

Thank you, Bruce Evans...
...for being our speaker for today!

September Birthdays

6 Melinda McCollum
11 Marie Burruss
15 Marcos Perales
16 Jim Burruss
30 Kurt Hoffman

*"Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the
Lord is, there is freedom."
2 Corinthians 3:17*

Regular Meeting Times

Sunday.....9:45 a.m.
Sunday.....10:45 a.m.
Wednesday.....7:00 p.m.

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Indio Informer

Vol. 37 No. 36
September 6, 2026

*"Trust in the Lord with all
your heart and do not lean on
your own understanding."
Proverb 3:5*

- *"Fight the good fight"*
- *"Keep the faith"*
- *"Finish the course"*

Is God Speaking Directly to You Today?

By Gardner Hall

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:

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.

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 muddled.

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!

"The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but those things which are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law" (Deut. 29:29).

Busy Hands

By Jay Launius

There's a story of an elderly man who always made sure that the porch light was changed on the front of the church

building. Because of his diligence to this simple chore, the light always glowed brightly for 56 years. At a ripe old age, the man passed away and after a time the light bulb went out. One of the church members commented, "Since he passed away, the church building doesn't seem as bright and welcoming. I never knew he was so important to the church."

The bible teaches us that God intended for people to keep their hands busy (Genesis 2:15). The wise man of Proverbs said, *"In all labor there is profit."* (Proverbs 14:23) The benefits of physical labor to the body are a well-documented fact and it's easily seen in those who "keep moving" well into their golden years. How many times have we heard of individuals who retired from work, hit the easy chair, then died shortly thereafter? Truly, God's design for mankind to work will add to the quality and well-being of our lives. Paul encouraged the Thessalonians *"that you also aspire to lead a quiet life, to mind your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you."* (1 Thes. 4:11)

When it comes to doing work for the church, there is no end to the things which need to be done. Do you want to remain spiritually fit? Then teach a bible class. Don't have the gift of teaching? Then help a teacher prepare teaching materials or prepare a classroom. You may also involve yourself in the physical work of the church. God has blessed most congregations in the US with a worship facility, building grounds and a fellowship building. It is our responsibility as members of the Lord's church to be good stewards of these blessings. An added benefit to being involved with the physical work at the church is that you will become closer to those you find yourself working with. (Phil. 4:3) You never know, that simple chore you've signed up for will make the church building a brighter place for many years to come.
