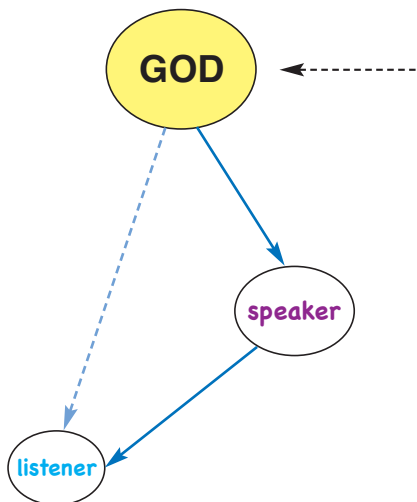
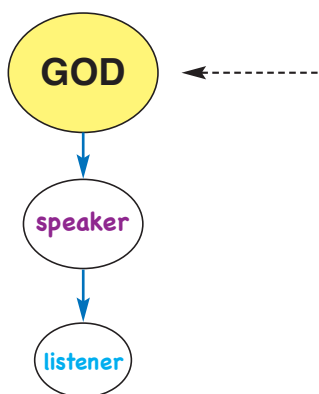




**What if** a speaker asks many questions in sermons, as I do?

*Why do I ask lots of questions?*



**.. Some will probably say, "These was Bible studies not real sermons."**

.. because questions are associated more with Bible studies than sermons.

**.. There are reasons why some are uncomfortable with questions.**

.. because many do not know the Bible well

.. because of the nature of the top-down education system

.. because some people are tired or do not feel well

.. because it is more difficult to think for yourself

.. because it is uncomfortable to think about personal responsibility

**.. The main reason I ask many questions is because of how I view sermons.**

.. Diagram: Most people think of a sermon this way . . .

.. top-down, three circles diagram

.. from God -- to speaker -- to listener

**.. the problem with this common view**

.. This assumes that the listener can not get anything from text himself.

.. It assumes he is totally dependent on the speaker.

.. It ignores the direct connection between listener and God.

.. Believers have a direct connection to God,

.. and the Holy Spirit works on the hearts of unbelievers.

.. The common view (in part) reflects Roman Catholic thinking.

.. with only the priest being able to receive truth directly from God

.. In East Asia, this common view probably reflects Confucianism.

**.. a corrected sermon diagram**

.. This has an additional dotted line between God and the listener.

.. 1 John 2:27 fits this chart -- rejecting the need of false teacher

.. The relative level of the speaker and listener varies with maturity.

.. Mature believers will be on the same level with the speaker.

.. New believers will be at a much lower level (as shown on the left).

**.. What am I trying to do by using questions and teaching methods?**

.. I am encouraging listeners to learn directly from God themselves.

.. I am encouraging listeners to ask and answer questions themselves.

**.. Applications**

.. Don't despise questioning.

.. Don't depend totally on the speaker!

.. If the speaker doesn't ask an application question,

.. ask yourself one. "What does God want me to do?"

.. If the message is poor or difficult to understand,

.. don't just find fault.

.. Get your own message from the passage!

.. THINK! God wants His people to think!