

TWO LIGHTS TO GUIDANCE

INTRO

Jesus is coming again. Prior to Jesus First Coming there was a voice of one crying in the wilderness, "Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make His paths straight," Matthew 3:3. That voice was a forerunner to Jesus coming and the people were prepared by hearing that voice. Hebrews 12:25-27 says, "See that ye refuse not Him that speaketh. For if they escaped not who refused Him that spake on earth, much more shall not we escape, if we turn away from Him that speaketh from Heaven. Whose voice then shook the earth: but now He hath promised, saying, Yet once more I shake not the earth only, but also Heaven. And this word, Yet once more, signifieth the removing of those things that are shaken, as of things that are made, that those things which cannot be shaken may remain." This prophesies that once more God will be speaking from Heaven to lead and guide His people. Just like a car has two headlights on the front of it to provide light, we as believers have two main lamps or lights for God to lead us by.

I. Light or Lamp of the Word.

- A. "Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path," Psalm 119:105.
- B. "The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple," Psalm 119:130.
- C. "For the commandment is a lamp; and the law is light; and reproofs of instruction are the way of life," Proverbs 6:23.
- D. Most of God's plan for our life is already clearly revealed in the Word of God and it gives light to our walk.

II. Light or Lamp of the Spirit.

- A. "The spirit of a man is the candle of the Lord, searching all the inward parts of the belly," Proverbs 20:27.
- B. "For thou wilt light my candle: the Lord my God will enlighten my darkness," Psalm 18:28.
- C. "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God," Romans 8:14.
- D. This leading of the Spirit or the way we are led by the Spirit is by hearing.
 1. The inward witness – an assurance or a knowing.
 - a. "The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, we are the children of God," Romans 8:16.
 - b. "Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit which is of God; that we might know the things which are freely given to us of God," 1 Corinthians 2:12.
 2. The inward working – a desire or a peace.
 - a. "For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure," Philippians 2:13.
 - b. "Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, Make you perfect in every good work to do His will, working in you that which is well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen," Hebrews 13:20-21.
 - c. "And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful," Colossians 3:15.

III. Safeguards in Recognizing the Leading of the Spirit – the Inward Witness, or Inward Working.

- A. You must be in a position to obey the leading of God before you can receive the leading of God.
 1. "The meek will He guide in judgement: and the meek will He teach His way," Psalm 25:9.
 2. "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God. For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measuring of faith,” Romans 12:1-3.

3. This is a submitted and yielded life, having no will of your own. Two people with two different wills cannot live at peace in the same body. To get God’s agenda, you have to let go of your own agenda. You cannot hear God’s voice if you are not committed to obey.
- B. God’s leading and working is from within your spirit not your soul.
1. “For it is God which “worketh in you” both to will and do of His good pleasure,” Philippians 2:13.
 2. “Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, Make you perfect in every good work to do His will, “working in you” that which is well-pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory forever and ever,” Hebrews 13:20.
 3. “Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, the Spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God. Which things also we speak, not in the words which man’s wisdom teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual. But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned,” 1 Corinthians 2:12-14.
 4. The natural soulish man receives not the things of the Spirit. The soulish man cannot connect with God’s purposes. The soulish man almost always misses God’s timing. Just like a nurse can take a reading of your “pulse” by taking the reading from certain places on your body, the pulse of the Spirit can only be read by taking the reading from within your spirit.
- C. God’s leading us in steps (ordered, directed, and established).
1. “The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord: and he delighteth in his way. Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down: for the Lord upholdeth him with his hand. Resist the pressure to run ahead or lag behind,” Psalm 37:23-24.
 2. “I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye. Be ye not as the horse, or as the mule, which have no understanding: whose mouth must be held in with bit and bridle, lest they come near unto thee,” Psalm 32:8-9.
- D. God’s leading does not mean there will not be obstacles, problems, or challenges.
1. God leads us to triumph. “Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savor of his knowledge by us in every place,” 2 Corinthians 2:14.
 2. In Exodus 13 God led them out of Egypt where there was the Red Sea.
 3. In Joshua 6 God led them to Jericho where there was a wall.
 4. In Acts 16 God led them to Macedonia where there was opposition.
- E. God’s leading will never cause you to be double-minded or confused.
1. “I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go; I will guide thee with mine eye,” Psalm 32:8.
 2. “I lead in the way of righteousness, in the midst of the paths of judgement,” Proverbs 8:20.
 3. “Teach me thy way, O Lord, and lead me in a plain path, because of mine enemies,” Psalm 27:11. “For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints,” 1 Corinthians 14:33.
- F. God’s leading is not about trying to hear a voice.
1. There are many voices. Not every voice is of God. If He speaks, fine. If not we can walk in the Light of His Word. Do not make receiving guidance solely on hearing a voice.
 2. “There are, it may be, so many kinds of voices in the world, and none of them are without signification,” 1 Corinthians 14:10.

3. If He does speak:
 - a. God's voice agrees with His Word Hebrews 1:1-3.
 - b. God's voice never causes confusion 1 Corinthians 14:33.
 - c. God's voice speaks peace Psalm 85:8.
 - d. God's voice never torments 1 John 4:18.
 - e. God's voice has no darkness 1 John 1:5.
- G. God's leading and working will not decide for you, but it will work in you up to the point of decision, then, you must decide.
 1. Philippians 2:13; Hebrews 13:20,21; Romans 15: 22-24, 32.
 2. God never wills for us His will. God leads up to the point of our decision.
 3. We must will to obey, follow, and avoid passivity (which is a state of inactivity, waiting to be acted upon from some outside feeling or impression).

IV. The Third Source of Guidance – Circumstances.

- A. These three work together to help determine the leading of God. We are never to go by circumstances alone.
 1. The Word.
 2. The inward witness.
 3. Circumstances.
- B. If the Word and witness line up but circumstances do not; we have one of two choices:
 1. Use our faith and authority to change circumstances.
 2. Wait because the timing is not yet right.