



soulmind

Connecting you with God's heart

Still, Small Voice

1 Corinthians 2:10-13;16 (NLT)

Welcome to **Soulmind**. We are working our way (very slowly!) through Dallas Willard's insightful book, *Hearing God: Developing a Conversational Relationship with God*. If you are reading this book as we go through this series, be sure to give yourself plenty of time to think. The insights are pretty awesome, but do require some processing.

Last week we talked about the ways that God speaks to us from outside of ourselves – through the language of other human beings. This week we move on to the other most important and direct way that we hear from God; His still, small voice in our thoughts.

~Jeannie



[LISTEN TO THE DEVOTIONAL](#)

Be sure to check out the **SOUL PRACTICE** suggestion for this week (*see below*).

Topic Overview

This week we are going to think about the other most common and important way God speaks to us; through our own thoughts and feelings. This is often referred to as the “still small voice” or “inner voice.”

Okay, this is where things can get confusing pretty fast. We might worry, “How do I know these thoughts are not just my own thoughts? Shouldn't we stick to depending on the Bible only for hearing from God?” Valid questions, because our hearts and minds can deceive us. Yes, the Bible is true and complete; God will not say anything further to be added to the written Word. A Biblical Christian is not just someone who believes certain things about God and the Bible. He or she is someone who lives the kind of life that was modeled by Jesus, a life of personal, intelligent interaction with God—that “personal relationship” that we talk about.

Hearing God through thoughts and feelings is for those people who are surrendered to and earnestly seeking Him. The Holy Spirit in us makes the words of Scripture come alive to speak to

us personally, and helps us learn to distinguish when a thought is ours alone, and when it is also His. Here's an interesting visual picture that Dallas Willard gives of what he calls God's "candle" – *The thoughts and feelings in the mind and spirit of one who is surrendered to God should be treated as if God were walking through one's personality with a candle, directing one's attention to things one after the other.*

Well, I have to say, I didn't like this concept much when I first read it. I tend to go into denial pretty fast about things I don't want to face or even think about. A while back, I cut my finger on a sharp knife while doing a project. And I did what I typically do when something like this happens: without really looking at the cut, I slapped on a band aide, then, another, then a bigger one—but they were having no effect on stopping the bleeding. A full half hour went by before I finally went to my husband and said, "Um, I think I've cut myself kind of badly and might need stitches." That kind of denial was like my initial response to the idea of letting God into my head. Fear of being found out for being less than perfect. Shame about failures, big and little.

Letting the light of the Holy Spirit in to repair my faulty thoughts and feelings about this was kind of like going to the doctor when you admit something isn't right. He went to work, using the words of Romans 8 to replace my wrong ideas with the truth about God and about me.

Daily Scriptures

MONDAY

1 Kings 19:11-12 (NKJV)

And behold, the Lord passed by, and a great and strong wind tore into the mountains and broke the rocks in pieces 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; and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire; and after the fire a still small voice.

TUESDAY

Psalm 139:23-24 (NLT)

Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. Point out anything in me that offends you, and lead me along the path of everlasting life.

WEDNESDAY

Proverbs 20:27 (NIV)

The human spirit is the lamp of the Lord that sheds light on one's most inmost being.

THURSDAY

1 Corinthians 2:11-12 (NLT)

No one can know a person's thoughts except that person's own spirit, and no one can know God's thoughts except God's own Spirit. And we have received God's Spirit (not the world's spirit), so we can know the wonderful things God has freely given us.

FRIDAY

Romans 12:2 (NLT)

Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.

Doing Your Part

SOUL PRACTICE

Candle Time

Set aside some time to allow God's "candle" to search out your thoughts and feelings about a particular situation going on in your life. Remind yourself that God is friendly and helpful, that His purpose is to straighten, inform, and correct you for your own good, as well as to comfort and encourage, and that He really does love you.

Wise Words

God uses our self-knowledge or self-awareness, heightened and given a special quality by his presence and direction, to search us out and reveal to us the truth about ourselves and our world. And we are able to use his knowledge of himself – made available to us in Christ and Scriptures – to understand in some measure his thoughts and intentions toward us and to help us see his workings in our world.

Dallas Willard, *Hearing God*

022 | *Still, Small Voice*

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