True Guidance From God

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For Edification and Comfort

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Introduction

God's greatness and ability to meet our needs is sometimes misunderstood by many believers. Our heavenly Father is a loving and caring God. He is closer to His children then we can imagine. He is an ever-present help in all situations. Unfortunately, many believers still doubt the Father's ability to meet their needs and to guide them. Instead of drawing closer to the Father, desiring and building an intimate relationship with Him, many are most occupied with the issues of this temporary life. As a result, they do not recognize the voice of God. Some find it difficult to believe that God speaks in our days and is always willing to guide them in this life. Others profess and teach that God has changed. The few words in this book will encourage you to build your relationship with the Father and develop personal communication protocols that will strengthen your dependence on Him as Your Guide. May the Lord glorify Himself in you as you seek to know and understand more of Him in Jesus Name!

Chapter 1

The Two Camps

When seeking direction in life, you need to identify the camp to which you belong. Many people in the world think that the kingdom topic does not concern them. Hence, they find no reason to inquire on the kingdom to which they belong. Others view religious education as a hobby which one can voluntarily choose to adhere to or not. The presence of many religions and worldviews in the world does not stir up their consciences to inquire on the basis of their existence. Unfortunately, many do not realize that they are adherents of one or more worldviews. Their thoughts and deeds determine the worldview they support. Whether we like to hear it or not, each person in the world is an adherent of at least one or more worldviews. An unconscious adherence or lack of profession does not mean that one does not belong to a particular camp. Scripture makes it clear that you shall know them by their fruits (Mathew 7:16). You do not need to say where you belong for people to know. It will become clear from your deeds and actions.

It is a certainty, however, that many people do not know where they belong or are going. They are tossed here and there by waves of ideas. Their lack of inquiry and sincere determination to identify and adhere to objective truth causes them to pursue illusions. Some professing Christians who do not take the word of God seriously also find themselves in this situation. They are confused, defeated, anxious, depressed, unbalanced in their thoughts and have no direction in life. Like unbelievers, many of these Christians are also led by waves of ideas in the world. Where there is no guidance, people travel in the direction of self-destruction.

As of the way things are right now in this world, two kingdoms are in opposition to each other. On the one hand, the kingdom of darkness belongs to Satan and his agents whose mission is to steal, kill and destroy. Satan is determined to destroy as many people as possible. His strategies are sometimes difficult to understand and many people fall into his traps. Satan and his agents are the authors of human suffering and torments of every kind. Even Christians are sometimes victims of Satan's schemes. In the Bible, we discover that one of Satan's strategies is to appear as an angel of light. This is a deceptive strategy to

ensure that people fall into his traps without them knowing. This is evident in our world today. Millions of people are involved in satanic activities thinking they are doing good. The world is full of cults, satanic music, materialism, display of wealth and riches, pride, arrogance, etc. All these things are used by Satan to trap people in evil until they are finally destroyed.

God's kingdom, on the other hand, is that of peace and love in Jesus. God has set a time for the existence of this current world which He alone knows. He has prepared a new world for those who put their trust in Him and follow His instructions. For the true believer in Christ, this current world is a temporary place. The main reasons to be in this temporary world are to be saved, prepare for the next world and preach the good news of the gospel to others so that they can also make it to the new world. Whether we are happy about it or not, that is the situation of the world. You may engage in as many logical debates and arguments as you want, but that will not change the reality in this world. Hence, the need for true guidance from the One who is able to save you and to deliver your soul from hell. True

guidance will ensure that you live a fulfilled life in this world despite all the terrors from the camp of the enemy.

Therefore, you need to know for sure the kingdom to which you belong. Do you belong to Satan's or to God's? To be guided successfully by God, you have to answer this question and be sure that you belong to His kingdom. There is no such thing as a neutral ground. Have you ever observed a lost baby dear in the wild? It does not know where it is going. It goes up and down calling for the mom to no avail. Soon or later, it will end up in the bellies of the lions, hyenas, tigers, foxes, cheetahs or other preys. One who does not know the kingdom to which he belongs is snatched by Satan in the same way. Hence, the sincere inquirer cannot overlook the situation and continue to live in ignorance. The serious and sincere inquirer ensures that he is not trapped in negligence and misconceptions that may cost him his soul. Instead, he engages in a trustworthy and sincere inquiry to determine the truth. When he has found the truth, he adheres to it. After objectively choosing and belonging to the kingdom of God, the sincere inquirer will be able to obtain guidance from God in order to escape the traps set by the enemy to recapture him.

As a conclusion, you need to consciously and carefully choose the kingdom to which you belong. Satan guides those in the kingdom of darkness while God guides those in the kingdom of light. Those in Satan's kingdom are guided to illusions in this world and destruction in the lake of fire with Satan in the next world. Those in God's kingdom are guided to live fulfilled lives in this world and eternal life in Heaven with God. It is your duty to inquire and decide where to belong. No one is going to do thins for you. If you are sincere about knowing the truth, God will use men and women of faith to guide you in the process. There is no such thing as a neutral ground. If you want to be guided by God, begin by acknowledging your sins to God and receive Jesus Christ in your life as your Lord and savior and repent from your sins (John 3:16, Acts 4:12, Romans 3:23, 10:9-10, Revelation 3:20, 2 Corinthians 5:12-21). The Holy Spirit will come and live in your heart and you will become a child of God and member of His household (Ephesians 2:19). May the Lord guide you in Jesus Name!

Chapter 2

God's Interaction In The World

In chapter one, it was evident that you don't need to talk about true guidance if you are out of God's kingdom. The only people out of God's kingdom God will listen to are those who are seeking repentance and forgiveness in order to join His kingdom. God will guide such sincere inquirers who are out of His kingdom to the truth. Also, we saw that everyone receives some form of guidance irrespective of the kingdom to which one belongs. Two important questions to answer include:

- 1- How does God influence the world despite the presence of Satan?
- 2- How do I tell what is from God?

How does God influence the world despite the presence of Satan?

It is easy to assume that because God created the world and everything, He can do what He wants in the world and influence it as He wants. Although God indeed has the right to do what He wants with creation, we can learn from the Bible that He is a God of order and principles. With God, there is always a proper time and procedure to accomplish anything. God understands and takes everything into account including human weaknesses. Many atheists and unbelievers think that God is weak. They question God's way of action. They lack understanding of God's supreme intelligence and the vastness of His attributes. God's authority transcends anything we can think of. He is highly exalted above creation. Yet, God is also able to express Himself in the lowest form of humility. He is great, powerful, majestic, splendid, supernatural and highly exalted above all things, yet humbled, slow to anger, abounding in love, patient and gentle at the same time, all for the sake of humanity. These attributes are clearly exposed in Philippians 2:5-11;

Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of

those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

In our worldly court of law, a person is not condemned until he is found sufficiently guilty of the charges raised against him. God is also a God of justice and the Owner of supreme justice. The point here is to show that God is in full control of events in the universe. However, God controls the universe and everything He created with supreme intelligence and order. His ways are not our ways nor His thoughts our thoughts. No one can fully understand His ways but He has sufficiently revealed Himself to humanity in His Word.

After creation, we understand from scripture that humans were given a certain degree of freedom. In the book of Genesis it is recorded 'Then the Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it. And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; "but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die." (Genesis 2:15-17).

Humans beings were not created by God like robots. We have some degree of freedom and sufficient liberty to exercise that freedom provided we do not cross certain boundaries defined by God. When we cross the boundaries, we face certain consequences. In the days of Adam and Eve, they were not to eat from the tree of knowledge of good and evil as commanded by God. In our days, we are not to disregard the two commands from Jesus

"...You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind" (Mathew 22:37) and "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another." (John 13:34-35).

Therefore, those who obey God's commands today are His true children. They are the true disciples of Jesus and will receive direct guidance from Him "My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. "And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand (John 10:27-28).

It is, therefore, easy to see that God does not get involved in the affairs of people haphazardly. There are certain parameters that connect human beings to God. In the first chapter, we discovered that the first parameter is to be saved and join God's kingdom. In this second chapter, we discover that to truly hear the voice of God, we have to choose to live by what He says. Hence, it is possible for anyone including professing Christians to continue to follow the selfish desires of their hearts and not hear from God. Those who read and apply the Word of God are the true believers and children of God. They will hear the voice of God and to them, God will reveal His secrets.

Therefore, God's influence in this world is done through people who exercise genuine godly fear towards Him. Although God has the capacity to turn the world upside down, cause supernatural events or act in spectacular ways, He will not do that except it aligns to His plans. The complaints of atheists and liberals are like employees who think that their boss is responsible and must do everything; even if that includes violating the company's rules and regulations to

satisfy their selfish desires. Such selfish employees desire favours without genuine inputs or contributions to the success of the organization. God's work is accomplished through people who live by what He has commanded. 'God's influence 'in this world' must come through the prayers and actions of those who have a right to be here but who are not part of Satan's kingdom. Only believers meet this qualification' (Pastor Mike). Although He has the capacity to intervene in this world any time He wants and to do what He wants, God primarily works through sincere believers and does not violate He personal integrity and attributes.

God wants to save people of all classes of life including the fashion industry, top politicians, music and movie industries, sports, other religions, poor, rich, weak, etc. Given that His plan for the world is to reach out to the lost people, God works with believers who have repented and have a genuine heart for people. He will not do these things without these genuine and repented Christians. God will continue with those genuine believers to accomplish His plans for the world. Jesus' return will mark the end of His work and the beginning of a whole

new, everlasting, peaceful and joyful life in His presence. May the Lord help you live by His words in Jesus Name!

How do I Tell What is from God?

Although God occasionally influences worldly institutions, He works primarily through genuine and repented believers to accomplish His plans. However, believers do not work effectively with God immediately after their conversion and adoption into His kingdom. They go through a process of learning and application of God's principles. This process may take several years until they become experts in obeying God in their area of calling.

Hence, to know what God says, the believer has to understand the word of God and practice it on a daily basis. He will go through certain experiences in life that will help him grow in Godly competences. The word of God plays a fundamental role in this growth process of the Christian. When the believer understands and rightly interprets the Word of God, his actions are aligned with God's will. A regenerated believer is made up of a living spirit, soul and body. The regenerated believer's spirit is the real human being and is also the part that is able to relate and connect with God perfectly through the conscience (John 8:9, Acts 23:1, 24:16, Romans 2:15, 9;1, 13:5, 1 Corinthians 8:12, 1 Timothy 3:9, 1 Peter 3:16). When Christians read the word of God and meditate on it, God speaks to them through their consciences. When the conscience points out to a truth, the entire believer's spirit is enlightened (Proverbs 20:27, Romans 8:14-16, Hebrews 4:12). Unbelievers cannot hear the voice of God because they are in the wrong kingdom where the people's spirits are dead, un-regenerated and obey the voice of the world, flesh and devil.

Therefore, the believer is sure that he heard from God when he reads and meditates the Word of God and listens to the voice of his conscience. In reality, the Holy Spirit living in the believer is the One enabling the communication process in the believer's conscience. Hence, those urges that come from the conscience after a careful meditation on the Word of God are Holy Spirit directed. This is sometimes referred to as the Inner Witness (Romans 8:16). In this process, information flows

directly from God's spirit into the believer's spirit by the help of the Holy Spirit. We know that this happens because God lives in the believer's spirit. God is in the believer and the believer is in God (Colossians 3:3, Romans 5:5). We will talk more about this later.

As a conclusion, it is important to keep in mind that God primarily has influence in the current world through believers who live according to His precepts. As a believer, to know what God is saying, you have to read the word of God, meditate on it and listen to the voice of the Holy Spirit living in you. This voice will always appeal to the conscience and it is the most secure form of guidance in a world where people are influenced by many voices coming from worldly systems, the flesh, Satan and demonic doctrines. May the Lord keep you close to His word in Jesus Name!

Chapter 3

Main Forms of Guidance

There are many sources from which people obtain information and guidance. Sources of good and bad information are uncountable. Unfortunately, the influence of the devilish kingdom in this world makes it such that even some of the good information sources are contaminated with bad information. The reason why the devil and his agents contaminate good sources of information with bad information is to deviate the attention of the sincere inquirers from the truth. The devil wants everyone to believe his lies. For information to have a genuine and godly impact, it has to come from the correct source. The information must also be sufficiently logical and objective. It must detach itself from all sorts of biases, prejudices and subjectivity.

'Superstition is knowledge deduced or obtained without logic, and speculation is deduction made without proof. Both of these methods are like castles built on the seashore. All it takes is one wave of logic to wash them away, yet people use these flimsy methods all the time to support their positions or to justify their behaviours... Because

these methods are flimsy, those who use them often resort to tricks to support their claims. Quite often proofs in favour of a viewpoint are collected arbitrarily, while proofs against it are overlooked. The study is not systematic in any acceptable way' (Dr. Johnson C. Philip & Dr. Saneesh Cherian).

All humans beings have a spirit, soul and body. The spirit of the unbeliever is dead as we saw above while that of the believer is regenerated and alive. The deadness of the unbeliever's spirit means that he cannot connect to God. The unbeliever is a lost person. He will never know God and understand His principles except he is also regenerated or made alive. Someone will have to preach the gospel to the unbeliever and the Holy Spirit will have to convict him to consider his position and situation with God. If the unbeliever responds positively to the urge of the Holy Spirit, the person will eventually receive Jesus as Lord and saviour and repent from his sins. This person's spirit will be regenerated by the help of the Holy Spirit that comes to live in his human dead spirit to bring it to life. The person is then able to connect to God and to communicate with Him through the activated conscience or inner witness. The conscience is illuminated in a way such that it is able to discern what is good and bad. This demarcation line between good and bad things is drawn by the Word of God (Laws of God) which are being recorded in the Believer's heard as he or she reads the Bible. All these things happen in a world called the spiritual world. The means by which people communicate in the spiritual world while still in this world is through the conscience. You can now understand why unbelievers do not have a moral conscience. They do things without any consideration of the ultimate final implications. Their existing conscience is dead and controlled by the devil. The unbeliever's conscience always appeals to satanic ideas. They cannot discern the things of God and cannot even understand the Bible. Their conscience is the spirit of death, which is the same spirit in Satan, that causes them to do what seems best in their own eyes.

Many theologians argue that the soul is the same as the spirit. Many Bible verses indeed support this claim but there are also verses such as 1 Thessalonians 5:23 that distinguishes between the three 'Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ'.

The key to understanding the differences in these parts that make up a human being is in their functions.

The spirit as we have seen communicates through conscience and functions in a realm called the spirit world or spiritual realm. The soul, on the other hand, has to do with the mental world. Many people deny this but there is a little distinction between the mental and the spiritual levels. The soul deals with everything that is involved in the realm of the mental. Unlike the spirit which communicates through conscience, the soul communicates through reason. You do not reason in the spirit realm; everything appeals to your conscience which helps to determine what is good or bad. In the mental realm, you are called to reason in order to determine what is good or bad in the natural.

The sincere inquirer can now see why it is not enough to reason. Sometimes, even Christians can reason things that are not in line with God's will. The simple fact is that the realm of reason is polluted by logical fallacies. The world of reason is fully accessible to everyone but not everyone can reason objectively. This is explained by the fact that objective

reasoning requires a good conscience. A good conscience operates only in people who are truly born again and can rightly interprete the Word of God.

Reasoning is an essential activity in the lives of all humans. Whether believers or unbelievers, we have to reason. The only advantage with the Christian who truly obeys God's will is that he is able to reason in a logical and systematic way due to God's influence in his reasoning faculties. If the believer does not stay close to the Word of God, his reasoning will also be contaminated with false concepts that will later lead to biases and subjectivity. That's why we can find liberal believers, who believe in one thing recorded in the Bible but not in another. encourages believers The Bible to have their transformed to the word of God to avoid being trapped in subjective and biased reasoning;

'I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God' (Rom12:1-2).

This urge from the Bible is to ensure that the reasoning process of the believer is consistent and objective. Transforming the mind with the word of God will help the believer to identify unreliable sources of information such as ungodly theories, concepts and worldviews. This will also help the believer to objectively rebuke these unsound doctrines and to help the lost to come to the knowledge of the truth. The believer will also be able to preach a balanced gospel which consists of the Full Gospel.

The most evident and known part of a human being is the body. The Body operates in the physical realm. The body is able to communicate in the physical realm through a voice known as the feelings – feelings are simply the five senses. For some people, what they can see, hear or feel is the perfect source of information because it is most appealing. The body, however, is totally dominated by the flesh and has no power to align to the will of God on its own. The body is that part that always wants to feel good. It does not like to suffer in any way

and will do all it can to feel comfortable. The Bible reveals three main enemies to the believers – one of the is the body or flesh.

The physical realm is very deceptive and misleading because it shows the results of things that have already occurred without fully specifying to everyone's understanding that those things first occurred in the spirit and mental realms. Unfortunately, the five senses and reason are the most trusted forms of guidance for many people in the world. Many non-Christian scientists fall under the category of people who have totally neglected the superiority of the spiritual realm over the physical and mental. In fact, many do not even believe in a spiritual world.

The reality, however, is that things happen in this physical world only when they have been defined in the spiritual world. The real battles take place in the spiritual world, not in the mental and physical. This can easily be seen when people think before they act. And while unbelievers will only think and act, the believer will, first of all, listen to His conscience while thinking to know what God has to say, then act. God,

Himself totally discourages the guidance from the five senses or feelings in His word;

'while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal' (2 Corinthians 4:18).

'The world is the devil's playground' (Pastor Mike).

In many cases, what we see, hear or feel may not be consistent with the truth. There are many things that happen in the world whose origins we cannot account for or trace from physical evidence. In Psychology, for instance, people's thoughts are carefully studied in order to understand why they act the way they do. We see that the Psychologists trace the roots of the problems in the mental realm and not in the physical. A Christian psychologist will do even better because he will go further to the superior spiritual realm where all things have their roots to discover the root cause of the problems in the person's life. Spiritual judgement is required to establish the full truth.

Therefore, we cannot trust the media to be our supreme guide, and we will also not rely on human beings, although God uses these mediums to reveal truths sometimes. This does not mean that human beings should never be trusted; it simply means that we should look up to God and evaluate everything we hear, see or feel with the Word of God. You will certainly make a lot of errors if you fall into the trap of arriving at conclusions only from what you see, hear or feel. Many people believe in 'the first impression', but there is also a saying that 'appearance does not justify anything'. We need to take time to examine the physical, mental and physical pieces of evidence.

As a conclusion, God speaks to us primarily through the inner witness using the conscience as the voice of communication. This communication process is only effective if we stay close to His world. The conscience which speaks from the Word of God is the best source of information we can ever have to guide us in our daily endeavours and in this world. It is difficult to miss our direction if we understand that as children of God we are saved by grace through faith and have God in us. God will speak directly to us through Jesus, to the Holy Spirit and

finally, to our human spirits. We will hear Him clearly if our conscience is regenerated and focused on Him (John 16:13-15, 1 Corinthians 2:9-16, John 16:13, John 14:26, John 14:26, Proverbs 20:27, Romans 8:14, 16). He is a God who is interested in telling us things and to have fellowship with us. The enemies of God will not be able to access the spirit of the believer. That is God's living and dwelling place. God cannot live in the same place with rivals. That's why we can trust His guidance through our spirits; our conscience will never lie to us.

You will be misled if you depend on things you read, hear, see or feel in the world without testing them with the Word of God. You will still be deceived if you depend on reason alone. Mind manipulators are able to take advantage of emotional people by manipulating their emotions to cause them to do things contrary to their will in the realm of the mental. The mental realm is also where we find the worse forms of subjective and biased reasoning. There are many non-Christian philosophers who have written enormous and illogical volumes of concepts they developed through reason. The guidance that comes from reason and the five senses must be

thoroughly evaluated and tested with the Word of God. It must be consistent with God's word before it is accepted. Although God tells us some things through reason and feelings, we must be careful to ensure that God is the One actually speaking. May the Lord guide us effectively in Jesus Name!

Chapter 4

The Will of God

How to know the will of God is a huge topic in the lives of believers. Often times, you hear Christians using phrases such as 'God told me that ...' or 'I heard the voice of God saying ...' or 'The Spirit of the Lord says ...' or 'God is saying ...' etc. There are some whom on hearing such phrases wonder whether God really communicated. The real challenge, therefore, is to determine whether God is the one truly speaking in those situations. Sometimes, Christians run to their pastors or spiritual leaders who tell them one thing today and another tomorrow. For some other Christians, due to the difficulties in hearing or understanding the voice of God, they depend entirely on what their spiritual leaders or so-called best preachers say. As a result, these Christians are not trusting God but human beings. By trusting human beings, many forget that even men and women of God are sometimes influenced by the world, flesh and devil.

Some ignorant men and women of God are happy to have people running after them from morning to night for guidance. They grow in pride and think they are able to take the place of God in guiding people. Instead of encouraging people and guiding them to the Word of God and the Holy Spirit, they give their followers instructions to follow from their subjective thinking. These spiritual leaders claim they pray consistently for all their followers and continually request prayers from them. Instead of being encouraged to develop a personal relationship with God, their followers are misled to depend on the prayers of the spiritual leaders.

Although God sometimes speaks to us through people, He does that only on certain occasions and not many times in life. It is an abomination to even think that someone can guide you. The mere fact that you think of guiding someone means you are lost and need repentance. Spiritual leaders are to guide their followers and teach them dependence on God. Leaders have a responsibility to lead and not to control. God is the one in control of the situation, not the leader. Leaders are placed in special offices by God to momentarily guide people. Everyone including leaders is expected to read the Word of God, meditate on it and rely on the guidance of the Holy Spirit for direction. Leaders who want people to stick to them or who do

not allow people to depend on God, His Word and the Holy Spirit for direction encourage idolatry and charlatanism.

In the church today, one can observe many of those Christians who depend on leaders using phrases such as 'Pastor X is my personal man of God, he is very powerful ...' or 'Pastor Y is my personal spiritual guide ... ' or 'That prophet knows everything about me ... ' or 'Prophet X sees everything about me, nothing is hidden from him ... ' and so on. This is deception and lies from the pit of hell. Only God can truly guide and lead you. God is the One who created you and He has a reason for creating you. In order to understand that purpose, you will need to develop a personal relationship with God and learn to listen to Him and depend on His guidance. God has not placed your purpose in the hands of someone else. Everyone in the world should depend on God daily for guidance and direction. In the course of your journey on earth, God may use people on certain occasions to guide you but most of the time you will have to study the Word and learn to depend on Him and listen to His voice for direction.

In those days, Moses thought that he was the only one that could be a judge to the people. His father in law, Jethro, saw the limitation of his approach and struggle to effectively lead the people.

"When they have a difficulty, they come to me, and I judge between one and another; and I make known the statutes of God and His laws." So Moses' father-in-law said to him, "The thing that you do is not good. "Both you and these people who are with you will surely wear yourselves out. For this thing is too much for you; you are not able to perform it by yourself. "Listen now to my voice; I will give you counsel, and God will be with you: Stand before God for the people, so that you may bring the difficulties to God. "And you shall teach them the statutes and the laws, and show them the way in which they must walk and the work they must do. "Moreover you shall select from all the people able men, such as fear God, men of truth, hating covetousness; and place such over them to be rulers of thousands, rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens. "And let them judge the people at all times. Then it will be that every great matter they shall bring to you, but every small matter they themselves shall judge. So it

will be easier for you, for they will bear the burden with you. (Exodus 18:16-22).

Jethro's advice was intended to help Moses realize to an extent that people have to go to God by themselves and not depend on others. In the new covenant, the Hebrew writer states;

'Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need' (Hebrews 4:14-16).

Today, a Christian does not need to be guided by humans. As a matter of fact, no human can ever be a complete guide to you. In those days, the high priest was the only one authorised to come to God and to intercede for the people. Haven become our high priest after His death on the cross, Jesus has given all believers access to the holiest of holies where they can comfortably encounter God to address their issues in life (Hebrews 4:16, 10:19).

In our quest for answers and revelations from God, we saw earlier that guidance that comes from reason and feelings cannot be automatically trusted, but must be thoroughly screened with the word of God. Nevertheless, guidance that comes from the spirit can be trusted because God speaks directly to us through the conscience most of the time. Hence, asking the following questions will help the believer to understand whether he or she is in line with God's will or not:

Question 1 – Does the thing appeal to your inner witness?

The inner witness is God Himself speaking by the help of the Holy Spirit to our human spirit. In practical terms, as mentioned earlier, it simply means all those urges that come to your spirit and that appeal to your conscience supported by the Word of God. All believers who are sincerely born again are able to hear that still small voice that tells them to either stop, go ahead, pray more, be patient, wait, act quickly, be humble, be calm, be still, try again, etc. The inner witness is something that your spirit has been telling you all along and

your conscience urges you to do (Romans 8:14, 16). This still small voice should never be neglected, and as said above, it is the surest and most effective means of guidance used by God because it relies on His Word.

Question 2 – Is it something that is already revealed to you? In other words, God may surely be waiting for you to act.

Unfortunately, many Christian make the mistake of praying for things that have already been revealed. Sometimes, clear instructions, processes and principles exist to obtain what you desire from God. In such a situation, you need to prayerfully act according to what God has revealed. A good example is a Christian who prays for God to give him money. God has laid a principle on this issue already in the word of God saying that we need to work and sow. Without neglecting persecution, you have to learn to sow what you expect to reap. If you want to be loved, you better start loving people. Praying that people should love you will not help if you fail to show love to others yourself. Hence, God may, therefore, be waiting for you to apply a certain principle that is already revealed in His Word.

Your prayers should match your actions and all should have their origin from the Word of God.

Question 3 – Are you comfortable with that thing? In other words, does it bring peace to your spirit?

Sometimes believers desire certain things that are not God's will for them. Although their emotions and feelings might push them to acquire those things, their conscience may be saying something else. You have to check the spiritual, emotional and physical balance. When this balance does not exist, the individual concerned is usually not at peace. When peace is lacking, it is usually risky to make a decision. In a balanced state, emotions and feelings should back the conscience. Note that sometimes believers claim to be peaceful about certain things, but this false peace is based only on emotions and feelings. After some time, when certain conditions related to the situation appeal to the conscience, the person will discover that he is no longer at peace. That's why you should never be led solely by emotions (soul) and feelings (flesh) - they are very deceptive. What you feel today may not be what you feel tomorrow.

A good example is a young man or woman seeking a life partner. Although many people lay emphasis on first impressions, most people camouflage a false identity in the beginning of the relationship that appeals to emotions and feelings. Hence, in the beginning, the partner is carried away by emotions and feelings. Nevertheless, if you give enough time to know the person a little more, you will discover the real person hidden behind. Time allows you to examine the situation in such a way that it appeals to your conscience. When your conscience is sufficiently informed, you are automatically strengthened to make a decision without major doubts. Although you cannot always be one hundred percent sure, you nonetheless need to check the level of peace in your entire being to ensure that your decisions are in line with the will of God (Colossians 3:15).

Question 4 - When you read the Bible, is there anything that the word of God urges you to do?

God's guidance through His Word is sure. Sometimes, the Word of God lightens the believers' spirits about certain

actions they should take when meditatively reading the Word of God. The Word of God was provided by God to believers as solutions and answers to their concerns in life. When you spend time meditating on the Word of God, the Holy Spirit tells you or highlights certain things you should do, especially when you are praying for a particular situation. There are instances where people have been directed not to take certain jobs, or to stop working, or to travel to this or that place as a missionary or to buy this car and not the other one, etc, while reading the Bible. Through the Word of God, God speaks to your spirit but sometimes, His Word also urges you to take certain actions to solve certain issues you are facing (Proverbs 20:27, 1 Timothy 6:1-5). The psalmist makes this clearer when he says 'The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple' (Psalm 119:130).

Question 5 – Is it something Godly? Does this desire sound like God the Father?

Sometimes, Christians are never satisfied or contempt with what they have. They always desire more things and as a result, their hearts are full of envy, cheating, lies and jealousy. For instance, a Christian family may have two cars but desire to purchase a third when they really do not need a third one. In many situations, Christians are influenced by the achievements of others to do certain things. Sometimes, what others think or say about you may push you to take certain actions. Remember that in all of your actions, God requires a genuine motivation from Him and the actions should aim at satisfying real needs specified by the Holy Spirit. In this way, God is glorified in all of your actions and He will surely use you to bring glory to Himself (James 1:16-17, 3:14-17).

Chapter 5 God's Communication Protocol

1. The Inner Witness (Romans 8:14,16)

As earlier said, this is either a green or red traffic light in your spirit. The appeal is made to your conscience supported by the Word of God. As a result, you just know that you know that you know Sometimes you cannot really explain how it comes but the urge is very strong and clear. You clearly understand that your conscience is communicating truth to your spirit. For instance, Paul told the ship captain what he perceived in his spirit before the journey;

'Now when much time had been spent, and sailing was now dangerous because the Fast was already over, Paul advised them, saying, "Men, I perceive that this voyage will end with disaster and much loss, not only of the cargo and ship, but also our lives." Nevertheless the centurion was more persuaded by the helmsman and the owner of the ship than by the things spoken by Paul' (Acts 27:9-11).

Notice that Paul did not read or hear about this future disaster from somewhere. It looks like some form of speculation but it is not. That is why it is not easy for others to see or believe it. It is something that came to Paul's spirit, which he either had to trust or neglect. Many times God speaks to Christians this way. However, due to their busy schedules, they fail to recognize this inner witness. The inner witness usually warns of things ahead. It is very important in decision making in the life of a believer.

2. The conscience

The conscience usually speaks to us when we are meditating on the word of God. Conscience usually reminds us of what God has to say about any issue or situation. The conscience and the Holy Spirit will always bear witness with our spirit (Romans 8:16, 9:1). As earlier said, the unbeliever cannot hear this voice correctly because He cannot understand the Word of God due to the deadness of his spirit. The unbeliever's conscience is limited to the physical and mental laws such as traffic rules and regulations, work ethics in a company, city laws, etc. Conscience will always point out sinful spots in our

hearts and actions and urge us to make amendments (John 16:8, Hebrews 10:3).

3. Personal voice of the spirit

The believer should not forget that he has a living spirit which is different from the Holy Spirit. Your spirit is the real you and the part that really connects to God and the spiritual realm. The voice of your spirit is a small voice that always speaks with the person. When someone says I was speaking to myself, the person is surely communicating with the voice of his spirit. Most of us do this all the time including unbelievers. The difference between the believer and the unbeliever is that the unbeliever's spirit is dead to the things of God and, therefore, cannot communicate with God. The believer can always hear this still small voice of his spirit speaking deep things by the help of the Holy Spirit living in him. The voice of the spirit may act as the inner witness but in this case, you actually communicate with a voice that confirms right or wrong or an area of doubt to you.

'The Voice of our spirit, also called 'still, small, voice'. Faint, usually contains specific direction of more detailed nature than Inner Witness. Comes from Holy Spirit, to our spirit, to our mind. It is quantitative' (Pastor Mike).

God uses the voice of the spirit to lead us in our personal lives. Many Christians want to hear powerful and authoritative voices speaking to them but many times God speaks through the voice of our spirits and inner witness. A good example is God using this still small voice to talk to Elijah (1 Kings 18:17-19:18).

4. The Voice of the Holy Spirit

Unlike the inner witness and the voice of the spirit, the voice of the Holy Spirit is more authoritative and louder. In many cases, the voice of the Holy Spirit is even audible. Good examples are God speaking to Samuel (1 Samuel 3:1-10), the Holy Spirit talking to Philip (Acts 8:29) and Holy Spirit speaking to Peter (Acts 10:19, 11:12). There are many other examples in the Bible. This way of communicating is also very common in the church today. In most cases, this voice comes

when there is a tough mission ahead, rough sailing in life ahead or when you need an encouragement that will give you the confidence to face the coming situations.

5. Prophecy

This is one area that has been neglected by the church today making it more accessible to the devil. Nowadays, there are thousands of false prophets in the world, who constantly prey on their congregations. The spectacular nature of prophecy makes it attractive to many Christians. Thousands of believers falsely believe that this is the best way God speaks to His people. Consequently, believers run from one church to another in search of 'a powerful prophet' to speak to their situation. There is no doubt that God used men and women in the past to prophecy things in the lives of people and continues to do that today. An issue that is overlooked today, however, is that God has given all true believers access to Himself through Jesus Christ. Hence, every believer is able to inquire from God about his situation through the Word of God.

Prophets do not prophecy every day to your life and in most cases, you may never meet a prophet the whole of your life. God uses prophets momentarily to intervein in your life and this will appeal to something specific you have been trusting God for. Prophecy has many rules that need to be observed in order to establish whether the prophecy is from God or not.

'Don't follow unless you already have it in your own spirit. Judge all prophesy (1Cor 14:29) by the Word and the Inner Witness. Judge 'fruits' in the life of one bringing prophecy (Mt 7:15-20). Did it come to pass last time? God won't tell someone to tell you something without telling you first. When it's foretelling or guidance, heed it only if it confirms a witness already in your spirit' (Pastor Mike).

Many Christians are reluctant or negligent in observing these rules. Hence, they find themselves enslaved by false prophets and confusion. Many false prophets are involved in satanic cults and sects where they obtain demonic powers to perform temporary miracles, signs and wonders to deceive many. The Bible warns us to beware of false prophets (Mark 13:22-23). Those who run after spectacular signs and wonders are the most deceived. If you observe the men of God in the Bible such

as Paul, other Apostles and the prophets, you realize that spectacular guidance was not on a daily basis. These are things that don't happen on a daily or weekly basis in the life of a believer. God expects you to read His Word, apply it in your life and exercise patience and long-suffering while waiting for results.

It is important to differentiate between 'prophe<u>sy</u>' (with sy) and 'prophe<u>cy</u>' (with cy). All Christians can prophesy if they yield to the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 14:31, Acts 21:8-14). Prophesy is mostly for encouragements, exhortation, edification and comfort, especially in church gatherings. Prophecy, on the other hand, is a foretelling or guide to an individual. Prophecy, as we have seen, should come from a true prophet, and the believer should be careful in observing all applicable rules in order not to be deceived by the prophet (John 16:13).

6. Dreams and Visions

These are other forms of spectacular communication where many people are deceived. Of course, like prophecy, God sometimes uses dreams and visions to warn us of certain dangers or issues we need to confront ahead. For instance, Paul saw a vision of the persecution that was to come to the early church and Ananias saw a vision in which he laid his hands on Saul for him to receive his sight (Acts 9:1, 10, Acts 22:17). God usually uses visions and dreams when we have missed all the warnings mentioned above but He could also be revealing certain important things to us. The dream of Joseph and Daniel and the vision of Peter who saw a sheet from heaven are good examples of future warnings and revelations (Acts 16:3, Acts 10:10, Matthew 2:13, 19, 22).

A careful study of the early church reveals that their visions and dreams were very clear. Even when they were not very clear such as in the case of Peter going to preach to the Gentiles, God ensured that the dream or vision made sense to him later on. If you had a dream and you don't remember it, forget about it. If you still have doubt on anything concerning the dream, pray in the name of Jesus and cover yourself with the Blood of Jesus. You can ask God to make it clear to you if you think it is something important God wanted to communicate. If it is from God, he will still bring the dream. Running from one pastor or

prophet to the other to interpret your dreams will put you in a vulnerable position to be exploited by them. Your life is not in the hands of people. Your life is in the hands of our Creator God (John 14:16-17, 26, 16:13-15, 1 John 2: 27).

Chapter 6

The Heart That is Established in God

At this stage, you already have a matured understanding of your walk with God and how He guides you. Remember that you will need to practice the things you have learned to make them effective in your life. By applying these things, you will grow in maturity and become a Christian who pleases God. Sometimes, Christians try to play games with God. Some people come to Christianity to try and see if it works or not. Others join Christianity because they have been deceived into believing that God will supply all the selfish desires of their hearts. Christianity is not a game. It is a serious, logical, objective and the only way to God and life everlasting. God has made it clear in His word that without faith no one can please Him and that those who come to Him must understand who He is, as well as His requirements for diligence (Hebrews 11:6). God is not a gamble or a hobby. If we claim to be children of God, God should be our everything. God should be our all in all. When God says something, He really means it from the bottom of His heart and will do everything to make it happen. That is why we can trust Him as our Guide. There is no time in history when He disappointed someone or promised and did not fulfil. He honours His word and ensures that His integrity is not at stake and does not allow us to take Him for granted. Everyone will reap what they sow. Therefore, God requires an established heart from us as we approach Him. The following are the attributes of an established heart;

1- The established heart takes the message of God to heart (Hebrews 11: 1, 6-40)

Yes, the established heart does not doubt God. It does not doubt the word of God nor the revelations of the Holy Spirit through the conscience. The established heart understands that circumstances are temporary and are subject to change, but the word of God will endure forever. The established heart focuses on the things unseen and not the things that are seen. Things unseen are things of faith revealed in the word of God. The established heart never relies on feelings and emotions as a primary source of guidance. It analyzes everything in the light of God's word.

2- The established heart fears the Lord (Psalm 112:1-10)

The Christian with an established heart puts God first in everything. He or she understands that God must go ahead to level all the mountains, to break down gates of bronzes and to cut the bars of iron asunder. The established heart delights in the Lord and sees every challenge as an opportunity to making progress by applying God's Word in the situation. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. God is not a man like us. The established heart always asks the question – What does God say about this?

3- The established heart is a heart of faith (Romans 10:17)

The Christian who has an established heart is one who has made a decision to follow God and to do what He says. He understands that the Word of God produces the faith required to finish strong in the Christian race. He is totally convinced that God can be trusted and would never fail those who put their trust in Him. The established heart of faith is the heart that does not simply rely on the general idea that God is good and will help the Christian. Instead, he goes ahead to look for

those specific promises in the word of God that apply to his situation, and then prays and acts in accordance with God's word. The established heart knows that God will honour His word, no matter the situation. Therefore, the established heart relies on what God says about his situation and his commitment to that word is his confidence (2 Chronicles 16:19, 2 Chronicles 20).

4- The established heart attends to the word of God always (Pr4:20)

The established heart meditates on the word of God and listens closely to hear the voice of the Lord speaking to Him. He knows that haven applied the word of God, God will surely come to his rescue. He continues in the word and does not weaken, no matter the season (John 8:32-32, Mark 4).

Conclusion

We have seen that there are two kingdoms - the kingdom of God and that of Satan and that Satan's kingdom is constantly opposing God's kingdom. We have also seen that God's kingdom in this world is in the hearts (spirits) of Christians and God intervenes in this world primarily through Christians (His children). In order to hear God's voice and be sure that God is the one guiding us, we, first of all, have to become believers and join God's kingdom. When we become believers, our spirit is regenerated by the help of the Holy Spirit. God will primarily speak to us in our spirits as we spend time in His Word in the Bible. Our emotions and feelings are important communication channels in God's communication protocol but we cannot automatically trust them because the devil also has access to them. The devil can manipulate emotions and feelings to cause people to act contrary to their will. We have to ensure that emotions, reason and feelings are in line with the conscience and by so doing, we shall align to God's will. Finally, our hearts must be established in God to ensure an effective communication process. We must not waver but believe that God never fails and is a rewarder to those who

diligently seek Him. It is my prayer that God is guiding you to accomplish His will for your life in Jesus Name!

To God be all the Glory and Honour!

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