



A MINUTE WITH MISS LINDA



“How God Speaks To Us”

Does God speak to us? Are those who say that God speaks to them total nut jobs? Let's look into this and try to find some help for those

who want to hear the voice of God but struggle to do so.

First, we need to start by coming into agreement with God about this. The Bible makes it very clear that God does speak to us and we are not weird if we believe this.

John 10:27 KJV

My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me...

John 16:13 KJV

13 Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, **that shall he speak...**

Second, if you want to hear God's voice you need to get still before the Lord. Most of us would agree that our lives have become very busy and cluttered. Some of this is unavoidable, but we need to understand that this hinders our ability to hear God

when He is speaking because He doesn't shout. (More on this later) This is why it is good to find some time each day to be still before the Lord. My husband calls it his, "quiet time".

Next, we need to understand how God speaks. People often struggle because they think if God speaks it will be in an audible voice. I am not sure if this was how God spoke to His servants in the Old Testament, but it is not how He speaks to us today. **Today we have the Holy Spirit living inside of us and because of this, the voice of God comes not as an external voice, but as an internal feeling or impression.** If you are waiting to hear the audible voice of God you will probably have to wait until you get to heaven.

Another mistake people make is to follow a popular teaching that says we should ask the Lord to speak and then the first thought that pops into our mind will be God speaking. This terrifying teaching cannot be supported by scripture and my husband says that if he had followed this teaching he would probably be in jail! I personally believe that many times this is why the 'words' people claim God gave them seem so bizarre. They are not true words from God but rather thoughts that people conjure up in their own minds.

To help you sort this all out and begin to understand how to determine if God is speaking, I am going to start using some different terminology.

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Words like, "**speak**" or "**hear**" are things we do every day in the natural realm, but when God speaks it is different. God speaks to our spirit and not our flesh. So, I am going to start using words like, "**nudge**" or "**feel**" because this best describes how God speaks to us. As an example, instead of saying, "God said" I will say, "I felt". Hopefully, this will make hearing God's voice more understandable. Let me give you some examples.

One evening I **felt** (God said) I needed to call a friend, so after several internal promptings, I obeyed. Imagine my shock when she told me that her mom had passed away the day before. She was so blest to know that God cared so much that He would have someone call who knew nothing about her mom's passing. God is amazing!

Another time the Lord **impressed me** (told me) to FB message a dear friend. I acted on what I felt impressed to do. She wrote back that she had just had a heart attack the day before and that the doctors were saying she would need to get some stents put in. She too was blown away by the timing of my message. Another time I **was "nudged"** (told) to message someone I had been praying for and found out their divorce had been finalized that very day.

I want to spend a moment talking about the word, "**nudged**". I like using that word because it best describes how gentle the Holy Spirit is. **He does not, "shove" you, He "nudges" you.** This is confirmed by Elijah's encounter with the Lord.

1 Kings 19:11-12 KJV

11....And, behold, the LORD passed by, and a great and strong wind rent the mountains, and brake in pieces the rocks before the LORD; but the LORD was not in the wind: and after the wind an earthquake; but the LORD was not in the earthquake:

12 And after the earthquake a fire; but the LORD was not in the fire: **and after the fire a still small voice.**

God spoke to Elijah with a whisper and that is usually how He speaks to us. **He does not shove or shout, but gently nudges us internally.** This may not seem as exciting as hearing a loud booming voice, but every time it happens I am profoundly impacted because I find it amazing that the Holy Spirit actually dwells inside of me and leads me to those who need His loving touch.

I want to encourage you to begin looking for the gentle nudges God gives to you. As you act upon them you will be amazed at how often God speaks to you and uses you to bless those around you who desperately need His touch.



"MY SHEEP HEAR MY VOICE" (JESUS)