

When teens listen to God...

By Elise L. Moore, C.S.

We've been discussing how God talks to us 24 hours a day with messages that bless and protect us and others. I've shared these and similar stories in high school Sunday School classes. There have been some remarkable results from teens learning how to listen to and obey God's thoughts.

Some years ago, a 16-year old in my class had an old truck. He was in a large junkyard looking for a part and was walking toward the exit. It was a bright, warm afternoon and he was the only person around.

Suddenly he got this thought to run. Being a typical cool dude, he thought...no way! But in that moment he remembered what we had been talking about, that God speaks to us 24 hours a day, and that we should immediately listen and obey. Question later. So he began to run. He told me it wasn't 15 seconds and the truck by which he had been walking blew up. It took that whole part of the yard with it. The force of the explosion was so great it knocked him flat on the ground. Parts of truck and pieces of metal were falling all around him. One large part fell right beside his head. But nothing touched him. Not one piece of metal hit him.

I read about the explosion in the papers. It just said no one was injured. It never mentioned him...or his obedience to God's message.

Less than a month later, another boy in the class told us he had been riding his motorcycle to work on a curvy, country road when the thought came to him (are you ready for this one?) to pull off the side of the road, turn off his bike, and look into the ravine. His first reaction was, "What?!? I'll be late for work!" Then he remembered the other guy's experience. He immediately pulled off the road, turned off his bike and looked into the ravine.

There, at the bottom, was a car upside down. He thought he heard a voice calling. So he slipped and slid down the embankment to the car and found a woman trapped inside. He drove to town and brought help. The woman credited him with saving her life, and the city held a special ceremony for

him and gave him a medal for heroism. She told him that she'd been driving too fast, missed the turn, and gone air-borne into the ravine. She'd been calling for help for almost two hours but no one could hear or see her.

As our Sunday School class talked about it, we concluded that God had been telling her not to drive that fast, that whatever it was wasn't that important. But she wasn't listening.

We also decided that God had been talking to every single motorist that had driven that back road during those two hours to stop and look, but they hadn't been listening. It took a 16-year old boy to listen to God's message and save that woman's life.

Messages from God don't just come in special places like church, or at special times like when we are praying for something. We want and need to be receptive to God's timing. He knows what we need and what others need. If we will be still in our thought and be receptive always, in a junkyard, driving to work, we will be available to listen and obey, to do His will and be a blessing to ourselves and others.

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