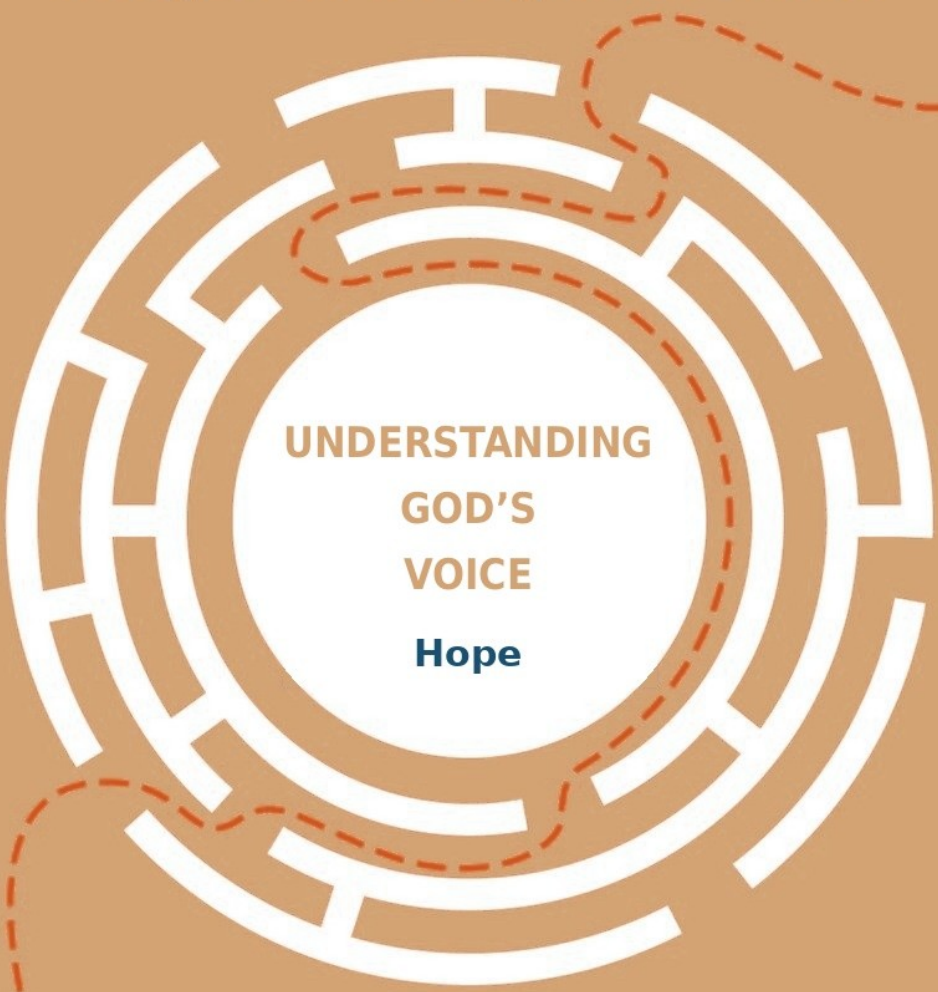
NUDGES 13

Nudges in the right direction



UNDERSTANDING GOD'S VOICE

Hope

Wim Kamphorst

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Foreword

Lamentations is one of the gloomiest books of the Bible. Jerusalem lies in ruins. The writer describes his grief without glossing anything over. And then, in the middle of that wreckage, there suddenly stands a sentence that has held people up for centuries.

> *"This I recall to my mind, therefore have I hope. It is of the LORD's mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness."*
> Lamentations 3:21-23

That is not cheap comfort. It is hope, written from the depths. I know that hope. My wife and I waited fourteen years for a child, with a promise in our hearts and a medical reality that said something completely different.

This booklet is about hope that rests on God. These are nudges: small pushes to keep hoping, even when you do not yet see anything.

Wim Kamphorst, founder of (F)Luister Nederland

Introduction

In everyday speech we often use the word hope for something uncertain. “I hope the weather is nice tomorrow.” We do not know, but we would like it. Biblical hope is different. It is a firm expectation, based on who God is and what He has said.

> *“Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast, and which entereth into that within the veil.”*
> Hebrews 6:19

You do not hold on to an anchor. An anchor holds on to you. It lies in a place where you cannot see it, but you feel it in the tension on the rope when the current pulls. That is what hope in God is like. You do not see the bottom, but you are held fast.

A closer look:

The Greek word for hope in the New Testament is elpis. It means a sure expectation of good. Paul even calls God “the God of hope”. So hope is not something we have to scrape together. It is something that comes from Him.

Chapter 1 Hope that rests on something

Hope is a Person

Christian hope is not positive thinking. Positive thinking says: it will be fine. Hope says: God is good, and He keeps His word. That is a big difference. Positive thinking collapses when circumstances turn against you. Hope in God stands firm, because it does not rest on circumstances.

> *"Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost."*
> Romans 15:13

Notice how Paul puts it. The Holy Spirit gives hope. You do not have to generate it yourself. You may ask for it.

A word to hold on to

Hope grows when God speaks. In the years of waiting, my wife and I received a dream, later a vision and later still a prophetic word about a daughter. That last one came through someone from America who knew only my first name. Each time it was as if God set our anchor a little deeper into the ground.

Hope is therefore closely connected with listening. If you do not know what God has said, you do not know what you may hope for either. That is why I write down what He says. In difficult times I read it back.

Hope with tears

Hope does not mean that you have no sorrow. My wife later wrote about it in the (F)Luister magazine: "The first years passed without a single positive pregnancy test. Every year at New Year's we spoke out our hope and expectation again. And still tears flowed too." Hope and tears can exist side by side. The Psalms are full of them.

> *"Why art thou cast down, O my soul? and why art thou disquieted in me? hope thou in God: for I shall yet praise him for the help of his countenance."*
> Psalm 42:5

The psalmist talks to his own soul. He does not deny his gloom, but he says to himself: hope in God. You may do that too.

A living hope

The deepest ground of our hope is an empty grave. On Friday everything seemed over. The disciples sat locked away, afraid and disappointed. On Sunday Jesus stood before them. Since then we know that the last word does not belong to death, nor to disappointment or loss.

> *"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead."*
> 1 Peter 1:3

Peter wrote this. The same Peter who had denied Jesus three times and afterwards had gone back to his nets. He knew what it was to lose all hope. And he knew what it was to be sought out by the risen Jesus. His hope was not a theory. It was alive, because Jesus lives.

Chapter 2 Hope when it takes a long time

Fourteen years

After our wedding day we waited for years. After six years we had tests done. The hospital mentioned a chance of less than half a percent of a natural pregnancy. Still, every time we brought it to God we experienced the same thing: peace. Year after year we kept praying, listening and following that peace.

We chose to lay our desire before God and to keep focusing on what He said about the rest of our lives. In that period, among other things, the (F)Luister magazine and books came into being. We kept struggling with our feelings, but again and again we tried to direct our thoughts to His promises. In 2025 we were allowed to hold our daughter in our arms.

I tell this carefully. There are people who waited just as long and whose arms stayed empty. I have no explanation for that and I am not going to invent one. What I do know: the waiting was not silence for us. It was long, and He spoke in it.

Still hoping

I do not only write about hope that has already been fulfilled. We believe that God has said something about a building for (F)Luister Nederland. A confirmation seemed to come, and then it went quiet. We still do not know when, what, how or where. I keep that word in my heart and water it. So I too am still hoping.

Hope grows in hard times

Paul writes something you might not expect. Hope does not grow in spite of difficulties, but precisely through them.

> *"And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; and patience, experience; and experience, hope: and hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us."*
> Romans 5:3-5

Every time God carries you through something, you gain experience. You know: He has done it before. That experience becomes hope for the next time.

Hope for someone else

Sometimes you hold on to hope for someone who can no longer do it themselves. My mother and her friend kept praying for me at a time when things were getting worse and worse for me. I noticed nothing of it. Only years later did I see how much their prayers had meant. Perhaps you are praying for someone who is far away from God. Do not give up.

Chapter 3 How do you grow in hope?

Hope is a fruit of the Spirit and a choice at the same time. You may ask for it and you may choose it. A few nudges:

1. **Write down what God has said**

   Make a list of promises from the Bible and of words that you have personally received. Put the date next to them. Read that list when your courage sinks into your boots.

2. **Talk to your soul**

   Do what the psalmist did. Say out loud: “Soul, why are you so restless? Hope in God.” It may feel strange. But your thoughts often follow what you speak out.

3. **Look back at His faithfulness**

   Write down five moments when God helped you through something. Big or small. Experience becomes hope. What He did then, He can do again.

4. **Meanwhile, just keep on living**

   Do not wait to live until the promise is fulfilled. What does God want to do with you now? We chose, in the years of waiting, to build on what He did show us. Hope does not make you passive.

5. **Hope together**

   Share your desire with a few people who want to pray and hope with you. Let them speak when you cannot for a while. And do the same for them.

Hope in God is not wishful thinking. It is an anchor that is fixed in His faithfulness. New every morning.

FAQ

Question: I have lost my hope. How do I get it back?
Answer: Begin honestly. Tell God that you have no hope left. He is not shocked by that. Ask the Holy Spirit to fill you with hope, because He is the one who gives it. Let people pray for you. If you feel low or no longer see any point in living, do not stay alone with it. Talk to your doctor or contact 113 Suicide Prevention day and night (in the Netherlands): call 113 or toll-free 0800-0113, or chat via 113.nl.

Question: What if what I am hoping for never happens?
Answer: That is a painful question, and I do not have a simple answer to it. What I do know: our deepest hope does not lie in one fulfillment, but in God Himself. He remains faithful, even when something turns out differently than you had hoped. Also test honestly whether your hope is based on what God has said, or on your own desire.

Question: Isn't it dangerous to hope on a prophetic word?
Answer: A prophetic word must always be tested against the Bible, against the character of Jesus and by people who are further along in faith. Do not hang your hope on a single word. If it is truly from God, He will often confirm it in several ways. And above all keep your hope focused on Him, not only on the promise.

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**

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A free 30-day reading plan. **whispermagazine.org/magazine.html**

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

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

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Hope

Listening to Him. Hope that does not disappoint.

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 Christian hope is more than optimism;
- how you hold on to hope when a promise takes a long time to arrive;
- five nudges to grow in hope.

Wim Kamphorst and his wife waited fourteen years for a child. They learned that hope does not rest on what you see, but on Him who said it.

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

God speaks.
What are you hoping for?

