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- *Hearing and listening to God*
- *Responding to one in need*
- *Life after life*
- *Relationship with guides*

God speaks to you in your own way according to your own needs. God speaks in the silence. God speaks in the agony. God speaks in the ecstasy. God speaks in the suffering and the rejoicing. God speaks constantly to everyone, but it is for you to find the means of listening.

When God speaks it is not the result of your prayers, for the wisdom, the peace, the unconditional love, the healing power is constant. It never stops. It never waits to be invited. It is always with you. Our job, our loving responsibility to you, is to help you to be open to hear God. We have spoken about seeing God, but tonight we wish for you to consider means of hearing what God has to say.

God speaks a language that is understandable by all. There is no interpreter that is necessary. There is no middle person who must in turn interpret the voice of God. You are capable of hearing that voice as it best serves you. What you hear is based on your needs. Whether they are perceived by you as pressing needs or whether you may not actually be aware of them, they are conditions that help focus the voice of God upon your soul.

You have questions that have been expressed. You're concerned about your friend and his entire family. You're interested in knowing of the souls who have joined us whom you know intimately well. There are no questions that are posed that are inappropriate. You must always feel free to ask whatever is in your mind that is troubling or that concerns you. All questions, all concerns, all troubles, all worries belong before God.

All questions are answered. In becoming more sensitive to hearing, you can receive the answers to the many questions that you have throughout life. In seeing God through those glimpses that we spoke of, you become stronger in your conviction that God Is. Knowing that God Is, you are more able to hear what God says. Without a conviction of the presence of God, you cannot fully turn your ear toward that loving power and grow by what you hear.

We may say at the beginning that your friend is surrounded by his guides, yours, and the guides of all who pray for his strength who are concerned for his recovery. We can tell you with absolute certainty that his recovery is guaranteed. You must also recognize that recovery means *being brought to strength*. There are many levels to strength. There is the physical balance, there is an emotional balance, there is a spiritual balance. Recovery involves the interrelationship of all three of these balances.

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There is always anxiety associated with concern for one's health. The anxiety comes from a fear of what is not known. There are fears that far exceed what is in truth the reality. Your friend's faith is a source of enormous strength for him and also for others who share concern for his well-being. Indeed, his faith strengthens him and others. It is not common that one's faith becomes the strength for another, and yet that is one of the goals of life. You provide faith through your own exercise of it in life. Such faith in itself is life-giving, life-affirming. It is a means by which one soul has a direct impact on the soul of another.

Souls communicate by way of love, but that love is grounded by faith. When anyone is closely connected to an awareness of soul, faith is a natural outcome and outgrowth. When you experience fear, it is your connection to what is truly permanent that provides the grounds for faith, and it is that faith in turn that is expressed as love. Your friend is strongly aware of the impact of faith and a sense of spirit and the effect on health, the realization of recovery. His faith gives him strength, but it is important for each of you to recognize that your own beliefs give you strength, and that those beliefs may be strength-giving to your friend.

What can you do when someone faces concerns about health, about the future, about family? Most importantly, each of you must hold the one for whom you pray in a light that is characterized with health, with joy, with strength, with optimism, and above all with absolute love. That is the greatest gift you can provide anyone—a nurturing nonjudgmental presence.

Everyone travels through life experiencing self-doubt, fear, anxiety, and wondering about the future. That is an important experience to pass through. It is indeed the refiner's fire through which the soul is strengthened, given character, given meaning, given shape. It is a process that all must experience for spiritual growth, which means eternal growth. Human life provides that opportunity in a way that is not possible elsewhere. It is why you are given human life. You must embrace it, you must welcome it, and you must value it for all that it provides—that which gives great joy as well as whatever brings concern.

Ultimately your soul will be a part of this host of souls. You will experience life as we experience life. You all will make a transition from life to life. There is no death. When you move from one community to another, those in the first community are aware of your absence, those in the receiving community are aware of your presence, and you are aware of your own continuity. You may be invisible to one community but are nevertheless visible to another. Regardless, you continue.

All of human life can be seen as one community. Spiritual life is merely another community, but nevertheless you all are aware of your own continuity. Your soul has a sense of awareness. A soul does not sleep. It is not unconscious at any time. The soul is continuous. You are the same individual now that you were when you were born, and

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yet in many superficial ways you do not resemble your appearance at the time of birth. But it makes no difference, for your life continues.

You wonder about the souls of those who have joined us. I'm sure you all have the same questions about the souls of loved ones. Have they reincarnated? Are they experiencing human life? Where are they? What are they? What kind of life-form do they experience?

In the case of the parents of one of you, they have not yet begun human life but are strengthening and growing in their spiritual form. They are well. They experience joy and perfect health. They are loved. They are loving. They radiate and reflect God's light. The time may come when they feel they must learn more in human life, but that is entirely their choice. Souls who inhabit human life-forms do so because of the recognition of what can be learned. Most souls experience human life more than once, but there are countless souls who entered the human life experience as highly developed, highly evolved spirits. For them, there is less need to once again experience human life. They are ready to continue on with their journey to the center of life, to the foundation of all life, to the center of love...God.

There are many stages to spiritual growth. Earthly life is merely one very brief period. The other stages are often much longer, as you would measure time. For us, as you know, there is no sense of time. There's no meaning of time. There're no clocks. There's no apparatus that measures progress of time. There's no apparatus that delineates place, for there is no place that is separate from another place. There are no dimensions of time or place. They simply do not exist. We simply are. *We Are just as God Is.* That is the only designation. There are stages in our spiritual growth, but we remain where we are. Since there is no place, there is no change of location. There is absolutely no distance between us, your guides, and you. You may like to think of us as within you. That may be a convenient way of identifying our closeness for you, but if we are within you that means we are not outside you. Having a concept of inside and outside denotes space, distance, place. It does not exist.

We are however you wish to think of us. If you think of your guides as surrounding you, we surround you. If you think of your guides as inside, we're inside. If you think of your guides as above you, then we're above you. If you think of your guides in anthropomorphic terms, we occupy those characteristics. If you think of your guides as a loving presence, we are that presence. Your spiritual guides are everywhere. We are all things. Some societies see their spiritual guides as nature. For them, that is what we are.

It is difficult for you to contemplate the nature of spirit. You understand its characteristics. You know that spirit is love—unconditional love. You know that spirit is uplifting, supporting, compassionate. These are characteristics that describe in part who we are. But they are merely human attempts to put your arms around the concept of

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spirit. We are certainly those characteristics. We are also light. We are also energy. We are aware of each other because we are aware of energy. If you sit next to a fire, you feel the heat. You don't see the heat but you know it is there. It is this way for us. We are energy and yet we are still aware of one another.

The spirit development differs from one soul to another. As a result, the soul evolves in strength, in the power to be loving, to be supportive, to be uplifting, to be compassionate. In time, the spirit becomes all love, all compassion, totally uplifting and supporting. Your guides are evolving as you evolve. We are your guides because we choose to be your guides. We are given the opportunity to serve in this capacity. In this capacity, we are aware of all guides. We know the guides of the parents after whom you ask. We know the guides of everyone in this group. We see them, and we are with them. There is no time when we are not with them, for that would assume space if we are not with them or if we are with them. Since we are with all guides of all human beings all the time, it is possible only when there is no sense of space or distance. Because of that it is easy to communicate with one another. Communicating is as easy for us as fashioning a thought is for you. You have a thought—the thought exists. We communicate—the communication is complete.

Some of what was shared with you last time touches upon issues of predetermination, precondition. If you listen to God, if you listen to your guides, you will understand that there is only one predetermination that belongs to human life, and that is the guarantee of being a part of God. How that takes place, when it takes place, how long one must wait are issues that are not predetermined. They are the result of decisions that you make in life, and those decisions are influenced, the precondition, by the nature of your lives before your current physical lives.

When you listen to God, you listen to the presence of the spiritual reality that belongs to your life, whether you feel it within, next to you, above you, wherever. Listening means being open to that still voice that provides insight, that still voice that gives you a sense of what you can be and how you can evolve. Listening to God is knowing the presence of your own spirit as the fundamental component that shapes how you live and how you face the challenges and opportunities that your life provides. Listening to God directs your life.

Seeing God is the way to build a commitment to the concept that God really is. As much as you have all thought about God, each of you experiences doubts. Each of you questions at times: is God really what you perceive that power to be, or is God in some way constructed in your own imagination. All human beings experience doubt. But seeing God in others strengthens your resolution to taking the next step, that step being to listen to God.

In seeing, one may believe, but in hearing, one acts. Your lives are ultimately given meaning, not by the limits of what you see but by the depth of what you hear. Let

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your own lives reflect in action what it is that you hear, and may what you see provide the faith to be open to your listening.

You are blessed by God. You are blessed by your guides. You are prayed for by your guides. It is your guides who try to reach you in your own individual ways. Listen to those guides. Seek those moments of quiet when you can be open. Close your eyes and hear the music of love that comes from your guides. It is the love of God that is being transmitted for the illumination of your souls and the direction of your lives. Rejoice!

Amen.