NUDGES 6

Nudges in the right direction



UNDERSTANDING GOD'S VOICE

Building

Wim Kamphorst

NUDGES

Nudges in the right direction

Building

Wim Kamphorst

Foreword

In 2009 I received a picture that I have never forgotten. I saw Christians building on a swamp. They did their best, but everything kept sinking away. Then Jesus threw stones into the swamp. After a while those stones together formed a foundation. Only on that foundation, God's own words, could people truly and lastingly build.

That picture has become a key for me. Much of what we build sinks away because it does not stand on His words. We build on good ideas, on what others do, on what works. But Jesus said that only the one who hears His words and does them builds on the rock.

> *"Except the LORD build the house, they labour in vain that build it."*
> Psalm 127:1

This booklet is about building: on your life, your faith, your family, God's Kingdom. These are nudges, small pushes to build on what God says, step by step.

Wim Kamphorst, founder of (F)Luister Nederland

Introduction

At the end of the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus tells about two builders. One built his house on the rock, the other on the sand. From the outside the houses may have looked the same. The difference only became visible when the storm came. One house stood, the other collapsed.

What was the difference? Both builders heard the words of Jesus. Only one of them also did something with them. Building on sand is hearing God's words and doing nothing with them. Building on the rock is doing what He says.

> *"Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock."*
> Matthew 7:24

That is why building belongs with understanding God's voice. Listening is the beginning. Doing is the building.

A closer look:
The Greek word oikodome, which in the Bible is often translated as edification, is composed of oikos (house) and demo (to build). So when Paul says that prophecy is for edification, he is literally using the image of a house rising stone by stone.

Chapter 1 The foundation

Paul writes to the church in Corinth that nobody can lay another foundation than the one that has been laid: Jesus Christ. On that foundation you can build with gold, silver and precious stones, or with wood, hay and straw. One day it will become visible what remains of each person's work.

> *"For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ."*
> 1 Corinthians 3:11

A seed, not a tree

God always gives His words in seed form. He never plants a complete tree in your heart. A word from Him has to grow. Even Jesus took about thirty years to let what He had received grow out. No miracles, no healings, but formation in hiddenness. After that followed three years of intense action.

That is building too. Laying a foundation is not spectacular. It happens underground, where nobody sees it. But everything that comes afterwards rests on it.

Building blocks from your own history with God

In the booklet on evangelism I wrote that testimonies are building blocks. Every time God speaks in your life, every time He does something through you or for you, you receive a stone. Big or small. Keep them well in your head and heart. They form your own history with God, and they help others see that Jesus is alive today.

I write down my impressions in a notes app and review them again later. What did Jesus say? What did He do? When I look back, I see how He has laid a foundation in my life, stone by stone.

Starting small

> *"For who hath despised the day of small things?"*
> Zechariah 4:10

I once had the impression that I would be allowed to speak. But speaking is not my strongest point. The first time I stood in front of a class, I got completely stuck after five minutes. At a Bible school I froze, and a church did not want to invite me again because they preferred a tightly structured sermon to a spontaneous message.

Still, I knew that God had invited me. So I carried on, if necessary with just a few people. I started small: sharing a testimony, a short message. I learned that obedience does not begin when the fear is gone, but when trust becomes greater than that fear. That is how you build: not all at once, but stone by stone.

Chapter 2 Building on what God shows you

When I gave my life to Jesus, His voice became the common thread in my life. But my growth process was a difficult and sometimes lonely road. There were not many people who believed that God still speaks today. Out of that lack grew a desire: to build a place where people can learn together to listen to God's voice. That is how (F)Luister Nederland began.

It began small, with a core team and a first magazine. After that came articles, reading plans, booklets and gatherings. None of it came about all at once. Most of the work is done selflessly, by volunteers who share the same desire. The goal is not a large organization, but a culture in which understanding God's voice belongs to ordinary life.

Tend and keep

The first assignment God gave Adam was to tend and keep the garden. Building and protecting. That applies to your work, your family, your friendships and your own soul. Many people are busy with the first and forget the second. They build, but they do not keep. Their relationship with God, their rest and their marriage run empty while the work grows.

A pastor once asked himself whether he was busier with the work of the Lord than with the Lord of the work. That is a good test question for every builder.

Count the cost first

> *"For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it?"*
> Luke 14:28

Not every impression is a building assignment for today. Suppose you receive an impression to go abroad. It is not wise to impulsively board a plane. An intermediate step may be to talk with someone who has already been there,

or to watch a documentary, and to watch for confirmations. I once had an impression about Cuba. I watched two documentaries, but received no further confirmation. So I let that impression go.

Sometimes you know that something is from God, but it is not yet the time. Such impressions you can put away in a kind of spiritual cupboard. It may be that after months or years you receive a confirmation that fits exactly. Waiting is also building.

Building up others

Paul writes that whoever prophesies speaks for edification, encouragement and comfort. God's voice is not only there to build your life, but also to build up others. A word at the right moment can stay with someone for years.

> *"But he that prophesieth speaketh unto men to edification, and exhortation, and comfort."*
> 1 Corinthians 14:3

In our house church we see this every time. We worship, we share, we pray for one another. In a house church we encourage one another, build one another up and grow together in faith. Not a building, but living stones that together form a house.

Chapter 3 How do you build on the rock?

Building on God's words is not a one-time choice, but a way of life. A few nudges that have helped me:

1. **Listen first, build afterwards**

   Do not start with your plans, but with the question: "Lord, what do You want me to build?" Also read the Bible apart from your plans, so that you get to know His lines. The better you know His word, the easier it is to test whether a plan fits the foundation.

2. **Take a small step**

   Have you received an impression? Test it by taking a small step. If you want to learn to speak, first share a testimony in your group. If you notice that it brings you closer to Jesus, go on. If you notice distance, you may let the impression go.

3. **Keep your building blocks**

   Keep a journal or notes app of what God says and does. Look back through it regularly, for example when you pray and fast. Your own history with God becomes the foundation on which you can keep building, even when it storms.

4. **Keep what you build**

   Put keeping alongside building. Plan rest, time with God, time with the people you love. Ask yourself: what am I building, and what am I forgetting to keep?

5. **Build together**

   Nobody builds a house alone. Look for people who want to build along with you, who test and encourage you. A spiritual father or mother can help you see whether you are still standing on the foundation.

A storm comes in every life. The question is not whether it comes, but what you are standing on when it is there.

FAQ

Question: I have a big dream, but it is going very slowly. Am I doing something wrong?
Answer: Not necessarily. God gives His words as seed, and seed needs time. Jesus had thirty years of preparation for three years of ministry. Stay faithful in the small things, ask God for confirmation and see whether you are growing in character in the meantime. That is also building.

Question: How do I know whether something is my own plan or God's plan?
Answer: Test it against the Bible, against the character of Jesus and with people who are further along in faith. Take a small step and pay attention to what it does to your relationship with Jesus. If it brings you closer to Him, that is a good sign. If distance comes, you may let it go.

Question: What if something I have built collapses?
Answer: That is painful, and it is allowed to hurt. But collapse sometimes shows where the foundation was not right. God throws stones into the swamp again. Ask Him what He wants to teach you, and start again on His words. Nobody has sunk too far to build again.

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**

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

More Nudges
Booklets on other themes. **whispermagazine.org/nudges.html**

Listening together
A guide for your small group. **whispermagazine.org/listening-together.html**

Quiet. I am listening.
A free 30-day reading plan. **whispermagazine.org/magazine.html**

The Listening Profile
How do you hear God? **whispermagazine.org/listening-profile.html**

True stories
People who heard God speak. **whispermagazine.org/stories.html**

Questions and answers
Short Bible-based answers. **whispermagazine.org/questions.html**

Everything in one place: whispermagazine.org

Scan the code to visit Whisper. In Dutch on Instagram and Facebook: @fluisternederland.nl

Questions, or want to share a testimony? info@fluisternederland.nl

Building

Listening to Him. Building on the rock.

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:

- why building begins with hearing and doing what Jesus says;
- how you build with small steps on what God shows you;
- five nudges to build and to keep.

In 2009 Wim Kamphorst saw a picture of Christians building on a swamp, until Jesus threw stones that became a foundation. Out of that picture, and out of a lot of trial and error, (F)Luister Nederland grew.

With personal testimonies, clear Bible passages and practical examples, this book makes clear that building on God's words is something that is close to God's heart.

God speaks.
What are you building on?

