

HOW TO BE LED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT SERIES

GUIDANCE IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

In counseling with many people, it began to dawn on me that at least 99 percent of counseling is for guidance. People want to know what is God's will. People want to know what God is speaking to them and how to make the decisions in their life. It began to dawn on me that 99 percent of the time in all areas of counseling most people just want to know how to be led by the Spirit. They want to be sure that it is God who really is leading them in the decisions of this life. So, we will go on a teaching series that we have not done before on How to be Led by the Spirit.

What we are first going to see is the Old Testament guidance. Old Testament guidance is different from New Testament guidance. But yet, we need to understand the Old Testament guidance that we could picture where we are today since the Old Testament is a shadow of the real thing today. The Old Testament is the New Testament concealed and the New Testament is the Old Testament revealed. So there is a form of teaching and principle in the Old that is applicable in the New.

Circumstantial Guidance

As we look at guidance, we realize that some people are dependent on the Old Testament kind of guidance like circumstantial guidance. Yet, circumstantial guidance needs to be defined. For example, if you are about to go out of your house to maybe witness, pray for the sick, or do a certain work for God, suddenly, a tree branch drops on you. Or maybe you live in a place where there are a lot of coconut trees. As you walk out it happens that a strong wind blew and a coconut dropped on your head. There you are wondering whether God is speaking to you through that coconut. So you are wondering, "Is it God's will for me to go out or not? Was it God trying to speak to me through the circumstances?" Circumstances are no

indication of God's direction. When we are in God's will God does control circumstances. However, by themselves they are not correct indicators.

The person who had the coconut dropped on the head on the way out to evangelize or witness or on the way to do a certain project, could interpret it both ways. He could say, "Maybe God is speaking to me that it's not the time for me to do it." So, you interpret by the circumstances that is not God's will. The opposite could be true. A person who had the same experience of a coconut dropping on his head may say that the devil is trying to stop him. So, the person becomes more determined and says, "Coconuts or no coconuts I am still going out to preach the Word of God."

There are two ways to interpret it. So, we cannot just depend on circumstances to lead us. Neither can we depend on God to open the door before you go. The problem is God does open doors but men also can open doors. See doors can be controlled by man and not just by God. And the devil also can open some doors. So we cannot just go by saying, "God if it's Your will for me to go, let the door be opened." Sometimes it's God's will but the door is closed. So, what do I do then? The door seems closed but as you come right at the door then only it opens. So, we cannot even tell by circumstances of opening of doors or closing of doors.

If you are called to be an evangelist, you cannot tell that if God opens the door then it must be His will. There are several times when certain doors are opened and I sensed in my spirit the Spirit says, "Don't go." Don't go because it may not be His time. There are other times the door is still closed and it's difficult and then says God says to go. I ask God, "How about that situation?" I could sense in my spirit that I am supposed to go. As I seek the direction to move into that area then other doors start opening. We cannot even tell by doors opening or doors closed. We cannot even tell by all these outward circumstantial evidence. They can confirm God's working but they cannot be relied on by itself.

Some people say they receive God's guidance by what Smith Wigglesworth says, "Take the bible and throw it open" and they get a scripture that God directs them to do some thing. If it falls on a wrong scripture, you read all the scriptures until you find something you want so there is no difference. So, this method is not good. It does not tell God's will. You have to be careful when you open the scriptures because you may get a scripture that tells you to go and betray Jesus. We cannot

just rely on this kind of method. These are all circumstantial method. I know people can come to you and share their testimony how when God spoke to them they came back, found the bible, opened it and found a passage and the passage lighted up and shone on them. That is a small possible confirmation but it cannot be relied as a main method. These are all things that will happen as you begin moving in other more concrete forms of guidance or how to be led by the Spirit.

In the Old Testament, there are three main ways that God will guide them. In the Old Testament, they were not born again. They don't have God's Spirit living in them. So, they rely on three methods of God's guidance.

Urim and Thummim

Exodus 28:29 So Aaron shall bear the names of the sons of Israel in the breast-piece of judgment upon his heart, when he goes into the holy place, to bring them to continual remembrance before the Lord. And in the breast-piece of judgment, you shall put the Urim and the Thummim, and they shall be upon Aaron's heart, when he goes in before the Lord; thus, Aaron shall bear the judgment of the people of Israel upon his heart before the Lord continually.

That's one of the first records that God mentioned the Urim and Thummim. The Urim and Thummim actually are two stones. The first word *Urim* comes from the Hebrew word *Ur*, which means light, to be lightened, light that shines. So, *Urim* would be plural for lights. The other word *Thummim* comes from the Hebrew word *Thum*, which means to be complete, to be perfect. So, the plural form would mean perfections. The two Hebrew words mean lights and perfections.

These two stones are kept inside Aaron's breastplate. The use of these two stones are more like a yes, no, answer. Yes or no. These two stones are used all the time. Whenever you read the Old Testament where they cast lots with the breastplate involved, it refers to these two stones. Nobody is exactly sure how this is done, whether they shake the stones and if the yes stone falls out then it's yes. I am talking about Old Testament method. Don't you try this in the New Testament. This is only the first part of a whole long series. Don't just hear this message today and go out and look for two stones, name one yes and the other no. And every time you need guidance shake the stones. Whichever drops out, that's God's will; it is like the

tossing the coin, head or tail kind of guidance. The devil could be there and just blow on one side to make sure you get the tail.

So this is the Urim and Thummim they will shake until one stone falls out, that will be God's will according to them. Yet, in the Old Testament it was important. See the priest had an anointing upon his life. And the whole process was very consecrated and very dedicated to the Lord. The bible speaks about the use of Urim and Thummim in the book of Numbers.

They are mentioned again Leviticus 8 but it's the same kind of mention so we look at the book of Numbers chapter 27 verse 18. Moses was instructing Joshua regarding the conquest of the Promised Land. *And the Lord said to Moses, "Take Joshua the son of Nun, a man in whom is the spirit, and lay your hand upon him; cause him to stand before Eleazar the priest and all the congregation, and you shall commission him in their sight. You shall invest with some of your authority, that all the congregation of the people of Israel may obey. And he shall stand before Eleazar the priest, who shall inquire for him by the judgment of the Urim before the Lord; at his word they shall go out, and at his word they shall come in, both he and all the people of Israel with him, the whole congregation.*

So it tells us that Joshua before he goes in and he goes out he had to consult Eleazar and those stones will mean yes or no. That kind of guidance is applied one step at a time. And every time you read about the casting of lots, it is these stones that are used. You read in the book of Joshua chapter 17 that the land was divided by casting lots before the Lord. What they did was they divided the land into plots and they bring it before the priest for him to cast lots.

Lets read Joshua chapter 7 about the sin of Achan. This is the background, remember Numbers chapter 27 already qualified that all Joshua's guidance was mainly by Urim and Thummim, besides the Lord speaking to him. In chapter 7 of Joshua verse 11 *Israel has sinned; they have transgressed my covenant, which I commanded them; they have taken some of the accursed things; they have stolen, and lied, and put them among their own stuff.*

God knows who was the culprit but God didn't want to tell them. God could have

named that person but yet, God always works by His established methods of guidance. God has given certain methods of guidance, and one of them is the Urim and Thummim, the other is by prophets and another is by dreams or direct revelations from God. So, God sometimes uses a mixture of guidance. As we look at them in the Old Testament, it should encourage us to realize that God can direct us by visions, dreams or inner witness or inward voice of the Spirit. But God usually use a whole variety of methods. He makes it interesting to be in relationship with Him.

Even though Joshua could hear God's voice and Joshua could discern God speaking to him and giving him instructions like for example the ark crossing the river Jordan into the Promised Land, yet, God did not reveal every thing to him the same way. His methods vary. Now God told him there is sin but He didn't tell him who. And they actually took a long process of deduction to find out whom.

So, in Joshua 7:12, Therefore the people of Israel cannot stand before their enemies; they turn their backs before their enemies because they have become a thing for destruction. I will be with you no more unless you destroy the accursed things from among you.

Now this is what they did in verse 14 *In the morning therefore you shall be brought near by your tribes. Now there are twelve tribes. So all the tribes have to come one by one. And the tribes which the Lord takes shall come near by families; and the family which the Lord takes shall come near by households; and the household which the Lord takes shall come near man by man.*

Do you know how long that process took? In the New Testament God could just give a word of knowledge and say Achan. But God doesn't do things that way all the time. Why, He wants us to learn obedience. It will be good if all the time every thing God tells us in great details. But He doesn't so lets learn the nature of God. Our guidance in the New Testament is different from the Old. But God has the same nature; His nature never changes. And His principles still remain. He never limits us to just one method and what a long process it was. They had to cast lots for all the twelve tribes. It would have been easy if Achan belonged to the first tribe and then straightaway they could get him. But let's suppose his tribe was number twelve. So Eleazar will keep on casting lots one by one till they come to the last tribe. After that, Eleazar will then have to cast lots for each family. If Achan belongs to the nine hundredth family, then Eleazar had to cast lots nine hundred times.

Couldn't God reveal straightaway, so as to avoid this tedious process? He could. But such are His method sometimes testing our obedience using the Urim and Thummim. Finally, they got Achan's clan and all the clan would have to come one by one. Here Achan was singled out and it was the Urim and Thummim that exposed him, using the two stones symbolizing a yes or no answer.

Even David used that method. In the bible it tells us how when king Saul killed the priest in the book of I Samuel 22:6 *Now Saul heard that David was discovered, and the men who were with him. Verse 9-10 Then answered Doeg the Edomite, who stood by the servants of Saul, "I saw the son of Jesse coming to Nob, to Abimelech the son of Ahitub, and he inquired of the Lord for him, and gave him provisions, and gave him the sword of Goliath Philistine." Then the king sent to summon Abimelech the priest, the sons of Ahitub, and all his father's house, the priests who were at Nob; and all of them came to the king. And Saul said, "Hear now, son of Ahitub." And he answered, "Here I am, my lord." And Saul said to him, "Why have you conspired against me." In verse 18 Then the king said to Doeg, "You turn and fall upon the priests." So the priests were killed. In verse 19 And Nob, the city of the priests, he put to the sword. In verse 20-21 But one of the sons of Abimelech the son of Ahitub, named Abiathar, escaped and fled after David. And Abiathar told David that Saul had killed the priests of the Lord.*

So, when Saul killed all the priests Abiathar ran with whatever he has and the story goes with the Urim and Thummim to king David. It is after that time that you read how David inquires of the Lord. He took the Urim and Thummim and went to king David. And that is why after that in I Samuel 23 you began to read about David inquiring the Lord about fighting in verse 2 *Therefore David inquired of the Lord, "Shall I go and attack these Philistines?" And the Lord said to David, "Go and attack the Philistines and save Keilah.* So, David many times relied on the Urim and Thummim. So, David also uses the Urim and Thummim in those days. Now he had the Spirit upon him as a prophet and as a king. But yet he relied on the Urim and Thummim to a certain extend.

When King Saul wanted guidance later on, he could not find it. In I Samuel 28:6 *And when Saul inquired of the Lord, the Lord did not answer him, either by dream, or by Urim, or by prophets.* He did not have any more guidance systems. That is why in the end he went to this witch. Most of the people who claim to have connection with dead spirits, they get into a trance and then they began to speak details of a

person's life. They operate with the help of familiar spirits. Those are demons that impersonate people who were formerly alive. They could even impersonate the voices. Normally these witches would operate in that manner. So, when she was trying to deceive Saul, we see that she herself was shocked. Under a special strange permission of God Samuel was permitted to come up. Not because the witch called him. Normally the witch would get her favorite demon to impersonate people. We realize that the actual Samuel appeared that even the witch was shocked.

In I Samuel 28:12 *When the woman saw Samuel, she cried out with a loud voice.* Think about it for a moment. If she were expecting the spirit, why would she be shocked? She was expecting one of her normal familiar spirits. When the real one came, she got a shock. The reason why I accept what the bible says that it is the spirit of Samuel because the word *Samuel* is used in verse 15 *Samuel said to Saul.*

In Moses blessings it says in the book of Deuteronomy 33:8 *And of Levi he said, "Give to Levi thy Thummim, and thy Urim to the godly one, whom thou didst test at Massah, with whom thou didst strive at the waters of Meribah.* So, he refers to the tribe of Levi carrying the Urim and Thummim.

So, in the Old Testament one of the methods that God used was the Urim and Thummim, the two yes or no stones that they relied on a lot. They used it as a step-by-step guidance. Today in the New Testament, the Urim and Thummim represent the inward witness that is within us. The Urim and Thummim in the New Testament is the red light and green light, not a voice. There are actually two red lights, two green lights and one orange light. But for now let's consider the inward witness as the red light and green light. If you read Kenneth Hagin's book on "How To Be Led By The Spirit" he talked about the inward witness as green light or red light. We will see how later that is bigger than that. We see that the Urim and Thummim are now a part of our nature of the spirit man. It's inside us not outside. And all the time the Urim and Thummim is supposed to operate. You could tell by the sensation yes or no. Isn't it wonderful but most Christians don't realize its importance.

The Urim and Thummim guided priests, guided prophets, and guided kings in the Old Testament. They may have prophecies in dreams and visions but the system of God's guidance in the Old Testament Israelite's dispensation was the Urim and Thummim. In the New Testament, we have many forms of supernatural guidance

and manifestations. We even have confirmation through the gift of prophecy and the gifts of the Spirit. But we have inside us Urim and Thummim, lights and perfections, the light of the Spirit within us and the perfection of the guidance in our life. So, in every thing you are doing in your life you could tell yes and no from the inside. You could tell whether you are in the right place or not from the inside. You could tell whether you are doing the right thing from the inside. When we begin to see the inward witness and the Urim and Thummim, we begin to rely on it more.

You could be going for an interview for a job and you are wondering whether God is there. Again, the Urim and Thummim in the Old Testament you have to go right to the situation before you could sense it. They had to bring all the tribes one by one. Then bring all the families of the tribe. Then get the right family. Then bring the person one by one. They had to actually go in a hands-on experience. The Urim and Thummim, which is the inward witness in the New Testament, is a hands-on experience. And sometimes you are in the situation before you sense it stronger the yes or no. You could be going for a job interview and all the time, you are thinking about it. The red light flashes. It's not so strong yet. But as you began to move closer and the day of interview comes, you go right there and your spirit stirs. You could detect that is the red light. As you sit there under the interview, the red light flashes so fast and so strong that you feel so uncomfortable inside, although on the outside everything looks peaceful. You could be in a business deal. As you are thinking about the business deal the red light flashes. And right when you are sitting at the same table negotiating the business deal the red light turns on flashing. Just as you are about to put your pen to the paper to sign the contract, the red light flashes even more. Isn't it wonderful we have an Urim and Thummim inside us guiding us? The opposite of it would be the green light, which is peace. This is the confirmation and you could sense it strong inside you. You know there is a rightness or wrongness. In everything that we do, there is a sense of rightness or wrongness. We are not talking about the sensation of your physical body. Your physical body may think that is the right thing just because of the good feeling. But it's your spirit man that we are talking about. Your spirit man could tell right or wrong in a situation. The Urim and Thummim is in your life all the time. We are kings and priests of God.

Dreams and Prophets

The other method of guidance that they have in the Old Testament is by dreams and prophets. Dreams are supernatural direction, so are prophetic utterances. These

are the three main forms. See God did not speak in all these three to Saul at all. Yet, dreams and prophets have to be checked by other principles. Even this kind of circumstantial guidance God puts a check on it.

Lets look at the book of Deuteronomy chapter 13:1. *If a prophet arises among you, or a dreamer of dreams, and gives you a sign or a wonder, and the sign or wonder which tells you comes to pass, and if he says, "Lets us go after other gods, which you have not known, and let us serve them, you shall not listen to the words of that prophet or to that dreamer of dreams; for the Lord your God is testing you, to know whether you love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul.*

So, they have outward guidance with dreams and prophets whom they could rely on for guidance. Yet, God said that they are not the final answer in the Old Testament. Even if their prophecies or dreams come to pass or are accurate and they said to go and worship idols, which contradict the written Word, throw the dreamer, throw the prophet out. If that is the judgment that God gives in the Old Testament how much more in the New, we should not be led by just any prophecy. If in the Old Testament, dreams and prophets play such an important role and yet, the written Word checks them, how much more in the New Testament when we not only have the written Word, we have the Spirit of God living inside all believers. Some time it's remarkable how foolish many believers are when they just follow prophets and so called prophets without checking the inward witness, without checking the written Word. Sometimes they say, "Well, it all came to pass, therefore it must be true." No, if it comes to pass and it still contradicts God's Word throw it out. Doesn't matter what it is. In the old covenant and in the new covenant the written Word takes precedence. God says you shall kill the prophet and the dreamer of dreams if they contradict the written Word.

Now some people just take Deut. 18 the last verse and they are satisfied with that. Remember this book is one book. If for example, I am writing a letter to you, which is about four or five pages. In the first page, I tell you that if any sort of prophecy comes to pass and it asked you to do some thing, which is contradictory to God's Word, don't do it. Later on in page five of my letter I tell you that the confirmation of any true prophet or dream is that it comes to pass then what I say in page five is qualified by page one. You don't take my page one and ran away with it because I qualified it to you earlier in the same letter. And many people just take Deut. 18 last verse and run off with it without realizing it's part of the same sermon that Moses teach which he already qualified certain principles in chapter 13.

Lets read chapter 18 verse 22 *When a prophet speaks in the name of the Lord, if the word does not come to pass or come true, that is a word which the Lord has not spoken; the prophet has spoken it presumptuously, you need not be afraid of him.* It tells us that the test of a prophet that He gives here is that what the prophet says will come to pass. Lets read in verse 20 *But the prophet who presumes to speak a word in My name which I have not commanded him to speak, or who speaks in the name of other gods, that prophet shall die.* So, the true test of a prophet is that what the prophet says will come to pass. But that test is subject to the other tests whether he spoke in the name of the Lord or in the name of other gods, or whether he contradicts the written Word.

Lets get back to chapter 13:4 *You shall walk after the Lord your God and fear Him and keep His commandments and obey His voice, and you shall serve Him and cleave to Him.* So, it tells you that if any prophet or any dream contradicts the written Word you take the written Word. You take His commandments. Even though one of the tests of a prophet is that what he says comes to pass that is still subject to this. In the Old Testament God leads by prophets, God leads by dreams. When you bring that over to the New Testament God still confirms by prophets. Prophets still operate in Acts 11 Agabus the prophet signified by the Spirit that there was going to be a famine. In Acts 21 Agabus the prophet came to Paul and prophesied that he will be imprisoned in Jerusalem. So, the prophets still operate in the New Testament. I still believe in personal prophecies. Yet, personal prophecies are subject to the written Word of God and subject to the inward witness. The same way God told them in Deut. 13 how they are to hold fast to God's words in verse 4. Hold fast to Him that is to His word. In the New Testament, we are told in I Thess. 5:21 *But test everything; hold fast what is good.* We are exhorted to test. To test means to examine carefully and to double-check it with some thing else.

How do we test a person's knowledge? We ask questions, which we know the answer. And if the answers are not according to what its supposed to be we know that person does not know; he failed the test. How do we actually test prophets, prophecies, dreams, or visions? By the Word. The Word is the test of every prophet, of every dream and of every vision. If they contradict the Word, forget them. We are told to test not once, not twice but all the time. We have to be constantly testing and testing. Yet, in our testing we must not go to the other extreme in I Thess 5 verse 20 of despising prophecies. Some people go to the opposite extreme where they just despise prophecy. They are very cynical about the whole thing. God does speak in prophecy but we just need the right perspective. That's the New Testament and it has the same principle. Since we are looking at Old Testament guidance, we

realize that in dreams, in prophets, or by Urim and Thummim that the underlining foundation is still the written Word. Just as we see the Urim and Thummim, how God guided them step by step. In the Old Testament when God gives a dream or a prophet's leading He also does it step by step. That is a constant fact I could find. God does not reveal everything at one time. He always reveals a step at a time, even in all these three forms of guidance.

Let take one example of each. In the book of Genesis in chapter 12 speaking of spectacular guidance whether God speaks to him by voice or by dreams or by visions we are classifying altogether as spectacular guidance, supernatural guidance, directly from God to Abraham. In Gen. 12:1 *Now the Lord said to Abram, "Go from our country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you.* So God spoke to him get out. Then God did not speak any thing else until he obeyed. He obeyed in verse 4 but he didn't obey completely by taking Lot with him. And God did not speak to him again until he totally obeyed and gave up Lot in chapter 13:14 *The Lord said to Abraham, after Lot had separated from him.* God did not want to speak any more if there was no total obedience. One step at a time.

Some people are just sitting down in the house waiting for God to give dreams and visions all the time. But they are not faithful to whatever God has revealed. If you are not faithful to what God has revealed you could be like Abraham. You have obeyed God 90 percent of that first vision or first dream actually it was his second. And you are wondering why doesn't God speak to you some more. It's because you didn't check whether you obeyed His instructions clearly. God's instructions are very explicit. You have to obey Him explicitly then only He will begin to reveal other things. For example, He started speaking to me about going to Singapore many years back. When I was there, He gave me more instructions explicitly what to do. I remember about two years ago I was ready to go down every week. Then the Lord said not to start until the next decade so we waited. See God's instructions are explicit. We have to sense His direction. So now is the new decade so God began to give many details, what to do, how to do it. Then other details began to come. But if we are not obedient to begin moving in the direction He has already given us, God will not reveal the rest. He waits for us to obey completely. Some times in His first instruction He tells us get out of your family. We get out three quarter left one quarter. Nothing happens until that one quarter is obeyed, until your Lot has left. Then along the way God will prove our faithfulness to the vision, He had given us.

Genesis 15 verse 1 *After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision. After what things? After Abraham made a confession of faith and showed his dependence on God in verse 23 chapter 14. I would not take a thread or a scandal-thong or any thing that is yours, lest you should say, "I have made Abram rich."* After all these things God saw his heart and his faithfulness, God revealed to him again.

God says He is the one who wants to bless Abraham. Abraham had an opportunity to take it the natural way. But he says no you keep your money. I don't want any thing from you I want it from God. The moment he did that, *after these things*, God spoke to him again. Abraham of course had his failures and his successes. When he listened to the voice of Sarah and had Ishmael by Hagar, there was a period of 12 years silence. Imagine 12 years God don't speak to you. Until he was 99 years old in Genesis 17 verse one God spoke to him again. If your relationship with the Lord only brings you a silence from God and the heaven is like brass, the place to check is not heaven. Heaven is rather joyful. The place to check is on your side when you are having that silence from God. It's our side that we need to check. Finally, God did speak to him but you notice how it's step by step in God's guidance whether it's a dream or vision.

And even if God guides by prophets, prophets doesn't know all details too. Let's look at the book of I Samuel. We see Samuel who is a prophet being guided by the Lord in I Samuel 9:17 *When Samuel saw Saul, the Lord told him, "Here is the man of whom I spoke to you! He it is who shall rule over my people."* That was a direct revelation straightaway. Samuel was a prophet who anointed two kings. The first king that he anointed was Saul. The moment he saw Saul he said O.K. this is the one. It was a specific guidance that he had. Later on when he presented Saul to the people in chapter 10:22 *So they inquired again of the Lord, "Did the man come hither?" and the Lord said, "Behold, he has hidden himself among the baggage."* That's specific. God pinpointed right where Saul was hiding.

Yet at another time when Samuel was told to anoint king David in I Samuel 16:1 *Fill your horn with oil, and go; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons.* God could have told him that it was David that He had chosen. But God just told Samuel to go to the house of Jesse. So, he goes to Jesse's house and God didn't even tell him which son was the chosen one yet. Step by step, as he obeyed the first leading, Samuel goes to Jesse's house. And he tells Jesse that one of his sons will be a king. He didn't know which one. He is a prophet and he didn't know. See God doesn't tell every thing all the time. Sometimes He tells quite

in detail but sometimes He doesn't. Let's flow with Him. Let's not question Him. Whatever details He gives us obey that. Some times, He reveals very specifically and sometimes He reveals generally the first step. It is only when you obey the first step then He will give you the second step.

We have here in I Samuel 16 that when he came to Jesse's house he had to find out which son. How to find which son? The only way was by bringing the sons one by one. Do you notice the same hands-on experience? He had to come right to the situation before God spoke. Now some of the details that God spoke to me about Singapore only came when I went there. As long as I remained here in Kuala Lumpur, He does not tell. Some strange ways God operates. Some times God will speak to you something only when you obey. And you begin to find out while you are there. I know God speaks something about New Zealand and Australia. After a meeting there, I took several days aside just to seek God because about three years ago I had a dream about New Zealand. But there were some details that I didn't have. So, when I went there I wanted to find out what other details were. We realize that it's a supernatural life that God has privileged us to live. There is such a thing as supernatural guidance but we need to know how to operate each one of them.

In the Old Testament guidance whether by dreams, by prophets or by Urim and Thummim they all had to operate in the end by the hands on experience. You obey a step at a time. I Samuel 16 what he did was he got the sons to come out one by one. So the eldest came up in verse 6 *When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the Lord's anointed is before him."* He looked at Eliab and said surely the Lord's anointed is before him. Even Samuel takes one look and say, this must be the one. His mind says this must be the one. But the Spirit says this is not the one. This is a prophet and he is not operating by Urim and Thummim. Urim and Thummim started in Moses' time but here he is operating on a different level. He is operating as a prophet not as a priest although he was a priest and prophet. And Jesse has eight sons. Isn't it a waste of time? Why don't he line up all the eight sons and choose? But God didn't; they had to come one by one. When the seventh one came and the Lord said "No," Samuel was very puzzled. Samuel had to ask Jesse, "Are there any other sons?" When Jesse said, "Yes, I have one last son," Samuel had the last chance to hit the bull's eye. And they all had to wait for David to come he was out there in the field. Finally, he comes and the Lord said, "This is the one." Why didn't God just tell him straight away? Why wait till he go all the way through the seven sons?

God doesn't reveal details to prophet all the time though some times He does. If He did, do you realize that Elisha's servant Gehazi would not have dared to lie to him? But Elisha's servant knew that Elisha doesn't know the details all the time. If Elisha knew every thing all the time, he wouldn't dare to lie. But he was hoping this is one of those times he doesn't know. But this was one of those times he knew in great details. So, we realize that in the Old Testament system of guidance by prophets that God still chooses to reveal as His Spirit wills. And we still need the hands on experience for it to sometimes quicken and come forth in great details. We still need to take a step at a time.

If I lead you, it's different from I pushing you. It did not say that those who are dragged by the Spirit are the sons of God. It did not say those who are pushed by the Spirit these are the sons of God. But it says those who are led by the Spirit, they are the sons of God. To be led by the Spirit is a step-by-step process. So, in the Old Testament and in the New Testament when God leads He has system of pattern. It's good for us to understand how He operates so that we could flow along with Him. Old Testament is different from New. In the old, He leads by Urim and Thummim, dreams and prophets. Urim and Thummim are step by step. Dream is also step-by-step. Prophetic leading is also step-by-step. And in the New Testament, the equivalent of the Urim and Thummim is the inward witness. Dreams and visions still continue, the prophetic office still continues but it is different today. Dreams and visions are subject to the inward witness, to the Word of God like the old. And prophets in the New Testament do not lead they only confirm.