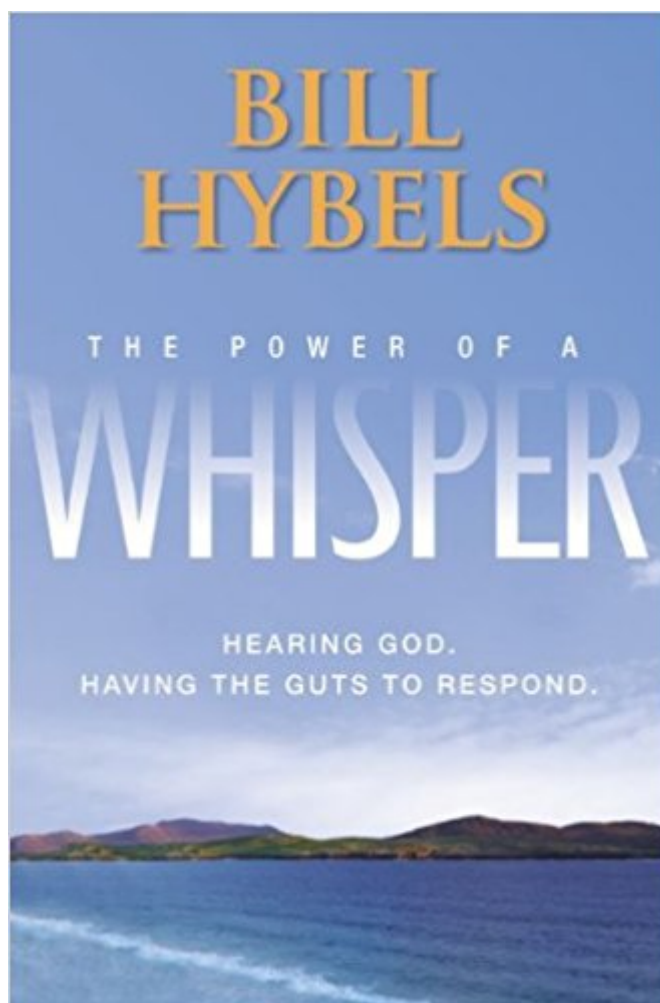


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The Power Of A Whisper: Hearing God, Having The Guts To Respond



Synopsis

“Without a hint of exaggeration,” says Bill Hybels, “the ability to discern divine direction has saved me from a life of sure boredom and self-destruction. God’s well-timed words have redirected my path, rescued me from temptation and re-energized me during some of my deepest moments of despair.” In *The Power of a Whisper*, vision is cast for what life can look like when God’s followers choose to hear from heaven as they navigate life on earth. Whispers that arbitrate key decisions, nudges that rescue from dark nights of the soul, promptings that spur on growth, urgings that come by way of another person, inspiration that opens once-glazed-over eyes to the terrible plight people face in this world—through firsthand accounts spanning fifty-seven years of life, more than thirty of which have been spent in the trenches of ministry, Hybels promotes passion in Christ-followers’ hearts for being wide open to hearing from God, and for getting gutsier about doing exactly what he says to do. For more information go to: www.thewhisperwall.com.

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Customer Reviews

Hybels, founding pastor of the globally influential Willow Creek Community Church, writes about learning to hear the “communicating God.” Describing his life as a 50-year whisper-fueled odyssey, he says he waited nearly four decades to write this book because of controversy surrounding claims of hearing divine messages. In contrast to those who are certain they have heard God speak, Hybels points readers to the Holy Spirit’s subtle “Wind Words,” saying the problem is not God’s silence but whether Christians have ears to hear. Hybels weaves personal stories, biblical

principles, and global stories of others, saying no goal is more critical than keeping a "pliable heart before God." He writes that his suburban Chicago megachurch and its worldwide associated network of churches exist today because at low points in Hybels's life, God "graciously whispered to me." Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

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'Without a hint of exaggeration, ' says pastor and author Bill Hybels in his new book, *The Power of a Whisper: Hearing God, Having the Guts to Respond*, 'the ability to discern divine direction has saved me from a life of sure boredom and self-destruction. God's well-timed words have redirected my path, rescued me from temptation and re-energized me during some of my deepest moments of despair.' In *The Power of a Whisper*, vision is cast for what life can look like when God's followers choose to hear from heaven as they navigate life on earth. Whispers that arbitrate key decisions, nudges that rescue from dark nights of the soul, promptings that spur on growth, urgings that come by way of another person, inspiration that opens once-glazed-over eyes to the terrible plight people face in this world---through firsthand accounts spanning fifty-seven years of life, more than thirty of which have been spent in the trenches of ministry, Hybels promotes passion in Christ-followers' hearts for being wide open to hearing from God, and for getting gutsier about doing exactly what he says to do. For more information go to: www.thewhisperwall.com. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Let me begin by saying that I am a pastor with evangelical roots, who grew up in a fairly traditional Baptist home. Through the years, I have developed many friendships across the spectrum of the Christian faith and have read widely across that same wide body of Christianity. It comes as no surprise to read the writings of those whose roots are Pentecostal and/or Charismatic and hear them describing a God who speaks clearly to the hearts of His people. I respect, though, the people who have deep questions about things said from a "full Gospel" perspective and who avoid those books. Bill Hybels writes from a very clear foundation of evangelicalism, describing what it is like for him to hear "whispers" or "promptings" from God. As such, I highly recommend this book. It is filled with real life stuff and offers hope that we should all hear from God in some way.

Bill Hybels has written a very user friendly book explaining how one can listen for the voice of God. The book is centered in the Bible as any solid Christian work should be. In order to live an authentic Christian life, we must believe God speaks to us, we must learn to listen for His voice and we must

be certain that His instructions are consistent with His character. When we teach this to others, we help them grow in grace and in faith. I am an associate pastor of a church and recommended this book as reading material for our senior pastor and our deacons. Each one has a copy and we will be doing a group study together. There is a DVD and a workbook available to facilitate group study. On behalf of our group, I heartily recommend this book to you. In the past, I've used and taught *Experiencing God* by Henry Blackaby, which is also an excellent study but is thirteen weeks long. *The Power of a Whisper* is four weeks which is friendlier as a first study for the topic of learning to discern God's voice.

I used to love listening to Paul Harvey's "The Rest of the Story", filling in previously-unknown important details about current events. In this book, Bill Hybels similarly shares what's really been going on in the past 34 years at Willow Creek Community Church, and in his own life as pastor. For those who aren't familiar with Willow, I consider it the eye of the hurricane in what God is doing in our generation. In this book, Bill peels back the curtain behind key events in both his own life and that of the Willow Creek Church and Association, and shows how he believes he and others at Willow have been guided by messages from God along the way on such varied topics as speaking the truth in love, women in ministry, AIDS, extreme poverty, racial reconciliation, immigration and human trafficking. Bill also shares ways to improve our own hearing of such messages, and tips for discerning whether a sudden inspiration is really from God. As Bill likes to say about Willow's annual Leadership Summit, this is all new material. Some books by pastors are just recycled sermon series -- but not this one. Even if you too have attended Willow regularly since 1990, I guarantee you have not heard all this before. As Bill notes, this is a somewhat-risky book. Lots of crazies throughout history have claimed to be guided by messages from God. Plus, for a pastor to claim a decision is due to divine inspiration greatly ups the ante for those on the other side of an issue. I used to recommend people interested in understanding Willow Creek to read Lynne & Bill Hybels' 1995 book *Rediscovering Church*, to see how a student pastor and a dozen kids in a youth group grew into one of the largest churches in America. But now I'd instead recommend reading this book, covering the same ground at a deeper level and extending it to today. Highly recommended!

I've read this book twice, and I'm going to read it again. Just want to get the fact into my head and heart that God is present everywhere I go. We run a small business in Northern Wisconsin, and had a very busy season. In working with the public day in and day out, the book helped a great deal to be conscious of the presence of God, his accessibility and availability to give wisdom and guide me

throughout my day. This information, however, is not new to me. I've called myself a "Christian" for many years. We were active participants at Willow Creek Community Church for eight years before we moved to Northern Wisconsin right after a church-break up in our former neighborhood Bloomingdale, Illinois. We have a deep respect for what God is doing on a daily basis at Willow Creek Community Church. With 62 years of age, I can say that there is always room to learn more and expand one's horizon. That said, I'm going to read the book again this fall, and highly recommend it.

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