further communication with the messenger.
- Always bath your response in prayer and in consultation with God's word.

The message sent by the SOURCE may or may not be the message received at the DESTINATION (i.e., an audience, group, or person).



In summary, any communication process includes the interaction between a SOURCE (God, the world, the flesh, the Enemy), a TRANSMITTER (message bearer using verbal, nonverbal, written, visual or electronic modes of communication), NOISE (cultural circumstances and values, personal biases, spiritual factors, theological frameworks) hopefully mediated by godly wisdom, RECEIVER (eyes, ears, brain, mind, heart), and DESTINATION (audience, group, person).

The goal is to process communication through the filter of godly wisdom from God and His word to determine the appropriate response.

OTHER NEWS



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Heart of a Warrior Ministries offers four journeys you can take to

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Go to our website for more details.

www.heartofawarrior.org/journeys/

If you would like to contact me directly, email me at

Greg@HeartofaWarrior.org



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depends on the resources we can use to that end. Simply go to the donations tab on heartofawarrior.org. Thank you for being a subscriber.

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