

Softly and Tenderly
by Lisa Gillespie

Samuel: **I Samuel 3:1-10 (NIV)** “The boy Samuel ministered before the Lord under Eli. In those days the word of the Lord was rare; there were not many visions. One night Eli, whose eyes were becoming so weak that he could barely see, was lying down in his usual place. The lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the Lord, where the ark of God was. Then the Lord called Samuel. Samuel answered, “Here I am.” And he ran to Eli and said, “Here I am; you called me?” but Eli said, “I did not call; go back and lie down.” So he went and lay down. Again the Lord called, “Samuel!” And Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, “Here I am; you called me?” “My son,” Eli said, “I did not call. Go back and lie down.” Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord: The word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him. The Lord called Samuel a third time, and Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, “Here I am; you called me?” Then Eli realized that the Lord was calling the boy. So Eli told Samuel, “GO and lie down, and if he calls you; say ‘Speak Lord, for your servant is listening.’” So Samuel went and lay down in his place. The Lord came and stood there, calling as at the other times, “Samuel! Samuel!” Then Samuel said, “Speak, Lord for your servant is listening.”

Caitlin: **I Kings 19:7-12 (KJV)** "And the angel of the Lord came again the second time...and he said unto him, What doest thou here, Elijah? And he said, I have been very jealous for the Lord God of hosts. For the children of Israel have forsaken thy covenant, thrown down thine altars, and slain thy prophets with the sword; and I, even I only, am left, and they seek my life, to take it away. And he said, Go forth, and stand upon the mount before the Lord, And, behold, the Lord passed by, and a great strong wind rent the mountains, and broke in pieces the rocks before the Lord; but the Lord was not in the wind. And after the wind an earthquake; but the Lord was not in the earthquake. And after the earthquake a fire; but the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire a **still, small voice.**"

Sammy: Have you ever heard the expression, "If you want to capture someone's attention...just whisper."

Often times, we find ourselves in the middle of a lot of what may only be described as "noise" – a traffic jam, a ball game, etc. This would be a time when you are having trouble hearing yourself think. Perhaps there are people telling you what they think you should do in a particular situation. Perhaps you are seeking guidance from anyone and everyone. The world is only too willing to tell us what it thinks we should do and say – just watch the infomercials on late night television. According to infomercials, if we just buy a particular product...all of our problems will be solved. We'll be losing weight by the ton, selling real estate by the acre and driving a stable of new sports cars.