

Our Lord's Guidance

Chapter 7

Now it is time to go onto the heart of who and what and how the Christian—the Royal Children of God, operate, act, live, fight and obey God.

Please be patient with me in that we will be reviewing what we have done so far for it is a foundation for this part of being an Christian.

Guidance is a two way street. We communicate with God and He communicates with us. Communication is based on relationships. The closer the relationship, the better the communication, which takes us back to John 14, 15 and 16. But lets first look at John 15.

JN 15:5 "I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in Me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from Me you can do nothing. [6] If anyone does not remain in Me, he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. [7] **If you remain in Me and My words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you.** [8] This is to My Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be My disciples.

JN 15:9 "As the Father has loved Me, so have I loved you. Now remain in My love. [10] If you obey My commands, you will remain in My love, just as I have obeyed My Father's commands and remain in His love. [11] I have told you this so that My joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. [12] My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. [13] Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends. [14] You are My friends if you do what I command. [15] I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. **Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from My Father I have made known to you.** [16] You did not choose Me, **but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit--fruit that will last.** Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in My name. [17] This is My command: Love each other.

We are called His friends. And in our case, we are the adopted children of God making us both friends and Sons/Daughters. And so we are to know our Father's business. We are to know everything from our Father about our Father. This is how and why He can trust us because we know His business (the Kingdom of God), and He trusts us with His business because we remain in Him. See Appendix A on how He called me to be His friend, and to be my best friend.

That day was the turning point in my life with the Lord. I learned how much He really loved me. He has guided me since.

7.1 Guidance through the physical world of things, animals and people

How does our Lord guide us?

There are numerous ways that He has guided His children. One way that He guides us is through the physical world of people and animals. Another way is that He guides us through heavenly beings and angels. The third way that He has guided us is through the Holy Spirit and through our spirit. Finally of course He guides us through His written word.

Remember the burning bush of Moses, or how God guided them through the desert with the pillar of smoke during the day and the fire by night.

At one point a prophet was traveling and the prophet was going the wrong way, the Lord talked through the donkey to tell him the right way to go.

2PE 2:13 “They will be paid back with harm for the harm they have done. Their idea of pleasure is to carouse in broad daylight. They are blots and blemishes, reveling in their pleasures while they feast with you. [14] With eyes full of adultery, they never stop sinning; they seduce the unstable; they are experts in greed--an accursed brood! [15] They have left the straight way and wandered off to follow the way of Balaam son of Beor, who loved the wages of wickedness. [16] **But he was rebuked for his wrongdoing by a donkey--a beast without speech--who spoke with a man's voice and restrained the prophet's madness.**”

And we know and have read in the bible, many people speaking God’s words. The one that the Lord used for me was Jeramiah

JER 1:1 “The words of Jeremiah son of Hilkiah, one of the priests at Anathoth in the territory of Benjamin. [2] The word of the LORD came to him in the thirteenth year of the reign of Josiah son of Amon king of Judah, [3] and through the reign of Jehoiakim son of Josiah king of Judah, down to the fifth month of the eleventh year of Zedekiah son of Josiah king of Judah, when the people of Jerusalem went into exile.”

JER 1:4 “The word of the LORD came to me, saying,

JER 1:5 "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations.”

JER 1:6 "Ah, Sovereign LORD," I said, "I do not know how to speak; I am only a child."

JER 1:7 But the LORD said to me, "Do not say, 'I am only a child.' You must go to everyone I send you to and say whatever I command you. [8] Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you and will rescue you," declares the LORD.

JER 1:9 Then the LORD reached out his hand and touched my mouth and said to me, "Now, I have put my words in your mouth. [10] See, today I appoint you over nations and kingdoms to uproot and tear down, to destroy and overthrow, to build and to plant."

JER 1:11 The word of the LORD came to me: "What do you see, Jeremiah?"

"I see the branch of an almond tree," I replied.

JER 1:12 The LORD said to me, "You have seen correctly, for I am watching to see that my word is fulfilled."

JER 1:13 The word of the LORD came to me again: "What do you see?" "I see a boiling pot, tilting away from the north," I answered.

JER 1:14 The LORD said to me, "From the north disaster will be poured out on all who live in the land. [15] I am about to summon all the peoples of the northern kingdoms," declares the LORD.

"Their kings will come and set up their thrones
in the entrance of the gates of Jerusalem;
they will come against all her surrounding walls
and against all the towns of Judah."

JER 1:16 I will pronounce my judgments on my people
because of their wickedness in forsaking me,
in burning incense to other gods
and in worshiping what their hands have made.

JER 1:17 "Get yourself ready! Stand up and say to them whatever I command you. Do not be terrified by them, or I will terrify you before them. [18] Today I have made you a fortified city, an iron pillar and a bronze wall to stand against the whole land--against the kings of Judah, its officials, its priests and the people of the land. [19] They will fight against you but will not overcome you, for I am with you and will rescue you," declares the LORD.

JER 2:1 The word of the LORD came to me: [2] "Go and proclaim in the hearing of Jerusalem:

" `I remember the devotion of your youth,
how as a bride you loved me
and followed me through the desert,
through a land not sown."

JER 2:3 Israel was holy to the LORD,
the first fruits of his harvest;
all who devoured her were held guilty,
and disaster overtook them,' "
declares the LORD.

So how does God do this? For some He calls it the gift of Knowledge and the gift of wisdom. He puts His words in your mouth.

1CO 12:1 "Now about spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be ignorant. [2] You know that when you were pagans, somehow or other you were influenced and led astray to mute idols. [3] Therefore I tell you that no one who is speaking by the Spirit of God says, "Jesus be cursed," and no one can say, "Jesus is Lord," except by the Holy Spirit.

1CO 12:4 "There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. [5] There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. [6] There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in all men."

1CO 12:7 "Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. [8] To one there is given through the Spirit the message of wisdom, to another the message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, [9] to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, [10] to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues. [11] All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he gives them to each one, just as he determines."

7.2 God also lead us through heavenly beings and angles

Here are some examples.

1KI 19:3 Elijah was afraid and ran for his life. When he came to Beersheba in Judah, he left his servant there, [4] while he himself went a day's journey into the desert. He came to a broom tree, sat down under it and prayed that he might die. "I have had enough, LORD," he said. "Take my life; I am no better than my ancestors." [5] Then he lay down under the tree and fell asleep.

All at once an angel touched him and said, "Get up and eat." [6] He looked around, and there by his head was a cake of bread baked over hot coals, and a jar of water. He ate and drank and then lay down again.

EX 14:19 Then the angel of God, who had been traveling in front of Israel's army, withdrew and went behind them. The pillar of cloud also moved from in front and stood behind them, [20] coming between the armies of Egypt and Israel. Throughout the night the cloud brought darkness to the one side and light to the other side; so neither went near the other all night long.

EX 23:20 "See, I am sending an angel ahead of you to guard you along the way and to bring you to the place I have prepared. [21] Pay attention to him and listen to what he says. Do not rebel against him; he will not forgive your rebellion, since my Name is in him. [22] If you listen carefully to what he says and do all that I say, I will be an enemy to your enemies and will oppose those who oppose you. [23] My angel will go ahead of you and bring you into the land of the Amorites, Hittites, Perizzites, Canaanites, Hivites and Jebusites, and I will wipe them out. [24] Do not bow down before their gods or worship them or follow their practices. You must demolish them and break their sacred stones to pieces. [25] Worship the LORD your God, and his blessing will be on your food and water. I will take away sickness from among you, [26] and none will miscarry or be barren in your land. I will give you a full life span."

PS 8:5 "You made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor."

PS 103:21 "Praise the LORD, all his heavenly hosts, you his servants who do his will."

2PE 2:4 "For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but sent them to hell, putting them into gloomy dungeons to be held for judgment; [5] if he did not spare the ancient world when he brought the flood on its ungodly people, but protected Noah, a preacher of righteousness, and seven others; [6] if he condemned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah by burning them to ashes, and made them an example of what is going to happen to the ungodly; [7] and if he rescued Lot, a righteous man, who was distressed by the filthy lives of lawless men [8] (for that righteous man, living among them day after day, was tormented in his righteous soul by the lawless deeds he saw and heard)-- [9] if this is so, then the Lord knows how to rescue godly men from trials and to hold the unrighteous for the day of judgment, while continuing their punishment. [10] This is especially true of those who follow the corrupt desire of the sinful nature and despise authority.

Bold and arrogant, these men are not afraid to slander celestial beings; [11] yet even angels, although they are stronger and more powerful, do not bring slanderous accusations against such beings in the presence of the Lord. [12] But these men blaspheme in matters they do not understand. They are like brute beasts, creatures of instinct, born only to be caught and destroyed, and like beasts they too will perish."'''

7.3 He guides us through the Holy Spirit and through our spirit

JN 14:25 "All this I have spoken while still with you. [26] But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. [27] Peace I leave with you; My peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid."

JN 16:12 "I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. [13] But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on His own; He will speak only what He hears, and He will tell you what is yet to come. [14] He will bring glory to Me by taking from what is Mine and making it known to you. [15] All that belongs to the Father is Mine. That is why I said the Spirit will take from what is Mine and make it known to you."

He guides us through revelation by the Holy Spirit by our thoughts.

1CO 2:10 "but God has revealed it to us by His Spirit.

The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. [11] For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the man's spirit within him? **In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God.** [12] We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from God, that we may understand what God has freely given us. [13] **This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, expressing spiritual truths in spiritual words.** [14] The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned. [15] The spiritual man makes judgments about all things, but He Himself is not subject to any man's judgment:

HAB 2:2 "Then the LORD replied:

**"Write down the revelation
and make it plain on tablets
so that a herald may run with it.**

HAB 2:3 "For the revelation awaits an appointed time;

it speaks of the end
and will not prove false.
Though it linger, wait for it;
it will certainly come and will not delay.

HAB 2:4 "See, he is puffed up;

his desires are not upright--
but the righteous will live by his faith--

RO 16:25 “Now to Him who is able to establish you by my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery hidden for long ages past, [26] **but now revealed and made known through the prophetic writings by the command of the eternal God**, so that all nations might believe and obey Him-- [27] to the only wise God be glory forever through Jesus Christ! Amen.”

GAL 1:11 “I want you to know, brothers, that the gospel I preached is not something that man made up. [12] I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it; rather, **I received it by revelation from Jesus Christ.**”

EPH 1:15 “For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, [16] I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. [17] I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, **may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know Him better.** [18] **I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, [19] and his incomparably great power for us who believe.** That power is like the working of His mighty strength, [20] which He exerted in Christ when He raised him from the dead and seated Him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, [21] far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. [22] And God placed all things under his feet and appointed Him to be head over everything for the church, [23] which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills everything in every way.”

2PE 1:19 “And we have the word of the prophets made more certain, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. [20] **Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation. [21] For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.**”

The Holy Spirit will use your imagination, He will provide inspiration, He will use your thoughts and if you let Him, He will use your heart.

He lives in your heart, where your spirit lives. That way He can bring to you the message from our Father directly to your heart. This is often called unction. This is where you have a yearning, an unspoken desire to do something but you do not know what or why.

This unction is how we mostly live by. It is like the Lord is knocking on our heart, saying, I want to talk to you, or I have something for you, or I want to communicate with you. So you need to start praying for revelation of what this unction is, what He is trying to say to you. You need to seek the Lord. Many times this unction has a direction. You just get this huge desire to do something, like read the bible. And so you try to open it,

but before you can get control of it, it just opens. When you look to see where it went out of curiosity, a verse, or paragraph or word seems to just come off the page. As you read it, it tells you the solution to a problem you have been having, or you do not realize it but a little later as you meet some one, that you read was the answer to their problem.

As you can see, there are thousands of ways that the Lord communicates with us. But for us, the most important is that the Holy Spirit in our heart guides us.

7.4 Preparation needed for Guidance

This many ways of guidance only happens when:

- 1 We are living by faith
- 2 We are always praising the Lord in our hearts
- 3 We are willing to give up our life for Him
- 4 We are living holy and pure
- 5 We are always seeking first the Kingdom of God
- 6 We are righteous (be obedient-- willing to do as He asks)
- 7 We are forgiven--Close your windows
- 8 We are repentant—Remove any evil spirit
- 9 We are His personal and best friend
- 10 We are His Royal children
- 11 We are listening, resting in the Lord, waiting on the Lord and His answers
- 12 We are always doing something (don't just sit their)
- 13 We are always listening for the Small Still Voice.

Appendix A

A Watch Story

By Richard

One day while in the Navy, my wife's wrist watch broke. We discussed that when I returned from my cruise we would go buy a new one. The next day on the ship out at sea, I went to the ship's store to get some snacks. I saw that they had received a new batch of watches. When I got closer, they were really nice and at a price I could afford. They had 2 types, they were digital and one had a yellow gold face and the other one had a blue face with a silver edge ring.

I started to look around for my friend, hoping he was still around, so that I could ask his opinion as to which watch to buy. I started to panic because the store would close soon and the line was long. If I got out of the line I would not be able to get back before it closed.

I was starting to fret and worry. Then I heard this sweet loving voice say, "What is wrong?"

I said, "I was looking for my best friend Willy but could not find him."

He said, "Well you cannot find him. What about Me? Aren't I your best friend too?"

I said, "Sure you are. But aren't you too busy to help me pick out a watch? Don't you have the world to keep turning and the sun to keep moving?"

He said, "That is all taken care of and I would love to give My advice on which to find buy. I want to discuss things with you just you do with your best friend."

So finally I said, "Well if you are sure you have time for me, I would love to discuss this with you. Which watch do you thing I should get for my wife?"

He said, "Well remember she is Japanese and because of that she hates yellow gold. The other watch has a silver edge and a blue face. I really think that she would like the blue and you know she loves white gold—silver."

I replied, "You are right, she hates yellow gold and loves silver. So I will get the silver and blue one."

I bought it, and when I got home and gave it to her, she loved it. She wore it for the next 5 years until it literally fall apart. I have sought Him for advice for the rest of my life, and I could not have been happier.

