

# When Seeking Guidance...

One of the benefits of knowing God is having His guidance. There are a variety of ways we can come to know His voice and His counsel in our lives

First, we need to establish a regular practice of reading the Scriptures to know the will and ways of the Lord. Then, we need to habitually wait on Him in an attitude of prayer, listening to what He may say to us. One elder mentor put it this way: "if you sincerely desire to do God's will, read His Word and pray in the Spirit every day, then you can dance in your home all day if that's what you want to do!"

We all, however, have decisions to make and problems to deal with where we are unclear about God's guidance. The Bible says to ask Him for wisdom, in faith, and it will be given to us. (James 1:5-6) The peace of God in our hearts is an "umpire" and is an important factor in making a choice. (Colossians 3:16) Unity with others involved, as in a marriage, is also a checkpoint.

Truth is to be established "in the mouths of two or three witnesses" (Deuteronomy 17:6) There is:

- the witness of the Scriptures,
- the witness of the Spirit (through peace and through gifts of revelation, prophecy, dreams,) and
- the witness of wisdom in considering natural circumstances.

There is also the place of counsel by reliable people (Proverbs 20:18) with whom a trust has been built through relationship and through ordained authority. Mentors, friends who offer true fellowship, spouses, parents, teachers, and pastors can give perspectives and principles to assist decision making. This is not a matter of collecting opinions, but rather of seeking Godly, Biblical insight.

We can have faith that God rewards those who earnestly seek Him. Therefore, we are to come to Him in reverence, praise, and thanksgiving, through His Word, His Spirit, and His people, knowing that we can find grace and mercy in our time of need.

## Checklist:

1. What is the issue?
2. Have I inquired of God?
3. Do I have any sin or unforgiveness which is blocking my ability to hear or see clearly?
4. What Scriptures seem to apply?
5. What have I done about the situation?

