NUDGES 4

Nudges in the right direction



UNDERSTANDING GOD'S VOICE

Holy Spirit

Wim Kamphorst

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Foreword

Jesus said something His disciples could hardly believe: “It is to your advantage that I go away.” How can it be good that Jesus goes away? He explained it: if He did not go, the Comforter would not come. Jesus did not see the Holy Spirit as a second choice, but as a gift.

When I talk about understanding God’s voice, it is actually always about the Holy Spirit. He is the one who speaks in your heart. He gives the impressions, the peace, the compassion, the images and the words. Jesus called Him the Spirit of truth, who does not speak on His own, but passes on what He hears.

> *“But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.”*
> John 14:26

This booklet is not a theological handbook on the Holy Spirit. These are nudges: small pushes to get to know the Holy Spirit better as a Person, and to learn to work together with Him in your ordinary life.

Wim Kamphorst, founder of (F)Luister Nederland

Introduction

Jesus did not perform a single miracle before the Holy Spirit came upon Him. For thirty years He lived in relative quiet. He grew in wisdom and in favor with God and people. Only after His baptism in the Jordan did the Spirit come upon Him, and after that His ministry began. Jesus, the Son of God, lived as a human being in dependence on the Spirit.

That is good news for us. Because if Jesus did it through the Holy Spirit, then we do not have to do it in our own strength. Without the Holy Spirit we can live a Christian life, but not live like Jesus. With the Holy Spirit we can display the fruit of the Spirit and move in the gifts of the Spirit.

> *"But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judæa, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth."*
> Acts 1:8

A closer look:

Jesus calls the Holy Spirit the Paraclete. That Greek word literally means: someone who is called alongside you. A helper, an advocate, a comforter. The Holy Spirit is not a force that you use, but a Person who comes to stand beside you.

Chapter 1 A Person, not a force

Many Christians talk about the Holy Spirit as if He were a kind of energy. Something you can feel during a worship service, or something you switch on when you pray for someone. But the Bible speaks of the Spirit as a Person. He teaches, He leads, He speaks, He comforts. He can even be grieved.

> *"And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption."*
> Ephesians 4:30

You cannot grieve a force. A person, you can. That means you can have a relationship with the Holy Spirit. You can get to know Him, the way you get to know a friend: by spending time with Him, listening to Him, and discovering what He enjoys and what He does not.

The Spirit in you and on you

I often make a simple distinction. If you have the Holy Spirit in you, you have the fruit of the Spirit. If you have the Holy Spirit on you, you have the power of the Spirit. Jesus lived this out. He could do nothing without the baptism in the Spirit after His water baptism.

Fruit grows slowly, like fruit on a tree. Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faith, gentleness and self-control. That fruit shows who you are. The gifts are different. They are given to you, for others. A word of knowledge, healing, prophecy, discernment of spirits. Those gifts show what God wants to do.

> *"But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal."*
> 1 Corinthians 12:7

You need both. I once worked in the kitchen of a restaurant. Nobody wanted prayer, nobody seemed to be looking for Jesus. There was little I could do

there with the gifts. On a busy Christmas Eve all the cooks were rushing back and forth, stressed. At the end one of the cooks said: “I don’t know how it is possible, but every time Wim walked by, I calmed down.” That was not a gift. That was fruit: the peace of Jesus Christ, which the Spirit let grow in me.

During an evangelism outreach in Nunspeet it was the other way around. We spoke to a woman and I said a number of things that we could not have known, but that were true. That was a gift of the Spirit in action. Shortly afterwards we prayed for a man with a painful leg, and later we saw him running through the rain, laughing. His leg was free of pain.

He speaks Spirit

What has helped me is understanding that the language of the Spirit is not a human language like Dutch or English. He speaks Spirit. A voice you can hear, but the Holy Spirit can also speak by letting you see, feel, smell, taste or discern something. The best-known example is peace. Many followers of Jesus know it: a storm is raging around you, but inside you have rest about a choice. Or the other way around: everything seems fine, but you have unrest.

Compassion, too, is often a language of the Spirit. You are walking down the street and suddenly feel deep compassion for someone you do not know. Or you feel the need to let someone know that God loves him or her. Those are impressions that are worth taking seriously.

Chapter 2 Working together with the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit works together with people. That is remarkable. He could do everything alone, but He chooses to do it through us. That asks something of us: we have a share in that cooperation.

Learning in a safe environment

I first learned the gifts of the Spirit in church, at conferences, courses and trainings. During prayer meetings I learned to pray out loud, to pray for people and to recognize the gifts. During prayer times at conferences I stepped out. That way I could put theory into practice and sharpen my senses.

> *"But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil."*
> Hebrews 5:14

Trained senses do not come from a book. You get them by doing, by falling and getting up again. I have also experienced things that did not go well. I once received a clear picture of a woman behind the counter of a clothing store. Later that day I stood in front of that shop and saw exactly that woman. I was so startled that I could not say anything anymore. She walked past me, and that was that. That too is part of learning.

Stronger together

I have discovered that I like having someone with me who talks easily, so that I can take time to listen to God. In Rotterdam I was walking with a friend along the Nieuwe Binnenweg. My friend felt: share the gospel. He turned to two young men and started talking. While they listened, I received an impression: one of them had just ended a relationship and was still

struggling with it. I said it out loud. It was right. What followed was an open moment in which Jesus was allowed to be central.

That is teamwork with the Holy Spirit. He gives one person the courage to begin, and the other a word to open the conversation.

Power in weakness

One day I was asked to speak at an Alpha group. I had a fever of forty degrees Celsius, but I went anyway. No perfectly constructed sermon, no three points. Only the words that I believed I had received for that group. People came to faith, were healed and set free. I knew very well that it was not down to me. It was the Holy Spirit.

I have seen this more often at Alpha weekends about the Holy Spirit. A woman who always had to prove herself, in sports, at work, on Instagram and even in her faith, heard through a prophetic word that she could let go of that striving. That evening she gave her life to Jesus. Another participant was, to be honest, skeptical about prophecy. But the word she heard was about parts of her life that nobody could have known, and she too gave her heart to Jesus. That is what the Holy Spirit does: He lets people notice that God sees them.

Freedom

The Bible says: where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. I have experienced that myself. There were years when an addiction held me captive and I could not get out of it on my own. Years after my new birth I was reading a Christian book and my hands suddenly became hot, as if they were on fire. I realized that I was being set free. After that came a further process in which I had to work deliberately on old habits. But the difference was that there was no longer an invisible wall. The Holy Spirit sets you free, and afterwards He helps you stay free.

"For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God."
Romans 8:14

Chapter 3 How do you grow in the Holy Spirit?

Everyone has their own way of working together with the Holy Spirit. The goal is to find your own flavor, something that you both enjoy. A few nudges that have helped me:

1. **Ask for the Holy Spirit**

   That sounds simple, and it is. Jesus said that the Father gives the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him. You do not have to earn it or perform for it. Ask whether He will fill you, even if you already believe. In Acts, the same people were filled again more than once.

2. **Speak with Him, not only about Him**

   Start your day with a simple question: “Holy Spirit, what do You want to do today?” Say good morning to Him. Thank Him. Ask Him to help you when you read the Bible. The more you talk with Him, the better you learn to recognize His voice.

3. **Write down your impressions**

   I have a notes app on my phone in which I write down all my impressions unfiltered. Later I take time to test them: does this fit with the Bible, with the character of Jesus, and what do people who are further along in faith say? That is how you learn to discern what comes from Him and what does not.

4. **Practice in a safe environment**

   Look for a prayer meeting, a house group or a prayer team where you are allowed to practice. Ask God for a word of encouragement for someone in your group and share it carefully: “I have the idea that … does that fit?” Making mistakes is allowed. That is how your spiritual senses grow.

5. **Pay attention to the fruit**

   Gifts are beautiful, but character carries your life. At the end of the week, look back: where did love, patience or self-control grow? Where did they not? Ask the Holy Spirit to make grow what is still small. At work, where you are with the same people for years, that fruit is often the strongest testimony.

The Holy Spirit is not far away. He lives in you. He wants to walk along with you, teach you, comfort you and work through you. All He asks is that you give Him room.

> *"If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit."*
> Galatians 5:25

FAQ

Question: How do I know whether I am filled with the Holy Spirit?
Answer: In the Bible you see that people who were filled with the Spirit became bold. They began to speak, to witness, to pray for the sick. So do not look only at a feeling, but at what changes. Are you unsure? Ask for it, alone or together with people who want to pray for you.

Question: Can everyone use the gifts of the Spirit?
Answer: If you have the Holy Spirit in you, you have the fruit of the Spirit. If you have the Holy Spirit on you, you have the power of the Spirit. Some people have a preference for certain gifts, and that is also connected to the environment. A church that believes for healing often sees more healing than a church that mainly prophesies.

Question: What if I share an impression and it turns out not to be right?
Answer: Then you have learned something. So share impressions modestly, as a question rather than as established fact. Take responsibility if it was not right and move on. I too have missed things or misunderstood them. That is why testing is so important.

At whispermagazine.org you can read true stories of people who heard God speak, learn more about hearing His voice and read our free Whisper magazine.

About (F)Luister Nederland

(F)Luister Nederland is a movement that wants to help believers understand the voice of God and grow in it. We believe that God still speaks today and that His children can learn to recognize, understand and obey His voice.

Our mission

We want to equip and encourage people to walk in relationship with Jesus in their daily lives, led by the Holy Spirit. It is our desire that more and more followers of Jesus learn to listen to His whisper and take bold steps in response.

Our vision

We see a church and a society in which God's voice is central once again. Where believers do not only listen to sermons or opinions, but live out of an intimate relationship with their Father in heaven. A generation that understands God's voice and, as a result, makes a difference in their surroundings.

Together we learn to understand His voice

There is more

This booklet is a nudge in the right direction. Do you want to go further? Whisper has more to help you on your way.

Whisper magazine
Our free magazine, to read online. **whispermagazine.org/magazine.html**

Seliah, our app
Our free app, for on the go. **whispermagazine.org/app**

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Ten questions to test what you hear. **whispermagazine.org/how-do-you-test.html**

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Holy Spirit

Listening to Him. Working together with the Holy Spirit.

God speaks. Every day. Not only to prophets or spiritual leaders, but to each one of us. The problem is not that He is silent, but that we often do not tune in properly.

In this book, Wim Kamphorst takes you on a journey to learn to recognize, understand and obey the voice of God. You will discover:

- who the Holy Spirit is: a Person, not a force;
- the difference between the fruit and the gifts of the Spirit;
- five nudges to grow in working together with Him.

Wim Kamphorst learned the gifts of the Spirit in church, at conferences and on the street, by trial and error. He discovered that the Holy Spirit does not speak Dutch or English, but Spirit.

With personal testimonies, clear Bible passages and practical examples, this book makes clear that living with the Holy Spirit is something that is close to God's heart.

God speaks.
Will you give Him room?

