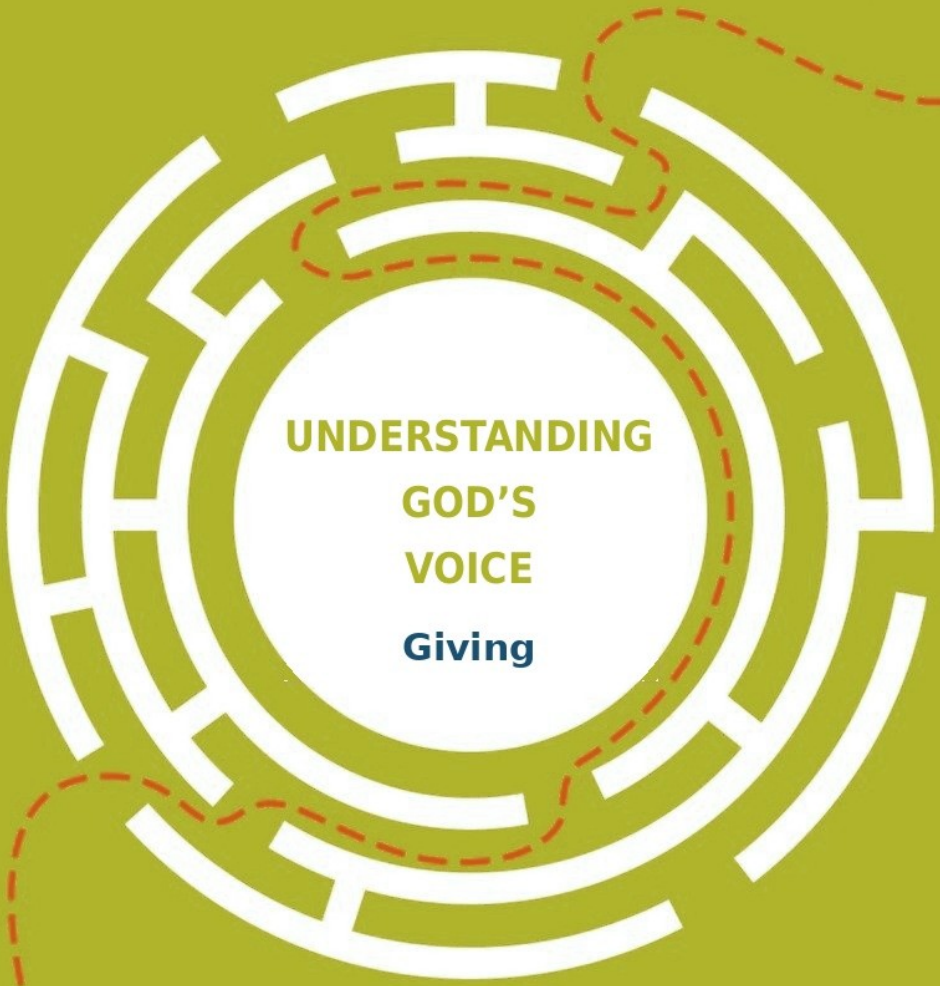
NUDGES 16

Nudges in the right direction



UNDERSTANDING GOD'S VOICE

Giving

Wim Kamphorst

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Foreword

Jesus once sat opposite the offering box in the temple and watched people giving money. Rich people threw in a lot. Then a poor widow came. She threw in two small coins. Jesus called His disciples to Him and said that she had given more than all the others. Because she gave not out of her abundance, but everything she had.

Jesus did not look at the amount. He looked at the heart.

> *"Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver."*
> 2 Corinthians 9:7

Giving is a subject that makes many people uncomfortable. Often because it is linked to pressure or guilt. This booklet wants the opposite. These are nudges: small pushes to discover how joyful giving can make you, and how you can give on God's voice.

Wim Kamphorst, founder of (F)Luister Nederland

Introduction

Everything begins with God who gives. He gave life, He gave the earth, He gave His Son. Jesus gave Himself. The Father gives the Holy Spirit to those who ask. Giving is in God's character. Whoever gets to know Him automatically begins to resemble Him.

That is why giving is not a rule that you have to keep. It is an answer to what you yourself have received. Whoever knows how much he has been given can let go more easily.

> *"It is more blessed to give than to receive."*
> Acts 20:35

Paul calls this a word of Jesus Himself. Blessed means happy, favored. Giving does not make you poorer. It makes you richer, in a way that you do not see back in your bank account.

A closer look:
In 2 Corinthians 9:7 the Greek word hilaros stands for cheerful. Our word hilarious comes from it. So God loves a giver who enjoys it. Giving with a sour face is not what He is looking for.

Chapter 1 Giving begins with receiving

More than you need

While shopping for groceries I strongly felt that I should pay the bill of the woman behind me. I knew her from before. The amount was less than eight euros and she could easily pay it herself. Still, I did it. She said: “But that’s not necessary, you know.” I answered: “I know, but God also wants to give things that you don’t need.”

That is God’s heart. He does not only give what is necessary. He gives in abundance. When you have received that yourself, giving is no longer a loss but a feast.

No formula

I learned this the hard way. I had once received ten euros from someone and put that in the offering at church. That week money was slipped to me in the most remarkable ways, until I had more than fifty euros back. I thought: it works. I sow and I reap. So the week after, I put fifty euros in the offering. Nothing more came back.

I had misunderstood God. He is concerned with your heart, not with a formula of giving and getting back. Whoever gives in order to receive is actually trading. God invites you to give because you trust Him.

> *“And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work.”*
> 2 Corinthians 9:8

Notice the purpose. God gives abundance so that you can abound in good works. Blessing is meant to flow through.

Being given to

I have also often stood on the receiving side. My first mission trips began with a prophetic word and no money in the account. Once I received money from the treasurer of my church. He had prayed about it and exactly that amount had come to his mind. It was exactly what I needed. He did not give out of pressure, but because he listened. That taught me how beautiful it is when giving and listening go together.

Two small coins

Back to the widow at the offering box. What she gave was, in terms of money, almost nothing. And yet Jesus saw it. He saw not only what she gave, but also what she had left: nothing. She trusted God with everything she had.

> *"For all they did cast in of their abundance; but she of her want did cast in all that she had, even all her living."*
> Mark 12:44

I find it encouraging that Jesus noticed this. Nobody else in the temple will have paid attention to her. But He did. What you give in secret, He sees too. It does not have to be big to be precious to Him.

That does not mean you must give away everything you have. It means that God does not look at the amount, but at the heart behind it. A small amount with great trust weighs more with Him than a large amount out of habit.

Chapter 2 Giving on His voice

Giving is not only a matter of percentages or fixed amounts. It can also be a way of listening. God sometimes lays someone on your heart, or an amount, or a situation.

A number in a picture

One morning while praying I saw, for a few seconds, a picture of someone I knew in Rotterdam. I had not spoken to him for two years. With the picture I saw a number. It went extremely fast, but I wrote it down and began to pray about it. It looked like an amount of money, and I received the impression that he needed it.

I discussed it with my wife. After five days we dared to conclude that this could be from God. So I transferred the amount. Shortly afterwards he called. He had just made a payment for something his wife needed. At that very same moment he received from us exactly that same amount.

Consult before it becomes costly

My wife and I have a simple agreement. As soon as an impression costs someone else money, time or anything else, we consult first. If it only costs myself something, I may move on my own. That one rule has saved us a lot of unnecessary damage. Giving on God's voice goes together with wisdom and unity.

Someone far away

When watching the news, with each broadcast I pick one person to pray for. Once I saw a woman who, despite working hard, could not let her daughter go to school. It touched me deeply. I prayed for her and looked for contact. After a few weeks it worked out to transfer money through someone who knew her situation. Love shows itself in deeds.

More than money

Giving is not only about money. You can also give time, attention, a meal, a card or a prayer. When I worked as a cook, I wrote a farewell card for a colleague with three sentences that I believed came from God. He burst into tears. The card cost almost nothing. It meant a lot.

> *"As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God."*
> 1 Peter 4:10

Not afraid of lack

Many people give little because they are afraid of coming up short themselves. I understand that. In the beginning I also worried about money. The world puts on pressure: a ticket has to be booked on time, bills have to be paid. Still, I have seen again and again that God provides. Not always at my moment, but at His moment.

> *"Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again."*
> Luke 6:38

That is not a formula for getting rich. It is a promise that you do not become poorer through generosity. God lets Himself not be outdone in generosity.

Chapter 3 How do you grow in giving?

Generosity grows, like all fruit of the Spirit. A few nudges:

1. **Start with giving thanks**

   Write down everything God has given you. Not only money, but also health, people, talents, time. Giving becomes easier when you see how much you yourself have received.

2. **Ask God what you can give**

   In your quiet time ask: “Lord, is there someone I may give something to this week?” Pay attention to names, faces or situations that come up. Write them down and pray about them. Then take a small step.

3. **Give regularly and deliberately**

   Choose a fixed amount or percentage that you give to your church or to a good cause. Do not do it under compulsion, but as a habit that keeps your heart free from attachment to money. Start small if you need to.

4. **Consult for larger amounts**

   Does a gift also affect your partner or family? Discuss it together first. Test a big impression against the Bible, against peace and with people you trust. Giving on God’s voice is never reckless.

5. **Give something other than money too**

   This week choose one other kind of gift: a meal, an hour of time, a card with encouragement, an odd job for someone. Ask God for a word for that person and write it in it.

God has not blessed you in order to hold on to everything. He has blessed you to be a blessing. With a cheerful heart.

FAQ

Question: As a Christian, do I have to give ten percent?
Answer: In the Old Testament the tithe was a fixed rule. In the New Testament you see mainly the principle of cheerful and voluntary giving, according to what you have purposed in your heart. A fixed percentage can be a good aid. Ask God what suits you, and give without compulsion.

Question: I have little money myself. Can I still give?
Answer: Yes. The poor widow gave two small coins and Jesus called that more than all the others. It is about your heart, not about the amount. You can also give time, attention and prayer. Do make sure you never make yourself irresponsibly poor. Take good care of your own family too.

Question: How do I know whether an impression to give comes from God?
Answer: Test it. Does it fit with the Bible and with the character of Jesus? Do you experience peace, or rather pressure and fear? If it concerns a large amount, consult with your partner or someone you trust and take a few days. A true impression from God can bear patience.

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**

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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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Giving

Listening to Him. Giving with a cheerful heart.

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 giving begins with what God has first given you;
- how you learn to give on His voice, not out of pressure or formula;
- five nudges to grow in generosity.

Wim Kamphorst once put ten euros in the offering and received fifty back. The week after, he gave fifty and nothing came. That is how he learned that God is concerned with the heart, not with a formula.

With personal testimonies, clear Bible passages and practical examples, this book makes clear that giving with a cheerful heart is something that is close to God's heart.

God speaks.
What is He laying on your heart to give?

