

THE MIND OF CHRIST SERIES

THE URIM AND THE THUMMIM

Let's turn to Exodus 28; we are still considering the series on wisdom. We are talking about wisdom and the mind of Christ. So let's look to God in prayer as we ask Him to enlarge our understanding and our minds in Him.

In the last message we left off after speaking about the progressions of wisdom. We have said how wisdom is the light that God released when He created the heavens and the earth. When God says *let there be light and there was light*, most of the time Christians would think that that light is holiness and glory but that light as we have seen relates not to holiness or to glory but to wisdom. The Bible in the book of Proverbs tells us, that wisdom is the principal thing and by wisdom He made the heavens and the earth. That's in the book of Proverbs, which we saw in the last message. So based on those verses where God Himself declares that is by wisdom that He created the heavens and the earth, we pointed to the fact that when God said *let there be light*, that light was the light of God's life and God's wisdom. He spoke what was in His mind. We were all on His mind. This whole earth was on His mind. We were all conceived in His mind and when He spoke it was from His wisdom. His plans, purposes, everything was in the mind of God and He spoke it forth. It said that He worked for 6 days and on the seventh day He rested. Imagine God resting. That's what the book of Genesis says *God rested on the seventh day*. Not that He needed rest but to show a difference how the six days work are a result of the tremendous efforts of the mind of God creating the universe.

This morning we want to continue on that and see how that wisdom and light is related to us in a more personal and intimate way. In order to see that we need to understand one of the most powerful tools that God gave in the Old Testament

called the *Urim* and the *Thummim*. So, let's turn to the book of Exodus 28 as he describes the ephod which the priest had and he wore it and he has the breastplate with all the 12 precious stones and inside he keeps the two stones called the *Urim* and the *Thummim*. We want to especially focus on the ephod and the *Urim* and *Thummim*. Let's look at the ephod first before we read the *Urim* and *Thummim*.

In verse 9 onwards *"Then you shall take two onyx stones and engrave on them the names of the sons of Israel: six of their names on one stone and six names on the other stone, in order of their birth. With the work of an engraver in stone, like the engravings of a signet, you shall engrave the two stones with the names of the sons of Israel. You shall set them in settings of gold. And you shall put the two stones on the shoulder of the ephod as memorial stones for the sons of Israel. So Aaron shall bear their names before the Lord on his two shoulders as a memorial."* In verse 15 *"You shall make the breastplate of judgment artistically woven according to the workmanship of the ephod you shall make it: of gold, blue, purple, and scarlet thread, and fine woven linen, you shall make it."*

Then he goes on to say the placing of the *urim* and the *thummim*. Verse 29 *"So Aaron shall bear the name of the sons of Israel on the breastplate of judgment over his heart, when he goes into the holy place, as a memorial before the Lord continually. And you shall put in the breastplate of judgment the *urim* and the *thummim*, and they shall be over Aaron's heart when he goes in before the Lord. So Aaron shall bear the judgment of the children of Israel over his heart before the Lord continually."*

If you were a Bible scholar and you did whatever research you can on *Urim* and *Thummim*, you will find not much written on that subject and what the *Urim* and *Thummim* are and what they symbolize is quite a mystery to people. We are going to look at what it symbolize this morning. Basically there are two possible theological understanding of *Urim* and *Thummim*. Among the evangelical Christians, they understand the *Urim* and *Thummim* as just casting of lots. They are just two ordinary stones, one indicating yes and the other indicating no. So whenever somebody wants to find out something from the Lord, I don't know how he or she does it, since the two stones were inside Aaron's breastplate. So if they want to find out an answer from God, they may have to possibly juggle it and out of it will drop one stone, 'no' and sometimes it's the other stone, 'yes'. And so the evangelical scholars basically think that the *Urim* means no and the *Thummim* yes.

That's quite a natural view, casting of lots. We realize that in the Old Testament they do cast lots. Even in the New Testament before the Holy Spirit came down on the day of Pentecost they did cast lots. So the casting of lots to us today would be something like tossing a coin.

Now that's not the New Testament pattern. God does not want you to determine whether you want to go to Burma by taking out your 50 cents coin and throwing it and see if its head I go tail I don't go. That's not the way God is going to lead us today. After the Holy Spirit came down you never find them casting lots anymore. Not a single time do we see them casting lots anymore. It tells us that the New Testament is now on a different perspective. See in the Old Testament they have the Holy Spirit on the outside. In the New Testament we have the Holy Spirit on the inside.

One of the most powerful leadings we are going to look at this morning is how the *Urim* and *Thummim* are spiritualized into our life. That's one evangelical view and another view that is held by some scholars is that the *Urim* and *Thummim* are special stones, which God gave to the Israelites. And every time they need to be led by God the stones will glow because one of the stones *Urim* means light and the other stone *Thummim* means perfection: lights and perfection. So the other school of thought in theology is that the *Urim* and *Thummim* are special stones given by God and today they are lost just like the Ark. You can never find the Ark anymore. Even if you find it, it will still be an ordinary piece of furniture today. Why, because in the book of Ezekiel the glory has left the Ark. There is no special power in the Ark anymore. Even if you really found the Ark it has no more special power. It would just be ordinary wood, that's all. The glory has left. If you read your Bible it has left in the time of Ezekiel and any Tom, Dick and Harry could open the Ark and look inside and they won't die. The only time they died was when the glory of God was there. So that's Old Testament.

In the New Testament things have changed. Somehow they believe that like the Ark the two stones *Urim* and *Thummim* carry a special manifestation, it gives them a glow and tells them direction, etc. If you study the Bible in the concordance and look under *Urim* and *Thummim* and study every occasion, sometimes it gives you

the possibility that there is some casting of lots. But other times it cannot be because when it says that some of the direction they had doesn't seem to be just the 'yes' or 'no' kind of answer. Like when they asked in the book of Judges, "Lord, who shall lead Israel forth?" the Lord said, "Judah," now how did they have this answer if the *Urim* and *Thummim* merely gave a *yes* and *no* answer? And verses like God did not speak to Saul by prophets, by dreams, by visions or by *Urim* and *Thummim*. It tells that if it's merely the casting of lots, Saul could have the leading anyway. You don't need the anointing to throw a coin to get head or tail. You don't even need God inside. Any Tom, Dick and Harry could just cast lots. But it seems to be something more than just casting of lots.

The other view of it being a supernatural stone that glows. But as for us, since the scripture doesn't show much on that, we are not going to form an opinion on that. What is most important is that we understand what the stones do and what they are for. The stones signify one of the guidance systems that God sets among His covenant people and they have to do with the title and the names *Urim* and *Thummim*. They are so important that when Moses blessed the Levites, he associated the *Urim* and *Thummim* with the tribe of Levites. That's in the book of Deuteronomy chapter 33, in his blessing of the Levites in verse 8 "*And of Levi he said, let Your Thummim and Your Urim be with Your holy one, whom you tested at Massah and with whom you contended at the waters of Meribah. Who says of his father and mother, I have not seen them. Nor did he acknowledge his brothers, or know his own children; for they have observed Your word and kept Your covenant.*"

The reason why God gave them the *Urim* and *Thummim* is because they obeyed God, they observed His covenant. So the *Urim* and *Thummim* were special blessing of God to the Levites, but that's not all, look at what the *Urim* and *Thummim* will do to them. In verse 10, "*they shall teach Jacob your judgments and Israel your law. They shall put incense before You, and a whole burnt sacrifice on Your altar. Bless his substance, Lord, and accept the work of his hands; strike the lions of those who rise against him, and of those who hate him, that they rise not again.*" That's a very powerful blessing. It's like let no weapons form against it. Because the *Urim* and *Thummim* are with the Levites, they were explicitly among the covenanted ones and they were among those who teach the laws to Jacob. That is the rest of the Israelites. They were among those who will serve them and bring the sacrifices to God. They will have such special blessings that anyone who curse them are

cursed. Anyone who blesses them is blessed. More power to the *Urim* and *Thummim*. If the *Urim* and *Thummim* blessings are so powerful and so important lets have it. But we cannot have it if we don't understand what the *Urim and Thummim* are today. There's no point going out and looking for the stones for they now have carried a different meaning altogether. The key to understand is the little that is given to those stones.

The Urim : the Light of God's Wisdom

The word *Urim* means lights and we'll look at *Urim* first. *Urim* represents the wisdom of God. When God said something is the principal He means it. *Urim* represents the principal thing. *Urim* and *Thummim* represent the principal thing of God. *Urim* represents wisdom, the wisdom of God, the mind of God, the understanding of God. Now you can tie it to the fact that He says because of the *Urim and Thummim* they shall teach Jacob. They shall impart understanding to the rest of Jacob. Why, because *Urim* represents wisdom, light represents wisdom.

Do you notice in Eph.1: 17-18 when Paul prayed for the Spirit of wisdom and revelation to come upon the Ephesians understanding, he says may God give them the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, *that the eyes of their understanding may be enlightened*. The Greek word actually says *flooded with light*. Say my understanding shall be and is flooded with light. You can see the link between light and wisdom, see the Spirit of wisdom and revelation speaks about light coming into our soul, our understanding. Wisdom and light are connected. This is a revelation that you must take a hold of.

When people say I saw the Lord in a vision of God and he sees God in His glory and in His holiness. One of the easiest things to conceive is God being full of light but if you ask the average Christians what does that light represent? The average Christians will tell you that, that light represents holiness. That is what the average Christians will say.

Now the revelation of God is this, wisdom comes before holiness. Holiness and righteousness are the result of wisdom. Why do people sin, because they lack knowledge. Why are people unholy, because they lack knowledge. Holiness and righteousness comes from wisdom. That makes wisdom very powerful. You never see the Bible says holiness is the principal thing. But God says wisdom is the principal thing. Principal means that many things result from it. Principal means that is the root of many other developments. Before a person sin or when a person is in a sinful condition, it's because of lack of understanding in wisdom.

Think about natural thing. Like some people are smokers, maybe they did it because of their friends and their peers pressure and they want to look grown up, so they got into the habit of smoking. Perhaps they lack knowledge of the side effect of smoking. They only saw it from the social point of view but not from the biological point of view. One day they went to visit an anti-smoking exhibition and a presenter shows them all the lungs of the smokers. Showed them the pictures of the smokers and all the dirt that filled their lungs. He will lose his taste for smoking. Lets say that smoking is the result of a natural habit. There is also a demonic spirit of nicotine but that's something else. Then you need deliverance. But lets say you did it out of lack of knowledge, not knowing its effect on your life, I would say although it's a negative motivation, that when you know the cause of what it will do to you, how it will destroy, you stop. In the same way, it's remarkable how many times a person who is on an eating and drinking binge, one day gets sick and the doctor tells him that his lifestyle is wrong and he has to stop drinking and stop overeating food with high cholesterol. It's interesting to note the motivation he suddenly has. Why, because the doctor tells him if he doesn't do it, he has got only 6 months to live. Negative motivation I call it. In Christianity we don't motivate people negatively, we got to be positive. I am just illustrating how a little knowledge does change a person's choice in life. In the Bible, it actually reveals to us that it is the wisdom and the mind that is affected first before holiness and righteousness.

Lets look at the book of Romans. We are looking now to see how that wisdom is the principal thing and it causes holiness and righteousness. Romans chapter one, we start at the beginning of Paul's statement saying about God's creation and how the world is in its sin condition. Rom. 1:20 & 22 *"For since the creation of the world God's invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made,*

even His eternal power and Godhead so that they are without excuse, because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened." Before it was a sin condition, it was a mind condition. They became futile in their thoughts and their foolish hearts. What is the opposite of foolishness, it's wisdom. See, everyone who sins, sinned foolishly whether he or she knows it or not. When a person goes into sin, the person may know or may not know. But the lure of sin is too strong. If the person knows and yet does it, then he/she does not know by God's standard. So everyone who sins has no wisdom. So it says their foolish hearts were in darkness. Their hearts were darkened. Now it has not mentioned any single action of sin yet. It only mentioned their condition.

Having their minds affected, their hearts having an absence of wisdom, which is foolishness, other things start happening. In verse 22, *"professing to be wise they became fools."* See, it's the battle of the wisdom, the wisdom of the world, which is foolishness against the wisdom of God. Verse 23, *"And changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man."* Verse 24, it says, *"Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves."* It was a mind condition before it was a sin condition. To establish this point, Paul continues saying in verse 28, *"And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge,"* which would mean their minds, their understanding, their wisdom of God. Even as they did not like God's wisdom, it says God gave them over to a debased mind to do those things, which are not fitting.

Every sin is a result of a mind condition. Every wrong act, every abusive act that is against God's Word, every depraved act of sin comes from a depraved condition of the mind. So the key to holiness and righteousness is to restore the mind, to restore the wisdom of God to the mind. That's the whole key, for wisdom produces holiness and righteousness. A lack of wisdom produces un-holiness and unrighteousness.

Lets us look at more scriptures to substantiate this truth. Because it's quite a fresh new way of thinking, we got to substantiate that. In Matt. 6, so the next time you asks God for holiness and righteousness, ask God to grant you wisdom. Cause when you have wisdom, you would know how to live a holy life. Lack of wisdom

causes us to be unable to live a holy life. Go right to the source. See the Bible has never asked us to pray in the sense of saying, God grant me holiness, but it urges us to ask God to grant us wisdom. The Bible always tells us to be holy. *Be holy as He is holy*, rather than *grant me holiness*. Have you ever wondered why? It's because holiness is not something you could ask for in a sense because it's imputed in Jesus Christ. But wisdom is the substance of what you can ask for that will produce holiness and righteousness.

Matt.6: 22&23 *"The lamp of the body is the eye. If therefore your eye is good, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in you is darkness, how great is that darkness."*

Now, Jesus is saying what we are saying in a different way. He is saying here that light or we understand it to be wisdom produces holiness and righteousness. A lack of light, which is darkness, produces unholy acts and unrighteousness. So, Jesus is saying here that what fills your life will determine what comes out of your life. Holiness we have defined is to be like God. Righteousness is to be conforming to His commandments and His laws and both result from understanding the wisdom of God. Because when we have God's wisdom, we will know what God wants and we will do what God wants us to do. Holiness becomes a side effect of wisdom; it's all over in the Bible. You could trace every place in the Bible that talks about wisdom and foolishness and sin. It always mentions that in the Bible type of wisdom, those who are wise will obey God and follow God and live the life God wants them to live. Then the Bible always talks about the foolish who fall into sin and all the results of it.

It is so primary to see now that wisdom is the principal thing. If we have wisdom, which is the mind of God, the light of God, you know what God wants you to do. It's like *Urim* and *Thummim*. *Urim* and *Thummim* are two forces, that when it is released, you will know what God wants you to do. God is working in His body to establish that.

The Thummim : Perfection of Love

Lets quickly look at *thummim*. The word *Thummim* means perfection. *Thummim* talks about perfection of character. Look at the book of I John and the statement that John is making here. Those who know the scriptures will know that I John emphasizes love. I Jn. 1: 7 "*But if we walk in the light as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another and the blood of Jesus Christ cleanses us from all sins.*" Now he talks about light. John has two statements of God, God is light and then afterwards he says God is love. In I Jn. 2: 11 "*He who hates his brother is in darkness and walks in darkness.*" So hate and darkness are related. Then verse 8, "*Again, a new commandment I write to you, which thing is true in Him and in you, because the darkness is passing away, and the true light is already shining.*" If you look carefully, it's pointing to love. Walking in love is walking in light. Then in I Jn. 4: 16 "*And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him.*" And He goes on to say that perfect love casts out fear. What does *Thummim* mean? Perfection. Do you see now that *Thummim* means perfect love?

There are two statements in the Bible that you have to put together. One is in Proverbs and in I Cor.13. Proverbs 4: 7 says, "*Wisdom is the principal thing. Therefore get wisdom.*" 1 Cor. 13: 13 says, "*but the greatest of these is love.*" He puts quality into that. So you have the greatest thing, which is love with the principal thing, which is wisdom. And what do you have when you have *Urim* and *Thummim*? In the Old Testament days, you would know God's will. Likewise too, if you have these two attributes, love and wisdom you would have known God's will and you would be doing exactly what God wants, 100 % all the time. We know that God speaks to us and He talks to us, He gives us instructions, He gives us commandments and in His written words He also gave us His commandments. We hear the voice of God because we are His sheep. We hear Him and we know His voice. But here is the secret, if you have the wisdom of God until your mind is like God's mind, everything thing God thinks, you think and the only thing you think is God's thing. You know God does not have to tell you much, you know what to do. You will know exactly what to do because your mind is completely synchronized with God. You would perfectly do God's will all the time.

Then the other aspect is the character. If your character is perfect like God's, developed and perfected in love, everything that God feels, you feel, everything that God desires, you desire. Because you character is synchronized

with God. Think about a person who could have their mind completely like God in wisdom and whose character is perfectly like God in love, God could take the person and put the person at any place in the universe, any part of the world and God could just leave that person because he/she would know what to do. God does not need a hot line with him, or call every five seconds. You would know God so well that you are like God. That does not exclude the fact that God will continue to speak to us because we are in fellowship with Him. But so many times our relationship with God is such that God is the instructor and we are the pupils. It's not like father and son. It's like teacher and pupil. If we progress beyond that stage, it's different. Just like you have little kids growing up in your house. Your relationship with them is such that they don't know a lot of things that you know. Kids grow up and they become adults. Lets say that all things are equal and they got the best development they possibly can. They will grow to the level where their knowledge equals your knowledge except experience. I mean knowledge is so easily acquired today. The only difference is experience. But they may have experiences you don't have. So when your child grows up to the stage that he or she is an adult is different now. Now you really have fellowship, cause now there are 2 minds working together. Not one mind instructing the other all the time. It's a different level altogether. There are 3 relationships you could have with the kids. The first stage is where the kid depends on you. The second stage is where you and the kid are almost on equal level, not only in understanding, knowledge but also in size. The third stage you have come to the close of your life and the kid's life is still expanding and growing.

So when God is wishing and desiring to fellowship with us, a lot of what people call fellowship is not in the level of fellowship that God really wants because we are not at equal level with God. Now please I use the word level in a biblical way. Just like Jesus was considered equal with God. You were raised up at the right hand of God and God wants to consider you as partner together. He doesn't want to consider you as His creation and He is the creator. But most people are satisfied with the relationship with God. They don't want the Hebrew 8 and 10 kinds of relationship. His laws and His statues are placed in our hearts and in our minds so that everything God knows you know.

When Jesus was on the planet earth He doesn't need God whispering to Him all the time although God does that I am sure. He doesn't need God to keep

on directing Him because His heart and His mind were like God. The mind of Jesus was full of light, full of wisdom and He was also full of love. You could do anything you want to do to Him and love flows out through Him. Jesus knows exactly what God wants to do 100% all the time. Even when God did not speak to Him He knows. He knows this is what the Father wants. If we could move to that stage, at the stage when you have grown to be like God, God will bring you into a deeper level called the Throne Room fellowship.

There are different levels of fellowship. There is a fellowship in being of the same birth, having the same source. That is one level of fellowship. In Him we have life, we were born again in Him and that level of fellowship is what I would classify as the fellowship of the cross. We cannot bypass that stage. We have to start at the cross. Fellowship starts at the cross of Calvary. Paul says that I may know the fellowship of His sufferings. There is a fellowship level called the cross level of fellowship. You know what the cross level of fellowship is like. Your will O God not my will, picking up the cross daily is taking up God's will in opposition to your own will, every time you say I trust and obey. I chose your way O God rather than chose my own way. Against many things the world offer you, you chose the way of the Lord. You have decided to follow the Lord.

That's only the first level. We are only looking at the fellowship at the cross level. We are not looking at it from God's perspective yet. There is no fellowship with God until you obey first. In the last message we talked about wisdom. The first progression of wisdom is obedience. If you choose to obey Him, more light floods your life, understanding comes to you. You went through all the four stages of wisdom, which we talked about last week. Most people who are young in the Lord have not even tasted the first level of fellowship. You could tell when they share and they speak. The cross doesn't come out from their lives. One thing you hear and you can perceive is that they have not died to self yet. It is a different thing when a person has died to self and when he/she sings a song, something of the life of Jesus in him/her will touch you. It's a different thing when a person has died to self when they share the Word. You could tell that they know what it is to die to Jesus, to lay down their lives and follow Him. It's a different thing. Even that percentage of fellowship some are at 10%, some 20% and some 30%.

There are different levels of development of that fellowship but the greatest height of that fellowship is when you understand that your walk with God reaches the stage where you can say "Lord, I will go wherever you go and I will do whatever you say, even if it means giving my life for you." You will taste the level of fellowship that others had never tasted before. God will come to you like He never come to others. He will come in the nighttime to be with you. He will come in your prayer time and He will speak in communion with you. People will look at your life and smell the fragrance of Christ because they know there is something different. There is a presence of God in that person because they know the fellowship of the cross. My friend, that is only the first level of fellowship. There are two more levels.

Then through time you learn the second level of fellowship. You began to walk with God and that is the different thing now. You see, before you struggle to obey Him, now the struggle has gone. There are no more struggles when you die to self. It's the easiest thing to obey God. Some people will ask how could you obey God in such a thing? It's very easy not hard, easy because you have died to self. If God tells you take everything and leave, you would leave, because you have died and it becomes very easy. You are no longer walking in the first level of fellowship but you are in the second level of fellowship.

What is the second level? That I may know the power of His resurrection that is when God walks side by side with you. See, in the first level God walks in front and you follow Him. When your fellowship progresses to the stage of fellowship of resurrection, His hand is now in your hand and you are now walking beside the Lord. Mark 16: 20 *And they went out and preached everywhere, the Lord was working with them and confirming the Word through the accompanying signs.* In other words God was working together with them. Now it's different, God is besides you and you began to taste what it is to walk with God, partners together with God, married to the Lord spiritually. You are lover in the Lord altogether. Do you notice something about couples? You could tell how long they have been married by the way they walk. If they have been married long when they come into the church, usually the husband comes in first or the wife comes in first. But new couples always come in together. Here in the second level of fellowship, God is with you.

You taste a freshness of things you have never tasted before where God is with you. You are no more struggling but now you are listening to other instructions of Him telling you what to do. You follow along and you taste the fruit of that partnership. At the first level you tasted tremendous suffering to know the cross. At the second level you taste tremendous power.

There is one more level. *Urim and thummim* being with you where you are seated together with God. You know what sitting represents. It means a work is completed and it also means that you are in a position to act to instruct and give instructions, to give a commandment. You are at the right hand of God seated together in Christ Jesus. At the third level you have the mind of God and the heart of God perfectly. There are very few men of God who reached that stage. At that stage you could say, if God does not move me I move God. Only when you reach that stage you understand that. You could ask and even though there was no revelation from God about that area but because you said it with the heart and the mind of God, God do it for you.

I can recall many things in the Bible here where there are many times those who have moved into the Throne Room of God where they have asked God and God granted them because they have become part of the board meeting with God. They were involved in establishing God's will. These 3 also symbolize the outer court, the holy place and the most holy place. We are looking at it from the aspect of the *Urim and Thummim*, to see how it is done. You see, by the time you reach that stage because your heart and your mind is like God, you will never ask anything outside of God's will. At that stage you could move into a realm that God hasn't even spoken yet. But because you know the heart of God, you know what God wants, God doesn't not even have to instruct you, you will know it.

Like Joshua as he was coming against all these Canaanites and as he was fighting he was winning the war. He looked up and he saw the sun was going down and he needed more time. He looked up at the sun and said, "Sun, stop where you are. Moon stop where you are." And they went on fighting. That was different from crossing the Jordan, because when he crossed the River of Jordan the Lord

instructed him first but now he was fighting and in the midst of the fighting somehow his heart and his mind was like linked up with God and he knew exactly what God wants and he spoke forth and God did it. Here the Bible put it so strong that God listened to man. That's the Joshua generation we are talking about. In the book of Joshua, see the Joshua generation must progress beyond the cross, beyond the resurrection power into the very wisdom and heart of God. We talk about being led by the Spirit of God. Now we are talking about having the mind of God and the heart of God.

Joshua 10:1 *"Now it came to pass when Adonizedek king of Jerusalem heard how Joshua had taken Ai and had utterly destroyed it—as he had done to Jericho and its king, so he had done to Ai and its king—and how the inhabitants of Gibeon had made peace with Israel and were among them that they feared greatly."* So they all came against Joshua. Then verse 11-13, *"And it happened, as they fled before Israel and were on the descent of Beth Haron, that the Lord cast down large hailstones from heaven on them as far as Azekah, and they died. There were more who died from the hailstones than the children of Israel killed with the sword. Then Joshua spoke to the Lord in the day when the Lord delivered up the Amorites before the children of Israel, and he said in the sight of Israel: "Sun, stand still over Gibeon; and moon in the valley of Aijalon. So the sun stood still, and the moon stopped, till the people had revenge upon their enemies."* Then he continues, *"Is this not written in the Book of Jasher? So the sun stood still in the midst of heaven, and did not hasten to go down for about a whole day."* Then verse 14, *"And there has been no day like that, before it or after it, that the Lord heeded the voice of a man."*

Now the scripture tells me that Joshua initiated it and not God. It was a clear cut case of a man who had the heart and mind of God, doing God's will who says sun stop, moon stop and the Lord says I will do it. The scripture recorded it and said that never before has God heard the voice of a man to stop sun and moon. You may think it's easy but I tell you if you count how fast the sun is moving, the amount of energy it takes, the whole solar system was put on a standstill, all because one man who was at the Throne Room. You see, the Throne Room is where the command comes from. Just because Joshua asked, God did it. We are not going to have this level unless you go through the first level the cross or the second level. God always says Outer Court first then Inner Court and then the Holy of holies.

There are many other times that this has happened and I am bringing it before you to show that the wisdom and the love of God that represent the *Urim* and *Thummim* are two powerful forces that we need in our lives, to bring us to this stage of authority so that our words and our actions are like God as if God Himself would have done it. No wonder when Jesus talks about these things He says, ask what you will and it shall be done for you. In the book of Genesis, here is a different case. The sad thing is that human beings move into that area only a while then they move out from it. But God wants us to remain there. Sometimes people move into that stage, they function in that stage and then they drop down to the Holy place and to the Outer court. And then sometimes they move out of the Outer Court, backslide and never see them again. The sad thing is sometimes we don't know how to remain in fellowship with the Lord. The Bible says that we have been raised and seated together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus. It never says we have to move from there.

Now here is Abraham and he move into that area from time to time. In Gen. 17 God spoke to Abraham and said, verse 13 *"He who is born in your house and he who is bought with your money must be circumcised and My covenant shall be in your flesh for an everlasting covenant."* Verse 16, *"And I will bless her and also give you a son by her."* Verse 17, *"Then Abraham fell on his face and laughed, and said in his heart, 'Shall a child be born to a man who is one hundred years old? And shall Sarah, who is ninety years old, bear a child'."*

Now Abraham was in a boardroom with God. Boardroom means that there are plans that are still being made. It says here in verse 18, *"Abraham said to God, Oh, that Ishmael might live before You."* One sentence spoken in that level of relationship. It must be at a tremendous level because when he was there, he was laughing and God didn't kill him. This tells you that there is a tremendous relationship there. I mean the glory of God didn't kill him. Under ordinary circumstances you don't do that.

God said to Abraham in verse 20, *"As for Ishmael, I have heard you. Behold, I have blessed him, and will make him fruitful, and multiply him exceedingly."* If

Abraham didn't say that sentence, Ishmael would never have been blessed. God did it because Abraham asked. Here it tells you the responsibility of that position, cause when you ask for the wrong thing that may not work out that way.

Then you ask the question, how can you ask the wrong thing if your mind and heart are perfect. Here is where the mystery is. Sometimes you move into that position and God is so gracious that He did not require you to have 100% wisdom and 100% love to move into the position. So sometimes you move into that position and your wisdom is not 100% yet. Definitely Abraham's wisdom was not 100% because he didn't quite know all the plans of God. That tells me he was not 100% yet. Yet God by His grace move him into that realm. How did Abraham reach that realm? You see *Urim* and *Thummim*, you reach that realm either by love or wisdom or both together. One thing Abraham had developed was his love. His wisdom may not be so developed but the other part he developed almost close to 100%, that is his love. He is definitely a man who loves. Sometimes a person develops the *Thummim* more than the *Urim* and by the grace of God they move into that realm. Sometimes a person develops the *Urim* more than the *Thummim*. Here is where we are bringing you forth a balance that we need to develop in wisdom and in love, both together. If you ever ask anything from God, ask for wisdom and to be established in love.

The Urim and Thummim of Paul's Prayers

Interesting enough, Paul who may not mention the word *Urim and Thummim* had a revelation of those 2 aspects. They are enshrined in Eph.1 and 3. Eph.1 is a prayer to develop *Urim* and Eph.3 is a prayer to develop *Thummim*. You have wisdom and you have love. Lets read those prayers. Eph.1: 17-23 *"That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, the eyes of your understanding being enlightened, that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of His power towards us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come. And he put all things under His feet, and*

gave Him to be head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.” Urim.

Eph.3: 14-21 “For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height, to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him be the glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever.” Thummim.

It seems that we require at least a development of one of those areas to be close to a 100% area to reach that level. Sometimes you reach that level because of perfection in love. For a moment and then you move out of it. But during that moment, anything you ask you gets it. Examine your life carefully, because we are all still growing into perfection. Some time during worship and some time in your prayer life you sense your heart was really one with Him. That stage you are right where we are talking about the third stage. Anything you ask God will grant you. Sad to say we have not reached that stage and remain there. The more you grow, the more time you remain there. It seems that we need to at least be 100% in one of the two, either wisdom or love. Let me encourage you with this fact, go after wisdom. It is because if you have developed in love and if wisdom is not there you may ask for the wrong thing. But if you reached that stage and you reached wisdom, which is what I call principal thing, then your asking is perfect.

So we conclude that the Bible emphasizes on wisdom as much as on love. Solomon developed in wisdom but he failed to develop in the God kind of love so his heart grew cold and his character became flawed. So if you develop in love 100% and your wisdom is not then you may ask for the wrong thing. If you develop in wisdom you will ask the right thing but you may not be able to keep it permanently. Solomon lost everything when he died. Through the progression of time Israel lost his glory. The moment Solomon died his kingdom was sliced into

half and then time and time again they were oppressed and the silver and gold were taken. They reached a stage in the book of Kings where it says one of those kings had to replace the golden shields where Solomon made with bronze ones. So one is the principal thing and the other is the greatest thing. We must have both wisdom and love, the Urim and Thummim of our lives.