



Dove or Owl?

The way a person says something can communicate emotion as well as ideas. For example, a child may pick up on his mother's anxiety because of her tone of voice even if her words are reassuring. Can you think of some other examples of times when a person's tone of voice may "give away" more of what he or she is feeling than the words do?

There is an interesting passage in the Heavenly Doctrine about how our speech—the sound of our voice—has the sound of a dove or an owl before the Lord and the angels.

The reason why the worship of the mouth is accepted by the Lord according to the worship of the life, is because the speech of a person before God, and before angels, has its sound from the affection of his love and faith, and these two are in a person according to his life. If the love of God and faith in Him are in your life, the sound of your voice will be like that of a dove. But if self-love and self-confidence are in your life, the sound of your voice will be like that of an owl, howsoever you may bend your voice to imitate the voice of a turtle-dove (Brief Exposition 52).

Think about your communication with the people you love and the people with whom you work. Are there times when your voice is tinged with impatience or anxiety or irritation? This may be appropriate in some situations but counter-productive in others. In the boxes below, write down words that you could imagine someone saying with a voice like an owl or a voice like a dove.

<p>Like an Owl</p> 	 <p>Like a Dove</p>

Try to have the love of God in your life so that you may worship the Lord with your life and your mouth—having the voice of a dove.