

## Three Principles of Divine Guidance

Dr. John Carmichael

[Deu 11:18-21 NASB95] 18 "You shall therefore impress these words of mine on your heart and on your soul; and you shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontals on your forehead. 19 "You shall teach them to your sons, talking of them when you sit in your house and when you walk along the road and when you lie down and when you rise up. 20 "You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates, 21 so that your days and the days of your sons may be multiplied on the land which the LORD swore to your fathers to give them, as long as the heavens [remain] above the earth.

- **God is always speaking.**
- **Why would our Father tell fathers to do something He is unwilling to do?**
- **To some Christians, receiving divine direction is outside their level of relationship with God. They simply want to make their own decisions and are not really sure that God will speak to them or that they could hear Him if He did.**

**What are some principles to receiving divine guidance?**

**Here are three principles to receiving divine guidance.**

### **I. In your spirit**

- A. Spirit, soul, body - [1Th 5:23 NASB95] 23 Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- B. Spirit is candle - [Pro 20:27 NASB95] 27 The spirit of man is the lamp of the LORD, Searching all the innermost parts of his being.
- C. [1Co 2:10-16 NASB95] 10 For to us God revealed [them] through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God. 11 For who among men knows the [thoughts] of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so the [thoughts] of God no one knows except the Spirit of God. 12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the things freely given to us by God, 13 which things we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, combining spiritual [thoughts] with spiritual [words.] 14 But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised. 15 But he who is spiritual appraises all things, yet he himself is appraised by no one. 16 For WHO HAS KNOWN THE MIND OF THE LORD, THAT HE WILL INSTRUCT HIM? But we have the mind of Christ.

### **II. There are levels.**

#### **A. Many levels of revelation.**

1. Saw Jesus
2. Heard Voice
3. Seemed Good - [Act 15:28 NASB95] 28 "For it seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us to lay upon you no greater burden than these essentials:
4. Discerning - [Act 14:9 NASB95] 9 This man was listening to Paul as he spoke, who, when he had fixed his gaze on him and had seen [added: discerned, perceived] that he had faith to be made well,

#### **B. Peace is the minimum.**

1. [Col 3:15 NASB95] 15 Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful.
2. Let - to allow it to make your decision.

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3. Rule - umpire or arbiter; to govern

C. **IMO: The level of importance usually determines the level of clarity.**

### III. Train your spirit

#### A. Feed on Word –

1. **[2Ti 3:16-17 NASB95]** 16 All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; 17 so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.
2. The more familiar we are with what He said, the more likely we can hear what He is saying.

#### B. Believe God's Promise to Speak to You –

1. **[Jer 33:2-3 NASB95]** 2 "Thus says the LORD who made [the earth,] the LORD who formed it to establish it, the LORD is His name, 3 'Call to Me and I will answer you, and I will tell you great and mighty things, which you do not know.'.
2. God promises to tell you great and mighty things. See also: James 1:5.

#### C. Pray in Tongues –

1. **[Rom 8:26-27 NASB95]** 26 In the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for [us] with groanings too deep for words; 27 and He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He intercedes for the saints according to [the will of] God.
2. Praying in the Spirit (in tongues) helps us to become more sensitive to our spirit.

#### D. Reason of Use –

1. **[Heb 5:10-14 NASB95]** 10 being designated by God as a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek. 11 Concerning him we have much to say, and [it is] hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing. 12 For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you have need again for someone to teach you the elementary principles of the oracles of God, and you have come to need milk and not solid food. 13 For everyone who partakes [only] of milk is not accustomed to the word of righteousness, for he is an infant. 14 But solid food is for the mature, **who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good and evil.**
2. Make it a daily goal to hear from God. You will stumble and miss it, but as you continue to “practice” you will get better at hearing from God.

- **We need to hunger to hear from God!**
- **If we will call out on God, He will direct us.**