

How to Inquire of the Lord

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Most Christians are filled with frustration when it comes to receiving Divine Guidance. Most believers have prayed many times about many decisions they face, and most feel that they did not always receive satisfactory answers from God. In spite of praying, many have made some bad decisions.

Why? Is there an answer? Is there a solution for asking God a question and receiving an answer? Yes, the solution to this common dilemma is in God's Word. I trust you have already read about the Urim and the Thummin and also about the Three Rope-strands & the Three Witnesses in my other booklets. So now you're ready to receive some extremely helpful teaching on how to inquire of the Lord. Read the following scriptures slowly.

"Now the Philistines had come and spread out in the Valley of Rephaim; so David inquired of the Lord, "Shall I go and attack the Philistines? Will you hand them over to me?" The Lord answered him, "Go, for I will surely hand the Philistines over to you." (II Samuel 5:18-19 NIV)

"In the course of time, David inquired of the Lord, "Shall I go up to one of the towns of Judah?" he asked. The Lord said, "Go up." David asked, "Where shall I go?" "To Hebron" the Lord answered." (II Samuel 2:1 NIV)

"Then David said to Abiathar, the priest, the son of Ahimelech, "Bring me the ephod." Abiathar brought it to him, and David inquired of the Lord, "Shall I pursue this raiding party? Shall I overtake them?" "Pursue them," He answered, "you will certainly overtake them, and succeed in the rescue." (I Samuel 30:7-8 NIV)

"When David learned that Saul was plotting against him, he said to Abiathar, the priest, "Bring the ephod". David said, "O Lord, God of Israel, your servant has heard definitely that Saul plans to come to Keilah and destroy the town on account of me. Will the citizens of Keilah surrender me to him? Will Saul come down, as your servant has heard? O Lord, God of Israel, tell your servant." And the Lord said, "He will". Again David asked, "Will the citizens of Keilah surrender me and my men to Saul?" And the Lord said, "They will". (I Samuel 23:9-12 NIV)

"When David was told, "Look, the Philistines are fighting against Keilah and are looting the threshing floors," He inquired of the Lord saying, "Shall I go and attack the Philistines?" The Lord answered him, "Go, attack the Philistines and save Keilah". (I Samuel 23:1-2 NIV)

Notice something here about how David inquired of the Lord. When David asked God a question, it was always a simple question. David didn't ask, "Lord should we go out against the Jebusites, or Amorites, or the Hittites today or tomorrow, at night or day, in the plain or on the mountain, with swords or bows'n'arrows, with how many soldiers, and which of my commanders?" When multiple questions were asked of the Lord, they were asked one at a time in a simple fashion. Simple questions may receive simple answers. A complicated question requires a complicated answer. We must break down our inquiry into simple questions. Remember... God usually answers by the manifestation of abiding peace in our hearts or the lack thereof. He usually answers us by a positive WITNESS in our spirit or a NEGATIVE CHECK. So even if He gave us a witness while we prayed about a complicated inquiry, we wouldn't know what the peace meant! Thus, the best kind of question to ask the Lord is to state your question, during prayer, in such a way that it could be answered in a simple fashion - a yes or no - a peace or yuck - a witness or check.

But many times believers ask such complicated questions of the Lord, that the only way He could answer would be by an audible voice. And rarely will God answer in this fashion. God is not required to answer our questions

that are full of qualifiers, reasonings, and anxiety. We should pray away our anxieties first, before we ask a question. If we don't have a clear heart and a mind emptied of self-will and frustration, it's difficult to hear from God.

Let me give you an illustration from my personal experience. Once, when I was very young in the things of the Spirit, God taught me a lesson. I was traveling on a Tennessee interstate highway going through the mountains. My destination was northern Virginia. While I was praising the Lord, I experienced a flash vision from the Lord. In a flash, I saw a white country church set up on a hill. I saw a paved road running past it down below. And then I saw myself driving up to that road on another road exactly perpendicular to that road and directly beneath the church. I thought this vision to be rather peculiar. Just as I was pondering its meaning, I happened to look to the left of the interstate. My eyes fell on what looked to be a white church miles away, up in another mountain range. So I got off at the next exit. As I exited on the ramp, I asked the Lord if I was going crazy! I told Him that I didn't want to go on a wild goose chase. He whispered to my heart, "I don't hunt geese, I hunt men." The Lord purposefully used bad English to get my attention. That humorous replay was just enough to embolden me to go on. So I said, "Lord, how do I find that church I saw far off in the mountain ranges, two miles back on the interstate?" "One intersection at a time," seemed to be the reply. So I turned left and then came to another intersection. "Left, Lord?" (pray in tongues), "Straight, Lord?" (pray in tongues), "Right, Lord?" (pray in tongues). I felt a peace about the "left" inquiry, so I turned left. I went through this procedure at many intersections, over several miles, one intersection at a time. Do you know where I ended up? You guessed - at that white church and "T-section" exactly as I saw it in the mini-vision. I was able to help the person to whom the Lord sent me. Then I was so excited I could hardly find my way back to the interstate. Lesson learned: One intersection of life at a time! One question at a time! Follow after peace!