

The Old Hickory Bulletin

Old Hickory Church of Christ

841 Old Hickory Blvd.
Jackson, TN 38305
oldhickorycofc.com

April 19, 2026

Volume 46, # 16

Is God Speaking Directly to You Today?

Have you heard this type of language from disciples you know?

- "I took it as a sign that God wanted us to be here."
- "I think that God was trying to tell me something by allowing this to happen."
- "I felt a providential nudge to do it."

Our evangelical friends have used this type of language for decades, and now it is exploding in popularity, not just among them but also among brethren we know! After all, we read their material and listen to their media. Postmodern thought with its emphasis on trusting feelings with a corresponding distrust of language and the written word has overwhelmed the religious world. The concept that God speaks directly to us through our feelings, hunches and events in our lives is "in," but it is dangerous for several reasons:

1. Even during those rare intervals in history of direct revelation, God didn't speak to millions of followers through their premonitions, leadings, and inner illumination, but rather precisely to a few prophets through words (Acts 11:14). On rare occasions he confirmed those words with signs (Gideon, Hezekiah, Zechariah), but the original message always involved language, words.

2. With our prejudices and inner biases, we have enough trouble being honest with God's objective written word. Throw our "gut feelings" and other subjective impressions into the mix of what we feel to be God's revelation and the waters become hopelessly muddied.

3. The lack of trust in the sufficiency of the written words of God's inspired apostles and prophets has always been a prime mover behind apostasy. When some say longingly, "But don't we need more than what we have in the scriptures?" they are frankly showing a lack of faith and a great disrespect for God's chosen method of communicating with us.

Careful with "the language of Ashdod," the jargon of those who look for God's leading apart from inspired scripture! Scriptural principles are sufficient to reveal God's will to us

and to confirm our path before him (2 Timothy 3:16, 17). In inspired scripture we have the faith that was once for all time delivered to the saints (Jude 3). We don't need more!

- Gardner Hall

Clippings . . .

DANGEROUS SYMPTOMS

When the way to the meeting house seems too far; when the sermons seem too long; when you dislike to speak with the brethren; when the sermon makes you mad instead of penitent; when reading the Bible puts you to sleep; when you fret if called on to assist in the service or perhaps give a little more; then BEWARE! You are showing all the symptoms of becoming a BACKSLIDER!

- unknown

A Sacrifice for the Lord!

Luke 21 begins with this: "And He looked up and saw the rich putting their gifts into the treasury. And He saw a poor widow putting in two small copper coins. And He said, "Truly I say to you, this poor widow put in more than all of them; for they all out of their surplus put into the offering; but she out of her poverty put in all that she had to live on." (Luke 21:1-4).

God's people love this poor widow. They have for the past two-thousand years and will until the Lord comes again. It simply reveals a heart that loves the Lord God! Such a heart is characterized by sacrifice.

We have no knowledge of what she sacrificed to preserve these two coins. What discomfort of body did she willingly endure to make this contribution from a spirit of gratitude? We can only guess. The Lord described the essence of her dedication: she "put in all that she had to live on." Please pause to meditate upon that description. Others were making contributions; she was making a sacrifice (HER VERY LIVING WAS INVOLVED!). The rich were giving gifts; she gave herself, her heart and soul.

Remember that the Lord does not measure as men measure, He sees the heart, where motive, love, sacrifice and dedication are revealed. Many would not regard this poor widow's contribution. Such a small amount is worthless. But that is not how the Lord Jesus saw it. "God loves a cheerful giver." (2 Corinthians 9:7). I love her also.

Do you love her? Do you strive to have what she had in the content of her heart? Have you first given yourself to the Lord, as in the churches of Macedonia (Please see 2 Corinthians 8:1-5)? When the heart loves God (Mark 12:30), good actions will follow. To those who truly love God: Thank you for all you do! Thank you for the good you do that is not observed by others. May the Lord continue to bless you!

- Gary Smalley

- * "Nothing is harder to bear than a guilty conscience!"
 - * "When success turns a man's head, it always leaves him looking in the wrong direction!"
 - * "If a man's conscience is as comfortable as his mattress, he should have no trouble getting a good night's sleep!"
 - * "Criticism is something one can avoid by saying nothing, doing nothing and believing nothing!"
 - * "The influence of affluence is very dangerous. We should be wise and learn the hazards to avoid them!"
-

What Must I Do To Be Saved?

HEAR THE GOSPEL

(Romans 10:14-17; John 20:30-31; Romans 1:15-17)

BELIEVE IN JESUS CHRIST

(Acts 8:37; John 8:24; Hebrews 11:6)

REPENT OF PAST SINS

(Luke 13:3; Acts 2:38; Acts 17:30)

CONFESS CHRIST

(Romans 10:9-10; Acts 8:37)

BE BAPTIZED

(Romans 6:3-4; Mark 16:15-16; Acts 2:38; Acts 8:36-39; 1 Peter 3:21)

LIVE A FAITHFUL LIFE

(Revelation 2:10; 2 Peter 1:5-11; John 15:1-8; Hebrews 10:23-25)