

Simone spoke up to a dog

I was in the back yard watering with a hose when I saw Simone over by the hedge. Simone spoke first.

The words Simone said **look like this.**

The words that I said **look like this.**

If you'll shut off that water and come here where it's dry, I'll talk to you.

(That's what I did.)

How are you, Simone?

I'm very brave.

Why do you say you're brave?

Because I told a dog what I thought.

Oh. Did the dog chase you?

No, not this dog. He's too lazy to chase me.

What happened? Tell me about it.

It was last night. I was sitting and looking at the sky the way I do, and having that special feeling, you know, about what you humans call, you know...

God?

Yes. And then this dog, on the back porch of a house right beside me started barking. I looked up and said, politely, "Why are you barking?"

What did the dog say?

The dog said, "I'm barking because I saw you just sitting there and it looked boring so I decided to give you some excitement, so I barked at you." Then I told the dog that I was sitting there being quiet and having a special feeling, and please be quiet.

Then what did the dog say?.

Something not very nice. I don't want to say it. So I told the dog that I was having a special feeling about how beautiful everything is, and where it came from, and feeling special like where it came from was right there all around me in a wonderful way.

So the dog stopped barking to let you do that?

No. The dog said some more not nice things, and told me I was crazy to think that way. So I told the dog that even if it didn't know about my special feelings it could at least make it nicer for me by being quiet, please.

And then did the dog stop barking?

Well, the dog said, "I don't care about things being nicer for anyone, especially you. I just want things to be nice for me." I thought that was an ugly way to think, but then, after a couple more barks, it did stop.

You were brave, Simone. Good for you for standing up for what you believe.

I wasn't standing up. I was sitting down. Though then I walked away and went somewhere else to sit.

Here's prayer about being brave, like Simone was. You can say it, or just think it, or just read it. But it's a prayer so I hope you will want to think or say it to God, as your prayer about the way you want to be.

***Thank you, God
that we can believe in you,
and can believe in making life better for everyone.
Help us to know what we believe,
and to be brave enough to say it,
and to do it,
even if some people think we're crazy.***

Want to hear more **Simone** stories? come to Esquimalt United Church for our Sunday Service starting at 10:45 a.m.
500 Admirals Road, Victoria, BC

P.S. It is not every Sunday that Ted Bristow has the children time, so if you are in luck you might hear a Simone story the Sunday you come. Otherwise you have to come back the following Sunday and see if Ted is there.

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