

I Haven't Heard the "Voice of God", But That's OK

With the approach of our Lay Witness Weekend, and the stories of life-changing personal events we're sure to hear, I can't help feeling I've missed something. I have to confess that I've never experienced an awe-inspiring epiphany, a "Wow" moment that I saw as a sign of God working miracles in my life. I know that others have had such moments, and I've sometimes wondered why I haven't. Is something wrong with me? Is my faith not strong enough? I've come to realize, however, that I'm probably like the vast majority of Christians who never experienced times of great upheaval and recovery, but rather have lived normal lives of mostly ordinary, minor ups and downs. There may have been past difficulties in personal relationships, jobs, health, or loss of family or friends too soon; things that seemed major at the time, but really weren't when compared to other's catastrophes. My problems have been like hang nails and paper cuts compared with others' cancer and heart attacks. But trust me, I'm not complaining! Throughout these difficulties I never had that "voice of God" moment, but I have felt the subtle guidance of God, letting me know that things would work out OK. God has given me a positive outlook on life which allows me to see beyond the day-to-day problems that arise, and have confidence that tomorrow will be better. When things look bleak, I always have a deep-down feeling that the problem is temporary. I know that feeling comes from God. Over time I've reached the conclusion that it's OK to not experience that overwhelming "lightning bolt" indication of God's involvement. There is absolutely a great value in the inspirational power of the stories of those who have overcome tremendous hardships or obstacles, and I certainly don't mean to diminish that. These stories help us focus on God's power, and help many to discover, strengthen or restore their faith. But I believe those instances are meant to be rare and special so they have a greater impact.

If something is commonplace, it's often taken for granted, and the effect is lessened. So if you're like me, with no great tragedies in life, don't feel you're missing something. I say we should count our blessings. I'm actually grateful that I am one of the multitude with everyday issues instead of earth-shattering ones. As Proverbs 15:3 (NLT) states: "The Lord is watching everywhere, keeping his eye on both the evil and the good." The quiet comfort of that knowledge is more than enough for me.