

HEARTBEATS Staying Connected 9/9/2024
GOD's Still Small Voice

Dear Friends in CHRIST,

ONE AT ONE – *Every day this week beginning on Tuesday, September 10 you are encouraged to pray for one minute at one o'clock. This week, pray for those who struggle because of excessive heat. Pray for those who fight fires, or lack air conditioning, or sheltered places to live. Ask that GOD bring respite to our world and guide us in caring for our planet and all who live here.*

I've told the story before of how, at the age of twelve, I was awaiting surgery for a tumor on the base of my brain. Alone in a small room, I closed my eyes to rest and reflect until the orderly came to take me into the operating room. When I felt a hand on my arm, I opened my eyes. No one was there, though I could still feel the firm hand resting on my forearm. I knew at that moment that it was JESUS and that HE would go with me through surgery and then through the rest of my life. I later came to understand that HE was also calling me to be a pastor.

I used to hesitate telling that story to groups because there might be people listening who were thinking about seminary but had never had that kind of experience or call. Then, my friend Jon Enslin told me he had been looking toward a career as a professional pianist when he heard a voice coming from a church across the street from where he was playing a concert. The voice said, "Jon, I want you here." Jon added, "Isn't it wonderful that some people just know what GOD wants them to do without getting hit over the head with a 2X4?"

The disciples had JESUS. HE came to them and said, "Follow ME." A call like that would be helpful for knowing what GOD wanted you to do.

Throughout history, some people have just known. Oh, there have been some who received that 2X4-over-the-head call. But many have just known.

What about those who want to do GOD's will but don't know what it is? How can they hear what GOD desires of them? In I Kings 19, Elijah feels lost about what GOD expects of him. First, GOD sent a mighty wind that broke the rocks into pieces. But GOD was not in the wind. Next, GOD set an earthquake, but GOD was not in the earthquake. Then there was fire, but GOD was not in the fire either. After the fire, there came a quiet whisper. And GOD was in the whisper.

Sometimes, we have a sense that we are to do something or say something. But we're not sure. Of course, if GOD sent a great wind or fire, then perhaps we'd know. Often, though, it is in the still, quiet voice that GOD speaks to us. That sense that you should do something. That nudge that your words are needed. That feeling that you should step in. There are many times when GOD calls us to act, to be GOD's hands or voice in a situation. But these calls do not come with angel trumpets, flashes of lightning from heaven, or other calamitous events to get our attention. It is just that quiet, gentle whisper. When we hear or feel that, we must trust that GOD is calling us to go. GOD needs us and sends us. Have faith that it is GOD and that GOD is calling you to be GOD's response to someone else's need.

In CHRIST's love,
Pastor Jeffrey