

**BARNABAS PUBLISHERS REPRINT**

Compendium

**Various Inputs on Guidance**

**A Position Paper**

March 2010

by  
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## Abstract

From time to time, I collect all the material I have amassed on a topic and do a position paper, that is, a paper *summarizing what I know about the subject*. That is what I have done in this paper. I have collected various items given in the past to mentorees, students, and classes I have taught at Fuller—concerning how I get guidance from God. The items include: 1. a Web Site Editorial Series (7 Parts) that I did on GUIDANCE—giving 7 Major Guidelines. 2. Then I show the slides that I use when I give the PowerPoint presentation on the 7 Guidelines. 3. Finally I give all the GUIDANCE Process Items that I have identified and defined in my manual, **Leadership Emergence Theory**.

In March and April I wrote a 7 part editorial series on my web site editorial page. It was dealing with 7 GUIDELINES that I teach about GUIDANCE—using the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm—and particularly the 2<sup>nd</sup> image of God in that Psalm—The Guide Image. In summary, the seven guidelines include:

1. Keep your eye on the guide: GOD IS THE GUIDE (Psa 23 Image). He is responsible to guide. You are responsible to be sensitive to Him and follow what He shows.
2. If you don't know DON'T. Wait till God does show you something clearly. Don't move ahead because you are impatient. If you don't know what to do next, keep waiting.
3. GOD'S GUIDANCE IS CLEAR GUIDANCE—often only seen in retrospect.
4. For some folks, GOD'S GUIDANCE IS "NEXT STEP" GUIDANCE.
5. For others, GOD'S GUIDANCE IS MORE LONG TERM.
6. One of the keys is to learn the difference between, **TRUST** God  
and trust **GOD**
7. When making a major decision seek to have as many of the GUIDANCE FACTORS as possible to line up.

When making a major decision, use the 7 Guidelines give above, where ever you can, BUT also seek to have as many of the GUIDANCE FACTORS from the Sell's diagram to line up with confirming evidence. This may cause you to ASK God for certainty guidance, which may come from any of the following process items:

- general sovereign guidance,
- double confirmation,
- divine contact,
- a special destiny revelation,
- a ministry task or challenge leading to next step,  
ministry skills which will indicate next step,
- literary item coinciding with guidance,
- faith check or challenge moving toward next guidance
- networking power—leading to next step or overall  
guidance
- divine or ministry affirmation that under girds next step or overall  
guidance

The way I would approach this compendium: first read the editorial series, totally. Then use Mr. Sells diagram and write down any item that would fit in any of the four parts of the diagram. Then read through the list of Process Items to see which of these might have already been used by God to give GUIDANCE. If you are making a major decision, then get as many of the Sell's diagram factors to confirm your guidance decision. And further you may want to ask God for a “divine contact” and/or “double confirmation.”

## **Annotated Table of Contents for this Compendium on Various Inputs on Guidance**

In the PDF version of these notes to go to a location simply click on the **Red Font**.

## **Annotated Table of Contents for the Psalms Complete Study Packet**

In the PDF version of these notes to go to a location simply click on the **Red Font**.

<b>Contents</b>	<b>Pages</b>	<b>Annotation</b>
<b>Title Page</b> <b>Abstract</b>		Describes the gist of this compendium.
<b>7 Part Web Site</b> <b>Editorial on</b> <b>GUIDANCE</b>	20	This is basically a detailed write up of the 7 Guidelines I usually present in a GUIDANCE ppt. I wrote this editorial in March and April of 2008.
<b>GUIDELINE</b> <b>PowerPoint Slides</b>	4	Here are the slides from my GUIDANCE PowerPoint that builds on the GUIDE IMAGE seen in Psalm 23.
<b>Process Items</b>	19	In leadership emergence theory, I have identified a number of shaping activities that God uses in developing leaders. The technical name is called "Process Items" i.e. God processes leaders toward maturity. I have collected in this section the various guidance process items. Note particularly the certainty guidance process items. They are extremely important in MAJOR GUIDANCE DECISIONS.

## THE SERIES--GUIDANCE GUIDELINES--Introduction

In my classes at Fuller, over the years, on day 1, I have asked each student to give me a specific prayer request to be praying for him/her during the quarter. Roughly, I would estimate, about one third to one half ask for some request about GUIDANCE. I have learned a lot about GUIDANCE over the years. And I try to share what I have learned about GUIDANCE with the students.

Here is the definition of a leader that I coined long ago when I wrote, **The Making of A Leader**.

### **Definition**

A leader is a person with God-given giftedness and God-given responsibility to influence a specific group of God's people toward God's purposes for the group.

Note, the leader must get GUIDANCE for the group. He/she must get from God what those specific purposes are for the group.

So, in my opinion, there is a GUIDANCE SCHOOL that God takes a leader through. A leader is taught by God how to hear/get God's GUIDANCE for himself/herself. That is, the preliminary fundamental approach to learning to get GUIDANCE for a group is to first learn how to get GUIDANCE for yourself.

So what I want to do in this editorial series on GUIDANCE is to share with you 7 guidelines that I use to get personal GUIDANCE and then to share with you a diagram that was taught to me by Frank Sells, way back in 1967, when I was a student at Columbia Bible College

Some of the GUIDELINES are simple and need very little explanation. Some are more complex and need a bit of explanation. I will do my best to get across these 7 GUIDELINES. Perhaps some of them will be useful to you.

I will start next week with GUIDELINE #1 which flows right out of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm—the second Image of God that David gives in that familiar and favorite Psalm.

Well, until next week and GUIDANCE GUIDELINE #1.

BLESSINGS,  
Bobby Clinton

## THE SERIES—7 GUIDANCE GUIDELINES, #1

When I teach on GUIDANCE I usually share 7 basic underlying Guidance Principles. And I share a diagram that interweaves 4 Guideline Components (God's Voice in Circumstances; God's Voice in the Heart; God's Voice in the Church; God's Voice in the Word). Here is the first Guidance Guideline.

**1. Keep your eye on the guide: GOD IS THE GUIDE (Psa 23 Image). He is responsible to guide. You are responsible to be sensitive to Him and follow what He shows.**

**2. If you don't know DON'T. Wait till God does show you something clearly. Don't move ahead because you are impatient. If you don't know what to do next, keep waiting.**

**3. GOD'S GUIDANCE IS CLEAR GUIDANCE--often only seen in retrospect.**

**4. For some folks, GOD'S GUIDANCE IS "NEXT STEP" GUIDANCE.**

**5. For others, GOD'S GUIDANCE IS MORE LONG TERM.**

**6. One of the keys is to learn the difference between,**

TRUST<sub>God</sub>

and

trust GOD

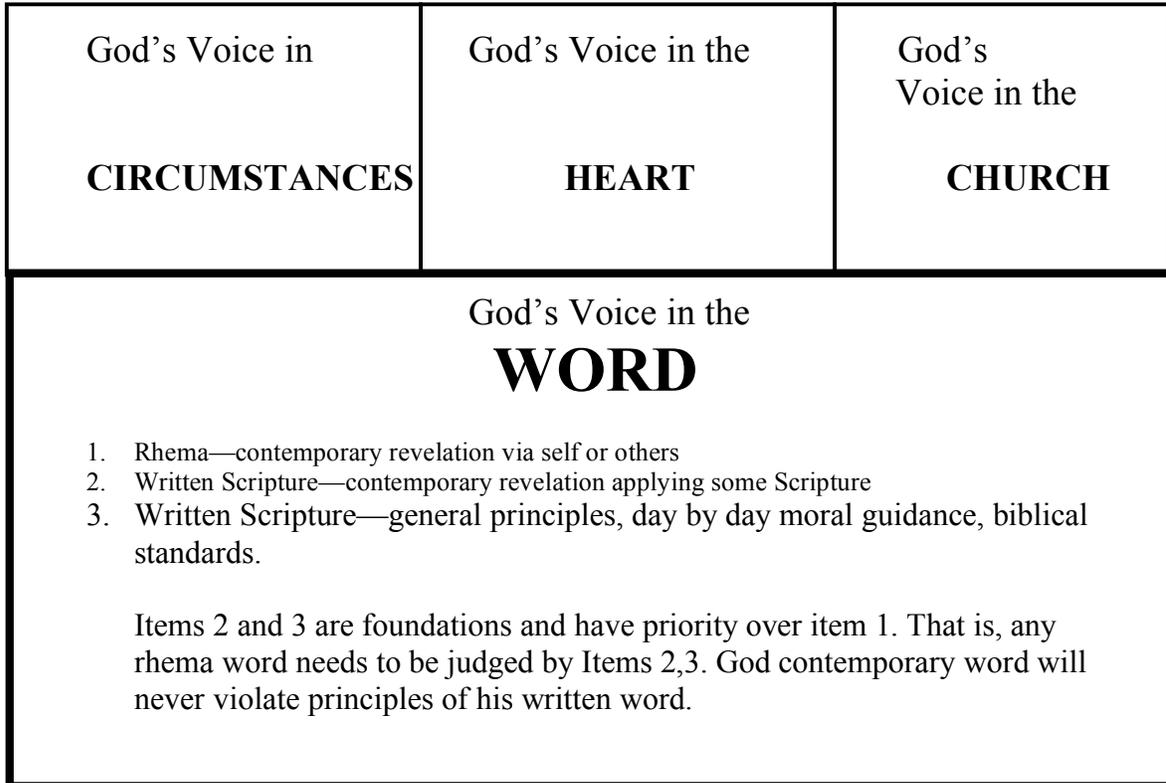
**7. When making a major decision seek to have as many of the GUIDANCE FACTORS as possible to line up.** This may cause you to ASK God for certainty guidance which may come from any of the following process items:

- general sovereign guidance,
- double confirmation,
- divine contact,
- a special destiny revelation,
- a ministry task or challenge leading to next step,  
ministry skills which will indicate next step,
- literary item coinciding with guidance,
- faith check or challenge moving toward next guidance
- networking power—leading to next step or overall  
guidance
- divine or ministry affirmation that under girds next step or overall  
guidance

**FOUR IMPORTANT GUIDANCE FACTORS (Frank Sell’s Guidance Diagram)**

Introduction The biblical thrust in guidance is moral guidance and not decision-making guidance. The majority of admonitions toward guidance reflect conduct for living. A basic framework for viewing guidance is given in the following diagram first introduced to me by Frank Sells, one of my Bible college instructors. A daily obedient walk with God will allow for guidance to come via these four channels. Those Seeking **GUIDANCE** must learn to discern God's voice via these basic guidance channels.

**Guidance Diagram**



Circumstances Christians use the phrases "open doors" and "closed doors" to indicate that God sovereignly or providentially controls circumstances to give direction concerning guidance. Open doors mean: special opportunities appear; something becomes available at a timely moment; the way to do something is clear and unhindered. Closed doors mean: the opportunity to do something is not available; something desired becomes unavailable; the way to do something is blocked.

The Heart Christians use the phrase "God's voice in the heart" to mean convictions or feelings or desires assumed to be from God.

The Church The Church, in this diagram, stands for counsel from Christians as corporate groups to whom the believer is responsible as well as individual believers who can give wise counsel.

**FOUR IMPORTANT GENERAL GUIDANCE FACTORS** continued

The Word	The Word is used here to mean both the written Word and revelatory Word. Hearing God's voice in the written Word means knowing and applying Bible truth on a given guidance matter. This will include guidance drawn from direct teaching on the matter, principles derived from teaching and illustration, and/or the sensing of God intending a specific message to be personally applied upon reading a passage concerning its relevance to a situation. Revelatory Word means the direct intervention of God to give a special word of application or clarification on a situation. Such words may be given directly to the believer (audible, sensed inwardly, dreams, visions, angelic visitations, or by impression) or may come via some of the spontaneous word gifts such as word of knowledge, word of wisdom, word of faith, or prophecy.
Caution Word	God's voice in the written Word is foundational. A revelatory Word (rhema) should never contradict the written Word. A revelatory word for major decisions should be confirmed. Once confirmed, revelatory word and written word are foundational and carry priority over the superstructural factors of circumstances, the heart and the Church.
Caution Circumstances	Circumstances can be engendered both by God and Satan. Major decisions should never be made on circumstances alone. However, timely circumstances do give a tremendous boost to confidence especially when one is praying along the exact lines and the circumstance happens.
Caution The Heart	What God is saying to us inwardly must be tested. The desires of the heart cannot always be trusted. What we think God is saying may be confused with what we wish He would say. Inner convictions must be honored unless they violate biblical principles—that is a major biblical principle.
Caution Church	While we want to take every advantage of what God has taught others, we must remember that we alone will be responsible for our decisions. Where counsel shows biblical principle, of course, we need to take that in to account. And in general, we will heed wise counsel. But others are not responsible for understanding God's will for us.
Basic Guideline	Normally major decisions should not have any contradictions between guidance via the different factors. On some decisions there may be silence from some of the factors. But at least there shouldn't be contradictions. If there are, wait for clarification. In fact, a safe guideline is this. <b>On major decisions the guidance via all the factors should line up and confirm each other.</b>
Normal/ Unusual	Most guidance comes via this model. Leaders will, however, need unusual direction via the Guidance cluster.

Sunday, Mar. 16<sup>th</sup> 2008

**THE SERIES—7 GUIDANCE GUIDELINES, GUIDELINE #2**

I am giving a series of important guidance guidelines that have been helpful to me over the years.

When I teach on GUIDANCE I usually share 7 basic underlying Guidance Principles. And I share a diagram that interweaves 4 Guideline Components (God's Voice in Circumstances; God's Voice in the Heart; God's Voice in the Church; God's Voice in the Word). Here is the second Guidance Guideline.

**Guidance Guideline #2**

**2. If you don't know DON'T. Wait till God does show you something clearly. Don't move ahead because you are impatient. If you don't know what to do next, keep waiting.**

In guidance, the What, the How, and the When of Guidance are all important. And sometimes we just don't have clarity on one or more of those items. My general advice on this, is simple,

Wait till God clarifies. Don't move out ahead of God.

God is responsible to GUIDE. Wait till he does give guidance.

Blessings,  
Bobby Clinton

P.S. Next week I will give an "exception to this" and how I handle the exception.

Guideline #2 continued

Sunday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2008

**THE SERIES—7 GUIDANCE GUIDELINES, GUIDELINE #2 continued**

I am giving a series of important guidance guidelines that have been helpful to me over the years.

When I teach on GUIDANCE I usually share 7 basic underlying Guidance Principles. And I share a diagram that interweaves 4 Guideline Components (God's Voice in Circumstances; God's Voice in the Heart; God's Voice in the Church; God's Voice in the Word). Last week I gave the following. Let me repeat it and then give an exception.,

**Guidance Guideline #2**

**2. If you don't know DON'T. Wait till God does show you something clearly. Don't move ahead because you are impatient. If you don't know what to do next, keep waiting.**

In guidance, the What, the How, and the When of Guidance are all important. And sometimes we just don't have clarity on one or more of those items. My general advice on this, is simple,

Wait till God clarifies. Don't move out ahead of God.

God is responsible to GUIDE. Wait till he does give guidance.

**THE EXCEPTION**

I like to give this exception by introducing it with an illustration. During the years 1967-1970, Marilyn and I were attending Columbia Bible College in Columbia, South Carolina. There was an intersection not too far from where we lived called 5 points. Five streets came together and had a complicated stop light. Sometimes you would find yourself first in line at Five Streets and a Red Light. The light changes to Green and you need to figure out which of the four options you have to take to get where you are going. Now the first time this happens it is confusing and you are not sure which way you must go. The light changes, you must decide, the people behind you start to honk their horns. They want you to go. But you are not sure. So you make a choice anyway and go and the traffic can then flow.

Sometimes that is the way it is in GUIDANCE. We are waiting for CLEAR GUIDANCE. And it hasn't come. Maybe we have two possibilities but are not yet sure which is the one God wants us to take. But the TIMING IS SUCH (the When of Guidance) that we must make a decision. So we choose the very best we do know and make that decision. WE GO!

This has happened to me couple of times. And here is what I do. I know God is the Guide and I must keep my eye on him—GUIDANCE PRINCIPLE #1. And I know if you DON'T KNOW, DON'T. GUIDANCE PRINCIPLE #2. But I must go. So I do, with this prayer.

arc

SHEPHERD GUIDE, I AM FORCED TO MAKE THIS DECISION. I AM CHOOSING THE BEST I KNOW. I WILL ASSUME THIS TO BE THE WILL OF GOD UNLESS YOU CLEARLY BLOCK IT AND BLOCK IT QUICKLY.

Then I move on and if God does not block it. I believe the choice I made was the will of God and I go on in confidence. If the decision was not right, God will block it very quickly and I will know that shut door and can proceed from there.

Well there you have it. I follow GUIDELINE #2 as the general rule, all the time. But some rare times I will go with the exception.

Blessings,  
Bobby Clinton

Sunday, March 30th, 2008

## THE SERIES—7 GUIDANCE GUIDELINES, GUIDELINE #3

I am giving a series of important guidance guidelines that have been helpful to me over the years.

When I teach on GUIDANCE I usually share 7 basic underlying Guidance Principles. And I share a diagram that interweaves 4 Guideline Components (God's Voice in Circumstances; God's Voice in the Heart; God's Voice in the Church; God's Voice in the Word). Here is the next one.

### Guidance Guideline #3

#### 3. GOD'S GUIDANCE IS CLEAR GUIDANCE--often only seen in retrospect.

This is a faith statement. I first learned it from Mr. Sells, my Bible Teacher, Old Testament and New Testament survey courses, who taught at Columbia Bible College. He would say, "Students, God's guidance is clear guidance. Believe it!"

Sometimes in the midst of guidance situations it doesn't seem like God's guidance is "clear guidance." But in *retrospect*, looking back over my lifetime, I can echo Mr. Sells. "Yes, God's guidance has been clear guidance. His hand can be seen in guidance that has led me to where I am right now!"

So then, I follow my basic guidelines for guidance (the ones I am sharing with you in this series) and I make my best decisions as to the "Light" given me via use of these guidance principles. And then I move on in faith, "believing that God will clearly guide, because of His character. He is "honor bound" to do so (Psa 23:3 he leads me in the right paths for His name's sake (His character is at stake). And, sure enough, it will be seen, when looking back in "retrospect," GOD'S GUIDANCE WAS CLEAR GUIDANCE.

And so Guidance Guideline #3 takes a bit of "faith" to accept but will be Proven True in the long haul.

Blessings,  
Bobby Clinton

Sunday, Apr. 6th 2008

## THE SERIES—7 GUIDANCE GUIDELINES, GUIDELINE #4 & #5

I am giving a series of important guidance guidelines that have been helpful to me over the years.

When I teach on GUIDANCE I usually share 7 basic underlying Guidance Principles. And I share a diagram that interweaves 4 Guideline Components (God's Voice in Circumstances; God's Voice in the Heart; God's Voice in the Church; God's Voice in the Word). Here are the next two, done together.

### Guidance Guidelines #4, 5

**4. For some folks, GOD'S GUIDANCE IS "NEXT STEP" GUIDANCE.**

**5. For others, GOD'S GUIDANCE IS MORE LONG TERM.**

I find myself being an odd combination of both of these GUIDANCE methods. My experience was that God would give me a leadership committal or some guidance principle that was "somewhat long term guidance" but then give me "step-by-step" guidance toward it.

For example:

- 1964—surrender to be a missionary;
- 1965,66—next step was step-by-step guidance, led to study at Columbia Bible College via a divine contact (Harold Dollar) and several step-by-step obedience issues;
- 1967-1969—next step—SIL training in summer times—pursuing going on mission field as a Bible translator;
- 1970—pursued going as a Bible translator to Suriname with West Indies Mission. At orientation school they assigned Marilyn and me to Jamaica to be on faculty at the Jamaica Bible College;
- 1973—pursued going to Michigan State University to study doctorate under Dr. Ted Ward; door blocked and I was assigned the home office of West Indies Mission and head of Learning Resource Center (learning about non-formal training). I knew I wanted to teach somewhere but needed a doctorate to do that;
- 1977,78—While still with World Team (the new name for West Indies Mission) I was led to study doctorate with Fuller Theological Seminary, School of World Mission (again dominantly by a divine contact, Harold Dollar);
- 1981—Hired by Paul Pierson to be on faculty of School of World Mission. This was more of a long term guidance thing—made decision based on "sphere of influence" principle after a day of prayer.
- 1994— Made decision to stay with School of World Mission—again a long-term committal based on sphere of influence and focused life truths which I had been researching for a year.
- 1994— onward—Since 1994 decisions have followed long term thinking with regard to my Personal Life Mandate, which identified my life purpose, major role, effective methodologies, and ultimate contributions. God has reminded of these basic focal elements each time I choose to do ministry.

After doing research on focused lives in 1993,94 I saw also that focused leaders could be directed both by step-by-step and long term guidance. And since that time, I have followed a basic general pattern of moving toward long term goals deliberately and pro-actively but open to step-by-step obedience along the way.

Another factor that really influenced my GUIDANCE decision making occurred during my time of study at the School of World Mission. Prior to that time, I dominantly made major decisions alone. From SWM onward Marilyn and I have jointly made decisions. We both must be convinced (following the GUIDANCE principles) on what our decision must be. If we are not in agreement, we wait for God to clarify and show us both.

Below is a table showing how some focused leaders who finished well were guided.

**Table Nine Historical Mentors and Their Guidance**

<b>History Chapters</b>	<b>Predominant Guidance</b>
Charles Simeon (1759-1836)— Strategic Mentor	Long Term Guidance—one ministry location for 40 years; MAJOR ROLE CLEAR; MINISTRY LOCATION CLEAR.
Gordon (1836-1895)— Missionary Minded Pastor	Step By Step Guidance—each step opened up little by little till finally moving into a convergent role; Knew his major role (pastor) but this was broadened in a step-by-step fashion.
Samuel Brengle (1860-1936)— Public Saint	Long Term Guidance—led into MAJOR ROLE in early 30s (but some step by step getting there)
G. Campbell Morgan (1863-1945)— World Class Bible Teacher	Combination of step-by-step and MAJOR ROLE clarity. Fluctuated between how MAJOR ROLE (Bible teacher) carried out (whether church or para-church).
Robert Jaffray (1873-1945)— Missionary Pioneer	Long Term as far as missionary calling; but occasional step by step in terms of next major phase. (two different missionary careers—both relatively long and very profitable).
Robert C. McQuilkin—(1886-1952) Bible College Founder	Step by Step; 9 progressive calls on his life; certainty guidance concerning missionary call—door shut; last call, involved long term place and MAJOR ROLE—trainer and sender of missionaries.
Henrietta Mears —(1890-1963) Recruiter of Leaders	Long Term (secular career as teacher; then ministry career as teacher who recruited and sent leaders into major career ministries)
L. E. Maxwell—(1895-1984) Missionary Trainer	Step-by-step initially but long term in terms of MAJOR ROLE AND PLACE. (got his life message from a step-by-step guidance as well as LOCATION of ministry; once there his MAJOR ROLE stabilized for a long tenure).
Booklet—Irene Webster-Smith*	Prov 4:12 Syriak (as thou goest the way shall be opened up for you step-by-step) became a major life verse in a major decision time. It deals with Step-by-step guidance which became real for her all her life.

In any case, long-term or step-by-step GUIDANCE you can hold on to the first three Guidance principles with assurance:

1. Keep your eye on the guide: GOD IS THE GUIDE (Psa 23 Image). He is responsible to guide. You are responsible to be sensitive to Him and follow what He shows.
2. If you don't know DON'T. Wait till God does show you something clearly. Don't move ahead because you are impatient. If you don't know what to do next, keep waiting.
3. GOD'S GUIDANCE IS CLEAR GUIDANCE—often only seen in retrospect.

Blessings, Bobby Clinton

\*Here is an excerpt from Sue Plumb's (Takamoto) focused life study, p 24,25 from **Irene Webster-Smith, An Irish Woman Who Impacted Japan**. Note God gave her step-by-step guidance.

**C. Furlough of Vision 1920 Age = 32**

Several significant events occurred during this furlough which directed Irene's appeal to God for future direction. First, Irene had been captivated by a Bible verse on the voyage home that she had not noticed before: "As thou goest step by step, I will open up thy way before thee" (Proverbs 4:12, Syriac version). This very verse was the text for a picture hanging in Irene and Adelaide's guest home in Vancouver. In studying this picture and thinking about her beloved Japan, Irene suddenly said, "It would be better to put a fence at the top of the precipice, than an ambulance at the bottom" (Hitt 1965:67).

Slowly Irene's vision clarified in her mind, as she imagined helping the unwanted children from becoming geishas. In a visit to New York City, this vision seemed confirmed as a well-dressed woman gave Irene money for her new home for children in Japan. As Irene reported to the JEB Council about her conviction to return to Japan not to work with prostitutes but with the children who might become such, the council, though surprised, blessed her vision and gave her permission to begin a new ministry. This was clear ministry affirmation, basically unprecedented.

Sunday, Apr. 13th 2008

**THE SERIES—7 GUIDANCE GUIDELINES, GUIDELINE #6**

I am giving a series of important guidance guidelines that have been helpful to me over the years.

When I teach on GUIDANCE I usually share 7 basic underlying Guidance Principles. And I share a diagram that interweaves 4 Guideline Components (God's Voice in Circumstances; God's Voice in the Heart; God's Voice in the Church; God's Voice in the Word). Here is Guideline #6

Guidance Guidelines #6

**6. One of the major keys in GUIDANCE is to learn the difference between,**

**TRUST** God

and

trust **GOD**

ALL of the other 6 GUIDELINESS assume this one.

IT IS GOD WHO IS RESPONSIBLE TO GUIDE. WE MUST KEEP OUR EYE ON HIM.

Blessings,  
Bobby Clinton

Sunday, Apr. 20th 2008

### Guideline #7 Part I. Toward Certainty Guidance—Two Special Guidance Items

I am giving a series of important guidance guidelines that have been helpful to me over the years.

When I teach on GUIDANCE I usually share 7 basic underlying Guidance Principles. And I share a diagram that interweaves 4 Guideline Components (God's Voice in Circumstances; God's Voice in the Heart; God's Voice in the Church; God's Voice in the Word). Here as a summary are the first six GUIDELINES.

SUMMARY:

#### Guidance Guideline #1

1. **Keep your eye on the guide: GOD IS THE GUIDE (Psa 23, 2<sup>nd</sup> Image of God). He is responsible to guide. You are responsible to be sensitive to Him and follow what He shows.**

#### Guidance Guideline #2

2. **If you don't know DON'T. Wait till God does show you something clearly. Don't move ahead because you are impatient. If you don't know what to do next, keep waiting.**

#### Guidance Guideline #3

3. **GOD'S GUIDANCE IS CLEAR GUIDANCE--often only seen in retrospect.**

#### Guidance Guidelines #4, 5

4. **For some folks, GOD'S GUIDANCE IS "NEXT STEP" GUIDANCE.**

5. **For others, GOD'S GUIDANCE IS MORE LONG TERM.**

#### Guidance Guidelines #6

6. **One of the major keys in GUIDANCE is to learn the difference between,**

TRUST	God
and	
trust	GOD

#### Guidance Guidelines #7

7. **When making a major decision seek to have as many of the GUIDANCE FACTORS as possible to line up.**

#### Part I. A Major Decision—Seek Certainty Guidance

This may cause you to ASK God for certainty guidance which may come from any of the following process items:

- general sovereign guidance,
- double confirmation,
- divine contact,
- a special destiny revelation,
- a ministry task or challenge leading to next step,
- ministry skills which will indicate next step,
- literary item coinciding with guidance,
- faith check or challenge moving toward next guidance
- networking power—leading to next step or overall guidance
- divine or ministry affirmation that under girds next step or overall guidance

All of these are special kinds of ways I have seen God use to help give guidance to people.

Let me define two of the above, which are often seen in situations where God gives [certainty guidance](#).

## **DIVINE CONTACT PROCESS ITEM**

### **Introduction**

At the "right moment" God brings across the path of developing leaders just what is needed such as a tract which challenges or explains some truth, a book which gives new perspectives, or a person who will be greatly used by God in that leader's life. All of these fall under the general category of Guidance Process Items. The divine contact process item refers to the unusual way that God brings people of significance across a leader's path at the right time.

### **Definition**

A divine contact is a **person** whom God brings in contact with leader at a crucial moment in a development phase in order to accomplish one or more of the following (or a related function):

1. to affirm leadership potential,
2. to encourage leadership potential,
3. to give [guidance on a special issue](#),
4. to give insights which may give [guidance](#) indirectly (e.g. broadens the leader),
5. to challenge the leader God-ward ([indirect guidance](#)--a move toward leadership committal),
6. to open a door to a ministry opportunity,
7. other similar purpose which helps the emerging leader [make guidance decisions](#).

### **Example**

Barnabas, Paul's divine contact (Acts 9:27, 11:25)

### **Example**

Peter was a divine contact for Cornelius (Acts 10)

### **Example**

Paul, divine contact for Timothy, Priscilla and Aquila, and a host of others.

### **Timing**

Divine contacts appear throughout all time periods but are especially prevalent early on in ministry or transition to ministry. Some divine contacts are interwoven into the lives of leaders and will reappear at needed times. Sometimes the relationship is mutual and each helps the other. causal Leaders, because of their ability to influence, need to recognize that source they often will be divine contacts for others they meet. They should be especially sensitive to the Holy Spirit's use of them as divine contacts and recognize this special way of influencing. special The mentor is a special kind of divine contact used to help divine encourage the developmental process of a leader or potential contact leader. Guidance may be given mentor but the main focus is facilitating development and expanding the leader. Hence, it is categorized with the expansion process items.

**DOUBLE CONFIRMATION PROCESS ITEM** symbol: P(DBLC)

**Introduction**

At crucial moments when major guidance decisions are to be made a leader often needs to know for certain that the decision is the will of God. One way God gives clear guidance in just such situations is via the double confirmation item.

**Definition**

Double confirmation refers to the unusual guidance process item in which God makes clear His will by giving the guidance directly to a leader and then reinforcing it by some other person totally independent and unaware of the leader's guidance.

**Example**

Exodus 3 and 4 speak of God's dealing with Moses to get him to lead the Moses/ Israelite people. Ex 4:27 is an example of the Aaron double confirmation in Aaron which, God gives Aaron a word which will affirm what Moses has already heard.

**Example**

1 Samuel 9 reveals how God worked in both Saul and Samuel to bring them Saul/ Samuel together. God was having Samuel anoint a king. See especially verses 15-18.

**Example**

A most famous double confirmation is Paul's conversion. See Acts 9,22, and 26. Paul/ Ananias Note how God worked through Paul and confirmed it independently through Ananias. See especially 9:10-18.

**Example**

A significant example of double confirmation concerned God's revelation of Peter/ Christianity for the Gentiles. See Acts 10:1-8 where God worked with Cornelius and then 10:9-18 where God works with Peter. The rest of the chapter gives the details for this famous double confirmation.

**Steps**

The classic pattern for double confirmation:

1. A crucial moment in the leader's ministry where direction needs a sure word from God,
2. God gives the direction to the leader sometimes directly, sometimes indirectly,
3. God then confirms this direction through someone else. The further outside the influence of the first person, the more spectacular is the double confirmation.
4. God then brings the two together in some unmistakable sovereign way.

**Uses**

Double Confirmation has the following uses:

1. gives divine affirmation to some important decision.
2. will validate a leader's spiritual authority.
3. gives a renewed sense of destiny.
4. serves as a sign to outsiders as well as insiders.

When I am praying for GUIDANCE for someone, I often ask God to give certainty guidance via divine contact or double confirmation.

Next week I will give Part II of Guideline #7 The 4 Major Guidance Factors—4 Voices of God.

**Guidance Guidelines #7**

**7. When making a major decision seek to have as many of the GUIDANCE FACTORS as possible to line up.**

Frank Sells, one of my Bible teachers at Columbia Bible College, shared a Guidance diagram with us students in one of his classes. That diagram pictures 4 voices of God: Voice 1 God's direction in

circumstances; Voice 2 God's Voice in the Heart; Voice 3 God's Voice in the Church; Voice 4. God's Voice in the Word.

I will explain the 4 Voices and suggest that in a Major Decision you need as many of these factors to line up as possible.

Until Then, Blessings,  
Bobby Clinton

P.S. If you want to get a headstart on Part II, or you want to follow-up more on Part I, you can download ALLGUIDANCE.PDF which lists all the guidance items (like divine contact and double confirmation and many others) as well as giving Frank Sell's Diagram of the Four Voices of God.

Sunday, Apr. 27th 2008

**Guideline #7 Part II. Frank Sell's GUIDANCE DIAGRAM**

I gave Part I of Guidance guideline #7 last week. It had to do with CERTAINTY GUIDANCE via divine contact or double confirmation. In Part II, I want to use the following diagram. In many cases GUIDANCE won't come just via certainty guidance but via the "voices of God." Guidance guideline #7 includes use of both Certainty Guidance and the 4 Voices of God.

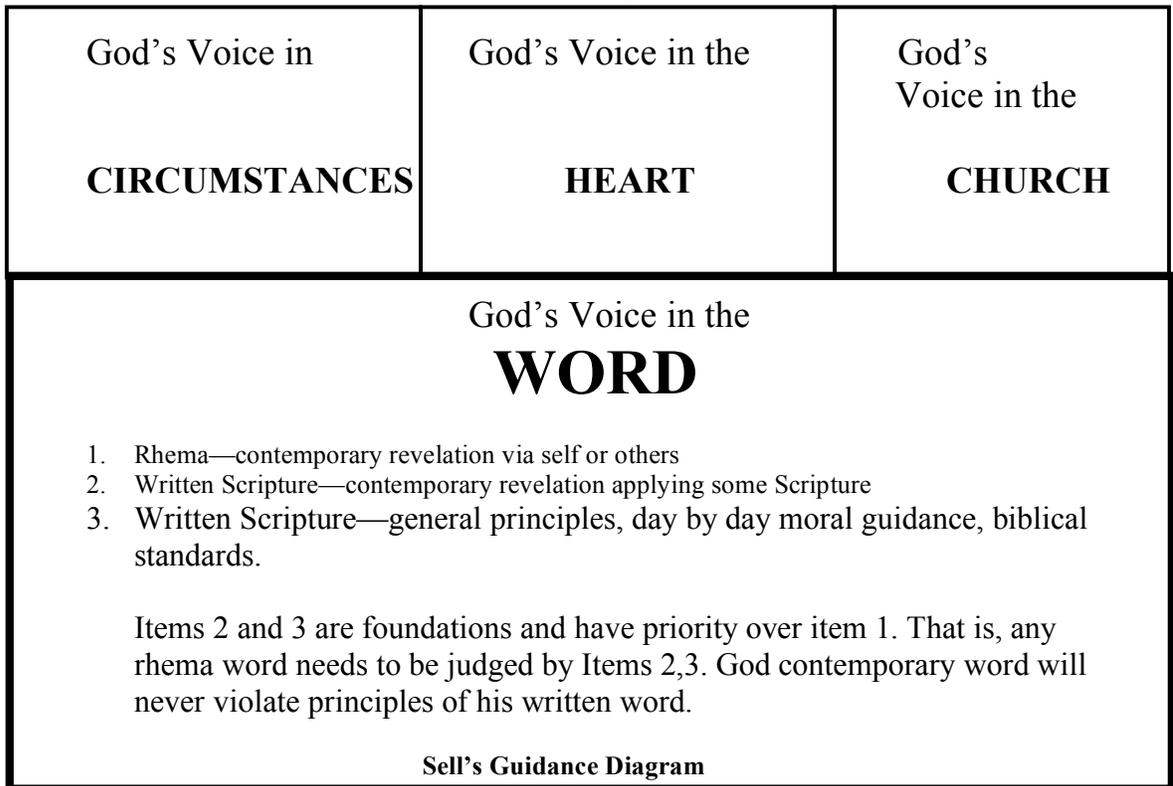
**Guidance #7**

**7. When making a major decision seek to have as many of the GUIDANCE FACTORS as possible to line up.**

**Guideline #7 Part II. Frank Sell's Guidance Illustration—**

A Major Decision—4 Voices of God

**Guidance Diagram**



**About the Diagram**

Note there is a foundational part of the diagram (God's Voice in the Word) and a super structural part of the diagram (God's Voice in Circumstances; God's Voice in the Heart; God's Voice in the Church). This is done by design. The GUIDANCE OF GOD via the WORD is always fundamentally more important than the super structural Voices. Never will God's GUIDANCE via the super structural voices contradict God's voice in the Word.

**Introduction**

The biblical thrust in guidance is moral guidance and not decision-making guidance. The majority of admonitions toward guidance reflect conduct for living. A basic framework for viewing guidance is given in the diagram above first introduced to me by Frank Sells, one of my Bible college instructors. A daily

obedient walk with God will allow for guidance to come via these four channels. Those Seeking **GUIDANCE** must learn to discern God's voice via these basic guidance channels.

Briefly let me explain the items:

### **Circumstances**

Christians use the phrases "open doors" and "closed doors" to indicate that God sovereignly or providentially controls circumstances to give direction concerning guidance. Open doors mean: special opportunities appear; something becomes available at a timely moment; the way to do something is clear and unhindered. Closed doors mean: the opportunity to do something is not available; something desired becomes unavailable; the way to do something is blocked.

### **The Heart**

Christians use the phrase "God's voice in the heart" to mean convictions or feelings or desires assumed to be from God.

### **The Church**

The Church, in this diagram, stands for counsel from Christians as corporate groups to whom the believer is responsible as well as individual believers who can give wise counsel.

### **The Word**

The Word is used here to mean both the written Word and revelatory Word. Hearing God's voice in the written Word means knowing and applying Bible truth on a given guidance matter. This will include guidance drawn from direct teaching on the matter, principles derived from teaching and illustration, and/or the sensing of God intending a specific message to be personally applied upon reading a passage concerning its relevance to a situation. Revelatory Word (Rhema) means the direct intervention of God to give a special word of application or clarification on a situation. Such words may be given directly to the believer (audible, sensed inwardly, dreams, visions, angelic visitations, or by impression) or may come via some of the spontaneous word gifts such as word of knowledge, word of wisdom, word of faith, or prophecy.

### **Caution—The Word**

God's voice in the written Word is foundational. A revelatory Word (rhema) should never contradict the written Word. A revelatory word for major decisions should be confirmed. Once confirmed, revelatory word and written word are foundational and carry priority over the super structural factors of circumstances, the heart and the Church.

### **Caution—Circumstances**

Circumstances can be engendered both by God and Satan. Major decisions should never be made on circumstances alone. However, timely circumstances do give a tremendous boost to confidence especially when one is praying along the exact lines and the circumstance happens.

### **Caution—The Heart**

What God is saying to us inwardly must be tested. The desires of the heart cannot always be trusted. What we think God is saying may be confused with what we wish He would say. Inner convictions must be honored unless they violate biblical principles—that is a major biblical principle.

### **Caution—The Church**

While we want to take every advantage of what God has taught others, we must remember that we alone will be responsible for our decisions. Where counsel shows biblical principle, of course, we need to take that in to account. And in general, we will heed wise counsel. But others are not responsible for understanding God's will for us.

### **Basic Guideline**

Normally major decisions should not have any contradictions between guidance via the different factors. On some decisions there may be silence from some of the factors. But at least there shouldn't be contradictions. If there are, wait for clarification. In fact, a safe guideline is this. **On major decisions the guidance via all the factors should line up and confirm each other. Or at least, the more factors you**

have agreement on, the more sure you can be of the decision.

Now take a look at Guidance Guideline #7 Again:

**7. When making a major decision seek to have as many of the GUIDANCE FACTORS as possible to line up.**

And if in addition to the four “Voices” you can have certainty guidance (divine contact and double confirmation) you are on sure ground as you make your major decision.

In closing, let me list all of the GUIDANCE FACTORS, one more time:

SUMMARY:

**Guidance Guideline #1**

**1. Keep your eye on the guide: GOD IS THE GUIDE (Psa 23, 2<sup>nd</sup> Image of God). He is responsible to guide. You are responsible to be sensitive to Him and follow what He shows.**

**Guidance Guideline #2**

**2. If you don't know DON'T. Wait till God does show you something clearly. Don't move ahead because you are impatient. If you don't know what to do next, keep waiting.**

**Guidance Guideline #3**

**3. GOD'S GUIDANCE IS CLEAR GUIDANCE--often only seen in retrospect.**

**Guidance Guidelines #4, 5**

**4. For some folks, GOD'S GUIDANCE IS "NEXT STEP" GUIDANCE.**

**5. For others, GOD'S GUIDANCE IS MORE LONG TERM.**

**Guidance Guidelines #6**

**6. One of the major keys in GUIDANCE is to learn the difference between,**

TRUST	God
and	
trust	<b>GOD</b>

**Guidance Guidelines #7**

**7. When making a major decision seek to have as many of the GUIDANCE FACTORS as possible to line up.**

Blessings, As You Continue to Follow God's Guidance in Your Life,  
Bobby Clinton

Below are given the PowerPoint slides I use in my guidance.ppt presentation of the above 7 guidelines.

Slide 2

**PSA 23 THE SECOND IMAGE--A Professional Guide**

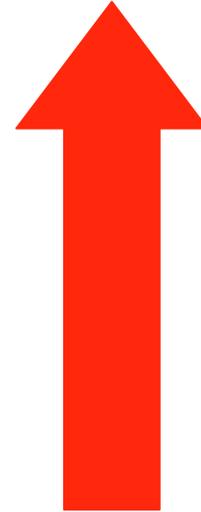
**What is the most important thing about a guide?**

**Does he know how to get you where  
you need to go?**

**HE LEADETH ME.**

**In this phrase is found the  
fundamental principle of guidance.**

**N.B. THE MOST IMPORTANT THING ABOUT  
GUIDANCE IS THE GUIDE.**



Slide 3

**Looking At The Meaning Of David's Image of the Professional Guide**

**STANZA 2**

**He gives guidance for life's decisions  
because he is responsible to do so.  
He reveals his comforting presence  
in the midst of life's trials.**



Slide 4

**Summary of David's God as Guide Image**

**Moreover, David saw, God's care to be like that of an ancient experienced guide who knew the right way to the desired destination. He knew the dangerous places and he could lead his follower through each one safely. With rod and staff, protection and assistance were assured. God, the great guide knows the way of life and the desired destination. He knows all the dangerous experiences through which one may pass, and as the omniscient and omnipotent guide he is able to direct his follower through all of them, even the valley of the shadow of death, unafraid and uninjured.**

**And the most important thing David knew about God as the Guide.**

**THE GUIDE IS RESPONSIBLE TO GUIDE. YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE TO HEAR AND FOLLOW.**

Slide 5

**7 Underlying Guidance Principles**

**1. Keep your eye on the guide: GOD IS THE GUIDE (Psa 23 Image).  
He is responsible to guide. You are responsible to be sensitive to Him and follow what He shows.**

**2. If you don't know DON'T. Wait till God does show you something clearly. Don't move ahead because you are impatient. If you don't know what to do next, keep waiting.**



**3. GOD'S GUIDANCE IS CLEAR GUIDANCE--often only seen in retrospect.**

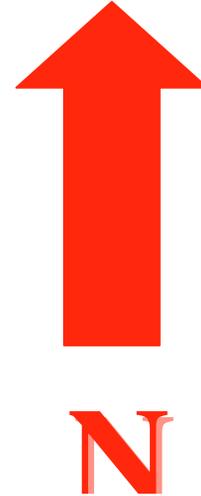
Slide 6

7 Underlying Guidance Principles continued, #4, 5

4. For some folks, GOD'S GUIDANCE IS "NEXT STEP" GUIDANCE.

5. For others, GOD'S GUIDANCE IS MORE LONG TERM.

Let me illustrate!



Slide 7

7 Underlying Guidance Principles continued, #4, 5 Illustrated

History Chapters	Predominant Guidance
Charles Simeon (1759-1836)— Strategic Mentor	Long Term Guidance—one ministry location for 40 years; MAJOR ROLE CLEAR; MINISTRY LOCATION CLEAR.
Gordon (1836-1895)—Missionary Minded Pastor	Step-By-Step Guidance—each step opened up little by little till finally moving into a convergent role; Knew his major role (pastor) but this was broadened in a step-by-step fashion
Samuel Brengle (1860-1936)—Public Saint	Long Term Guidance—led into MAJOR ROLE in early 30s (but some step by step getting there)
G. Campbell Morgan (1863-1945)— World Class Bible Teacher	Combination of step-by-step and MAJOR ROLE clarity. Fluctuated between how MAJOR ROLE (Bible teacher) carried out (whether church or para-church)
Robert Jaffray (1873-1945)— Missionary Pioneer	Long Term as far as missionary calling; but occasional step-by- step in terms of next major phase. (two different missionary careers—both relatively long and very profitable)

Slide 8

7 Underlying Guidance Principles continued, #4, 5 Illustrated

History Chapters	Predominant Guidance
Robert C. McQuilkin—(1886-1952) Bible College Founder	Step-by-Step; 9 progressive calls on his life; certainty guidance concerning missionary call—door shut; last call, involved long term place and MAJOR ROLE—trainer and sender of missionaries.
Henrietta Mears —(1890-1963) Recruiter of Leaders	Long Term (secular career as teacher; then ministry career as teacher who recruited and sent leaders into major career ministries)
L. E. Maxwell—(1895-1984) Missionary Trainer	Step-by-step initially but long term in terms of MAJOR ROLE AND PLACE. (got his life message from a step-by-step guidance as well as LOCATION of ministry; once there his MAJOR ROLE stabilized for a long tenure)
Booklet—Irene Webster-Smith	Prov 4:12 Syriak (as thou goest the way shall be opened up for you step-by-step) became a major life verse in a major decision time. It deals with Step-by-step guidance which became real for her all her life.

**Slide 9**

**7 Underlying Guidance Principles continued, #6**

**6. One of the keys is to learn the difference between,**

**TRUST** God

and

trust **GOD**

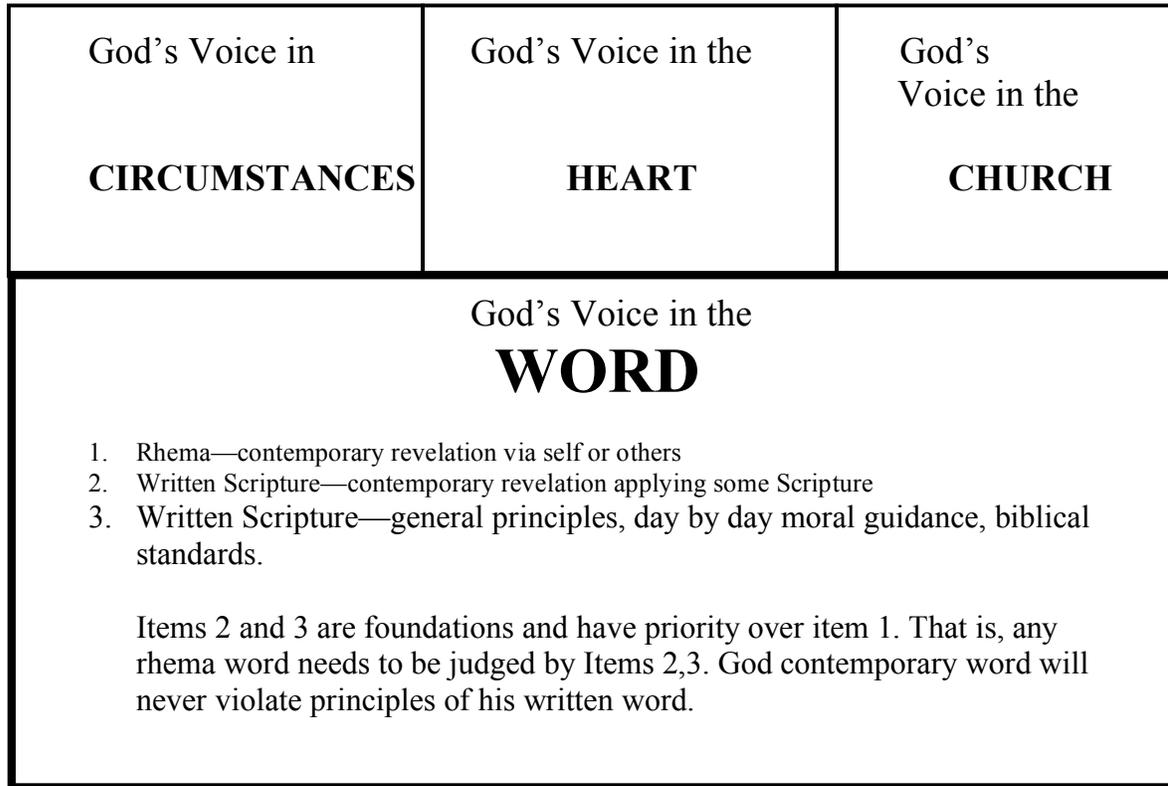
**Slide 10**

**7 Underlying Guidance Principles continued, #7**

**7. When making a major decision seek to have as many of the GUIDANCE FACTORS as possible to line up.**

Slide 11 Guidance Diagram

**Guidance Diagram**



**Sell's Guidance Diagram**

Slide 12

**7 Underlying Guidance Principles continued, #7**

**7. When making a major decision seek to have as many of the GUIDANCE FACTORS as possible to line up. This may cause you to ASK God for certainty guidance which may come from any of the following process items:**

- general sovereign guidance,
- double confirmation,
- divine contact,
- a special destiny revelation,
- a ministry task or challenge leading to next step,  
ministry skills which will indicate next step,
- literary item coinciding with guidance,
- faith check or challenge moving toward next guidance
- networking power—leading to next step or overall guidance
- divine or ministry affirmation that under girds next step or overall guidance

Slide 13

**Remember!**

**GOD IS THE GUIDE!**

## **GUIDANCE PROCESS ITEMS**

### **Introduction**

A leader is a person with God-given capacity and God-given responsibility who is influencing a group of followers towards God's purposes for the group. The central element of this definition of a leader is influencing toward God's purposes. Leaders must know how to get corporate guidance for the groups they are leading. How do they do that? The basic guidance pattern is simple. A leader first learns about personal guidance for his/her own life. Having learned to discern God's direction for his/her own life in numerous crucial decisions, the leader can then shift to the leadership function of determining guidance for the group that is being led. I assume that much guidance will come through one's on-going, obedient, daily walk with God. The guidance process items given here are beyond these routine aspects. They are unusual guidance means, not the norm. The guidance cluster contains eight process items which heighten a leader's discernment for guidance.

### **Description**

Guidance process items refer to the set of eight process items, which occur throughout a leader's ministry and provide benchmarks by which a leader is assured of God's continued guidance in his/her development.

### **Definition**

Leadership Guidance refers to the process whereby a leader learns to discern from God the perspective needed to make decisions concerning his/her leadership.

### **Essential Characteristic**

All of these guidance items assume the intervention of the living unseen God in the lives of leaders at special points in their lives to provide external guidance for leadership.

### **Major Purposes**

1. Give certainty guidance on critical decisions.
2. Give assurance that the leader as a person is pleasing God.
3. Give assurance that the leader's ministry is pleasing God.
4. Give indications that a change in ministry assignment is imminent.
5. Give discernment lessons on the aspects of God's will (what, how, when).

**GENERAL SOVEREIGN GUIDANCE PROCESS ITEM** symbol: P(SG)

- introduction Sometimes God gives guidance even more directly by divine revelation, or circumstantially blocking alternatives until the way to go is clear. We title this more direct intervention in the guidance process of a leader as sovereign guidance.
- definition Sovereign guidance is the general category of guidance which refers both to the superintending of God over a leader's guidance as well as the direct intervention of God into a leader's guidance choices through divine revelation or circumstantial arrangement of affairs and events so that it is unmistakably clear that God is directing.
- Example In Genesis 12:1-3 we see divine revelation as God's direct intervention into the guidance process for Abraham.
- Example In Genesis 24:12-67 (see especially verses 12-14) God providentially directs circumstances as Abraham's servant selects Rebecca.
- Example Repeatedly in the life of Moses, God gave divine revelation to guide Moses as he led the people.
- Example Guideon's fleece in Judges 6:36-40 is an example of divine guidance.
- ExampleIn Acts 8:26 Phillip received sovereign guidance concerning witnessing to the Ethiopian Eunuch.
- ExampleIn Acts 9 God's direct intervention channeled Paul into a life of ministry. His direct revelation to Paul to go unto the Gentiles became the touchstone for all that Paul did.
- Example Acts 16:6-10 contains 3 different sovereign guidance instances.
- Inclusive All the guidance items would fall under the category of sovereign guidance as special cases of it. When an item of guidance is significant to leadership development and does not fit one of the labels given in this chapter we use the generic designation--sovereign guidance. In attempting to identify guidance cluster process items use the specific items where they fit. If something does not essentially fit under one of the seven specific items (divine contact, double confirmation, divine affirmation, ministry affirmation, destiny fulfillment, negative preparation, flesh act) then use the general category sovereign guidance.

**NEGATIVE PREPARATION PROCESS ITEM** symbol: P(NEG)

- introduction      Someone has said that while it may appear that the grass is always greener on the other side of the fence, in fact, it is really brown on both sides of the fence. A frequently seen process item, particularly in the boundary conditions between development phases, is the guidance process item called negative preparation. God often prepares someone to accept the next steps of guidance by first allowing them to go through negative experiences during their present development phase. The negative experiences make the "grass look greener" and often gives a high motivational incentive to move on and seek the next thing God has. Without the negative processing many would be satisfied to stay and not move on to develop, expand, or to sense God's next steps.
- definition      Negative preparation refers to the special processing which involves God's use of events, people, conflict, persecution, or experiences, allfocusing on the negative, so as to free up a person from the situation in order to enter the next phase of development with a new abandonment and revitalized interest.
- ExampleThe pre-Exodus persecution made the Israelites open to Moses leadership and promise of deliverance.
- Example      See Exodus 13:17,18 for God's special use of this processing.
- Example      Hannah's experience in I Samuel 1. Hannah was willing to give Samuel into the Lord's service, which was God's means of raising up a prophet/judge--transitional leadership into the kingdom phase of Israel.
- Example      Robert C. McQuilkin's (founder of Columbia Bible College) transition from Development Phase II (Organizational Leadership Training) to Development Phase III (Implementing a Life Vision--Threefold Thrust) involved negative preparation.
- uses      1. Signal a boundary phase.  
2. Give release to move to a new development sub-phase or phase.  
3. Point out limitations of influence-mix or role.  
4. Point out areas of needed maturity.
- timing      Negative preparation occurs most frequently in early growth ministry and occasionally in latter growth ministry time period. As a leader matures in character and skills it is less frequent.

**NEGATIVE PREPARATION PROCESS ITEM** continued

kinds	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Dissatisfaction with inner-life.</li><li>2. Dissatisfaction with present role.</li><li>3. Isolation--self-reflection.</li><li>4. Conflict with other Christian workers.</li><li>5. Problems in marriage relationships.</li><li>6. Problems with children.</li><li>7. Crisis in job or ministry.</li><li>8. Limiting possibilities thwarting sphere of influence development.</li><li>9. Limiting possibilities thwarting role.</li><li>10. Adverse living conditions in a given geographic area.</li><li>11. Sickness due to geographic conditions.</li></ol>
Causal	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Self-initiated (dissatisfaction).</li><li>2. Relational problems--people engendered (wife, husband, children, co-workers, nationals, followers, unbelievers).</li><li>3. Job related causes—long term development is limited.</li></ol>
discernment	Negative preparation for guidance can easily be guideline confused with negative processing to deepen character. James 1:2-4 shows that negative experiences often are used to mature character. A guideline for discernment: All negative processing is used to mature character; some is also used to give release for a new assignment. Do not move until character processing is appreciated and guidance is clearly confirmed. Or to give the guideline in another way: Don't just use negative processing as a scapegoat to move on to something else.

**FEEDBACK ON NEGATIVE PREPARATION PROCESS ITEM**

1. Which of the following represents a corporate application of the negative preparation process item?

- a. Acts 10
- b. Acts 8:1
- c. John 1:48,49
- d. none of the above

2. Which of the following is an example of negative preparation which resulted in guidance that significantly affected church history?

- a. Acts 2:1-4
- b. Acts 6:1-6
- c. Acts 15:36-41
- d. none of the above

3. Consider again the purposes behind use of process items.

Processing is used by God to,

- A. indicate leadership potential,
- B. develop that potential,
- C. confirm appointment to a role/ responsibility,
- D. move the leader along to God's appointed ministry level for the realized potential.

Negative preparation process items would most likely be used in conjunction with which of the foci of this definition. Check any, which apply.

4. Give a personal experience with a negative preparation process item used in your life for guidance. Indicate which components were in focus. Identify kind, use, and causal source.

**ANSWERS-----**

- 1. b.
- 2. c.
- 3. All of them, though B and D will probably have the majority of negative preparation process items.
- 4. My own conflict with a leader in my mission made me open to inner-life growth (B) and my need for a role (D) which would allow further development of my sphere of influence.

**FLESH ACT (Human decision) PROCESS ITEM** symbol: P(FLESH)

- introduction      Learning to discern the voice of God can be a difficult process when seeking His guidance during difficult situations. The flesh act process item teaches discernment via negative experience, a most valuable reflective process. Using hindsight can be a valuable process through which God teaches us to recognize His direction and guidance. The flesh act can be seen most clearly in cases where we presume guidance and move ahead of God. Another common instance of the flesh act process item is where we have a part of God's guidance but not the complete picture (like what we are to do but not when we do it or how we do it). We often try to help God work things out.
- definition      A flesh act refers to those instances in a leader's life where guidance is presumed and decisions are made either hastily or without proper discernment of God's choice. Such decisions usually involve the working out of guidance by the leader using some human manipulation or other means and which brings ramifications which later negatively affect ministry and life.
- example      See Genesis 16. Previously, God had promised Abram and Sarah that they would bear a son and be parents to a nation. For over twenty years this promise from God was not fulfilled. Sarah had a plan. Sarah had an Egyptian maid named Hagar. Sarah sent Hagar to Abraham that she might bear them a child. Hagar conceived and bore a son--Ishmael. This practice though culturally acceptable in that era was not God's plan. Later in his own way God did fulfill the promise. Negative ramifications from this flesh act are still with us today.
- example      Joshua's treaty with the Gibeonites in Joshua 9. Notice in verse 14, that they did not consult the Lord about it.
- guidelines      1. "What," "when," and "how" are all important facets of guidance. Certainty on one or two without the other(s) often leads to presumption about the other(s) and to a flesh act.
2. Presumptuous faith (assuming God will do something that He has not communicated to a leader) can lead to a flesh act.
3. Taking action (in major decision times) without consulting God often results in a flesh act.
4. Failing to act according to sovereign guidance which has been given and choosing an alternative to what God has communicated is also classified as a flesh act.

**FEEDBACK ON FLESH ACT PROCESS ITEM**

1. Examine the flesh act of Joshua 9. What guidance lessons do you think Joshua learned in retrospect?
2. Give here some other biblical example of a flesh act process item. Point out one or two lessons seen in it.
3. A synonym for a "flesh act" could be a "presumptuous faith act." What do you see connoted by that label that is not necessarily implied by "flesh act?"
4. Give here, if you can some flesh act process item that you have personally experienced or seen in the life of some leader. What have you learned from this item?

**ANSWERS-----**

1. One lesson: Everyday affairs are fraught with appearances which are not what they seem like. Two, When we are following hard after God on something He has clearly revealed for us to do we can expect detractions to occur. We can not presume to understand them but must analyze them in the light of the clear guidance we are following.
2. Hezekiah in Isaiah 39. He entertained the messengers from Babylon and showed him all his wealth and military equipment. Isaiah rebuked Hezekiah in verse 5-8 with a word from the Lord condemning this seemingly innocent action. Lesson one: Everyday affairs can lead to flesh acts if we are not alert and discerning in our actions. Lesson two: Pride (like wanting to show our accomplishments or boast of our possessions.) can lead to flesh acts.
3. It describes a condition where a leader presumes that he/she knows the "what" of the guidance but in fact is wrong.
4. I'll reserve this one for sharing with the class.

**DIVINE CONTACT PROCESS ITEM** symbol: P(DC)

introduction	At the "right moment" God brings across the path of developing leaders just what is needed such as a tract which challenges or explains some truth, a book which gives new perspectives, or a person who will be greatly used by God in that leader's life. All of these fall under the general category of Guidance Process Items. The divine contact process item refers to the unusual way that God brings people of significance across a leader's path at the right time.
definition	A <u>divine contact</u> is a <b>person</b> whom God brings in contact with leader at a crucial moment in a development phase in order to accomplish one or more of the following (or a related function): <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. to affirm leadership potential,</li> <li>2. to encourage leadership potential,</li> <li>3. to give guidance on a special issue,</li> <li>4. to give insights which may give guidance indirectly (e.g. broadens the leader),</li> <li>5. to challenge the leader God-ward (indirect guidance--a move toward leadership committal),</li> <li>6. to open a door to a ministry opportunity,</li> <li>7. other similar purpose which helps the emerging leader make guidance decisions.</li> </ol>
Example	Barnabas, Paul's divine contact (Acts 9:27, 11:25)
Example	Peter was a divine contact for Cornelius (Acts 10)
Example	Paul, divine contact for Timothy, Priscilla and Aquila, and a host of others.
Timing	Divine contacts appear throughout all time periods but are especially prevalent early on in ministry or transition to ministry. Some divine contacts are interwoven into the lives of leaders and will reappear at needed times. Sometimes the relationship is mutual and each helps the other.
causal source	Leaders, because of their ability to influence, need to recognize that they often will be divine contacts for others they meet. They should be especially sensitive to the Holy Spirit's use of them as divine contacts and recognize this special way of influencing.
special divine contact	The mentor is a special kind of divine contact used to help encourage the developmental process of a leader or potential leader. Guidance may be given mentor but the main focus is facilitating development and expanding the leader. Hence, it is categorized with the expansion process items.

**FEEDBACK ON DIVINE CONTACT PROCESS ITEM**

1. Look at Acts 18:24-28.

a. Identify its purpose (check the appropriate items).

- (1) To affirm leadership potential.
- (2) To encourage leadership potential.
- (3) To give guidance on a special issue.
- (4) To give insights which may give guidance indirectly (e.g. broadens the leader),
- (5) To challenge the leader God-ward (indirect guidance--move toward leadership committal),
- (6) To open a door to ministry opportunity.
- (7) other similar purpose which helps the emerging leader make guidance decisions.

b. Describe the divine contact process item seen in Acts 18:24-28. Who was affected, and what was the result?

2. Identify a divine contact in your own experience. Describe the item and how God has used it in your leadership development.

**ANSWERS-----**

1. a. (1), (2), and (3) guidance on doctrine.

b. Priscilla and Aquila were divine contacts for Apollos. Apollos was a young leader with great potential. Priscilla and Aquila were Bible teachers who had enjoyed an informal apprenticeship under Paul. They were people who were ready to clarify Apollos' grasp of truth and help develop his "truth" base. Notice the "linking" provided for Apollos in verse 27.

2. Harold Dollar, now a professor at the School of Missions of BIOLA, was a divine contact, for me in 1964. His timely arrival into my life was used by God to start me on the road to discipleship. Several times since then God has used one or the other of us to challenge, give guidance, counsel, or whatever, to the other. These repeated process items have significantly influenced each of our development phases.

**DOUBLE CONFIRMATION PROCESS ITEM** symbol: P(DBLC)

- introduction      At crucial moments when major guidance decisions are to be made a leader often needs to know for certain that the decision is the will of God. One way God gives clear guidance in just such situations is via the double confirmation item.
- definition      Double confirmation refers to the unusual guidance process item in which God makes clear His will by giving the guidance directly to a leader and then reinforcing it by some other person totally independent and unaware of the leader's guidance.
- example  
Moses/  
Aaron      Exodus 3 and 4 speak of God's dealing with Moses to get him to lead the Israelite people. Ex 4:27 is an example of the Aaron double confirmation in which, God gives Aaron a word which will affirm what Moses has already heard.
- example  
Saul/ Samuel      I Samuel 9 reveals how God worked in both Saul and Samuel to bring them together. God was having Samuel anoint a king. See especially verses 15-18.
- example  
Paul/ Ananias      A most famous double confirmation is Paul's conversion. See Acts 9,22, and 26. Note how God worked through Paul and confirmed it independently through Ananias. See especially 9:10-18.
- example  
Peter/  
Cornelius      A significant example of double confirmation concerned God's revelation of Christianity for the Gentiles. See Acts 10:1-8 where God worked with Cornelius and then 10:9-18 where God works with Peter. The rest of the chapter gives the details for this famous double confirmation.
- steps      The classic pattern for double confirmation
1. A crucial moment in the leader's ministry where direction needs a sure word from God,
  2. God gives the direction to the leader sometimes directly, sometimes indirectly,
  3. God then confirms this direction through someone else. The further outside the influence of the first person, the more spectacular is the double confirmation.
  4. God then brings the two together in some unmistakable sovereign way.
- uses      Double Confirmation has the following uses:
1. gives divine affirmation to some important decision.
  2. will validate a leader's spiritual authority.
  3. gives a renewed sense of destiny.
  4. serves as a sign to outsiders as well as insiders.

**FEEDBACK ON DOUBLE CONFIRMATION PROCESS ITEM**

1. The double confirmation guidance process item follows a long-standing biblical pattern. Can you give the general principle?

Hints: See:

- I Timothy 5:19
- I John 4:1,2
- I Corinthians 14:13ff
- Genesis 37:5-9
- Daniel 2:5
- Genesis 41:17-32 see especially verse 32

2. Which spiritual gifts need to be sure and take into consideration the basic principle identified in question 1 which underlies the double confirmation process item?

3. Give from your own experience, if you can, a double confirmation guidance process item.

**ANSWERS-----**

1. Confirming a significant truth amongst more than one source is a strong indicator of its credibility.

2. Apostleship, words of knowledge, words of wisdom, discernings of spirits, tongues, and words of prophecy are all gifts which serve as sources through which truth comes. To be credible, there needs to be outside or multiple confirmation, particularly when the gift is revealing truth from God which will affect other's lives.

3. I am always on the alert for various process items in people's lives. When doing a short leadership study on George Pitt, a New Zealand Baptist minister, I unearthed a double confirmation process item. In connection with two fasting periods of some length, George was led of God to experientially claim ground for God. He literally walked neighborhoods and prayed over ground, families, etc. The passage that God used to bring conviction was the Joshua 1 passage where God challenged Joshua, "Every place that the sole of your foot shall tread upon, that have I given you, as I said unto Moses." It was during this experiential learning of possession that George was attending a women's meeting with his wife in which husbands were invited. There was a speaker from the United States named Larry Allen. Toward the end of the meeting he began giving words of knowledge. He turned to George, pointed a finger at him and quoted Joshua 1:3 and said that God indeed wanted him to possess the land.

**DIVINE AFFIRMATION PROCESS ITEM** symbol: P(DA)

introduction	Over a lifetime of ministry there will be times in which a leader will need reassurance from God. This involves a psychological need for acceptance as a person loved by God, as well as approval regarding ministry.
definition	<u>Divine affirmation</u> is a special kind of sense of destiny experience in which God gives approval to a leader so that the leader has a renewed sense of ultimate purpose and a refreshed desire to continue serving God.
example Jesus	At least three times in Jesus' ministry one can observe God's divine affirmation. See Matthew 3:17, 17:5, John 12:27,28.
Example Abraham	From Genesis 12:1-3 onward for more than 25 years God repeatedly gave divine affirmation to Abraham a-periodically. See especially Genesis 15 where God renewed Abraham's purpose and also revealed great truth.
Example Samuel	I Samuel 12:13-19 is a great passage illustrating divine affirmation of Samuel's ministry which is primarily external.
Example Paul	Acts 18:9,10 and 27:23-26 are divine affirmations regarding Paul's ministry.
Kinds	Divine affirmation can come through: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. an inner voice or other direct revelation,</li> <li>2. an angelic visitation,</li> <li>3. a vision,</li> <li>4. a miraculous sign,</li> <li>5. a prophetic word,</li> <li>6. a dream,</li> <li>7. a sense of God's blessing on a life as attested to by external testimony (see Joseph, Genesis 39:2,3 39:21-23).</li> <li>8. sovereign arrangement of circumstances,</li> </ol>
uses	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To renew a leader's desire to serve God,</li> <li>2. To give confirmation of acceptance, especially when there is a sense of rejection due to ministry or personal circumstances.</li> <li>3. To give external support for ministry purposes.</li> <li>4. To expand the spiritual authority power base.</li> </ol>
Timing	Can occur anytime throughout ministry.
Causal	Dominantly perceived as directly from God. May come through people who perceive God's blessing on the leader's life.

**FEEDBACK ON DIVINE AFFIRMATION PROCESS ITEM**

1. Divine affirmation relates to several other process items. To which of the other guidance process items is it most closely related.

- a. DIVINE CONTACTS
- b. DOUBLE CONFIRMATION
- c. NEGATIVE PREPARATION
- d. FLESH ACT

2. To which of the other guidance process items is it least closely related. Explain why you chose the one(s) you did.

- a. DIVINE CONTACTS
- b. DOUBLE CONFIRMATION
- c. NEGATIVE PREPARATION
- d. FLESH ACT

3. Analyze the following divine affirmations for focus. Put "I" if you feel the divine affirmation was internally focused or "E" if you feel the divine affirmation was externally focused. Describe the method by which the divine affirmation came, as well.

<u>Example</u>	<u>Focus</u>	<u>Method</u>
a. Matthew 3:17 (cf. John 1:32ff)		
b. Matthew 17:5 (cf. II Peter 1:16-18)		
c. Acts 18:9		
d. Acts 27:23-26		
e. I Samuel 12:13-19		
f. Genesis 15		

4. I have said that the divine affirmation process item is closely related to spiritual authority. Glance at the spiritual authority definition given below and explain why I said this.

Spiritual authority is that characteristic of a God-anointed leader, developed upon an experiential power base, which enables a leader to influence followers through persuasion, force of modeling and moral expertise toward God's purposes.

5. Give an example of a process incident in which God gave you divine affirmation.

**ANSWERS-----**  
See next page.

ANSWERS TO FEEDBACK ON DIVINE AFFIRMATION continued

1.  a. DIVINE CONTACTS       b. DOUBLE CONFIRMATION  
 (and its closely related counterpart, MENTORING)

Affirmation is part of the methodology that a mentor uses with a mentoree. Often the sovereign guidance item is an affirmation of a direction. Divine contacts frequently are used to give direction. Divine affirmation will also frequently come via an internal focus and via an external focus which is in actuality a double confirmation form of divine affirmation.

2.  c. NEGATIVE PREPARATION       d. FLESH ACT

Divine affirmation is almost always a positive experience. While the end result of negative preparation is positive (great release into the next steps for one's life), the experience itself is usually negative. A flesh act would in no way have God's seal of approval.

3.

<u>Example</u>	<u>Focus</u>	<u>Method</u>
a. Matthew 3:17 (cf. John 1:32ff)	I,E	visible sign, audible voice
b. Matthew 17:5 (cf. natural phenomena)	I,E	visible sign, audible voice    IIPeter 1:16-18)
c. Acts 18:9	I	vision
d. Acts 27:23-26	I	angelic visitation
e. I Samuel 12:13-19	E	natural phenomena (rain storm)
f. Genesis 15	I	vision

4. Note the underlined words: Spiritual authority is that characteristic of a God-anointed leader developed upon an experiential power base which enables a leader to influence followers through persuasion, force of modeling and moral expertise toward God's purposes.

At the very heart of spiritual authority is the sense of closeness to God by the leader. Divine affirmation is one manifestation of God-anointed. It is clear evidence of the touch of God upon a life. The experiential power base refers to experience with God. Divine affirmation is a special experience with God. Divine affirmation gives the external backing to spiritual authority; the testimony of the leader's life and ministry gives internal evidence of spiritual authority.

5. Your choice. I'll share one or two of mine in class.

**MINISTRY AFFIRMATION PROCESS ITEM** symbol: P(MAF)

introduction	During ministry processing many lessons are learned via negative experience. These lessons are valuable when seen in terms of an overview of a lifetime of development. But in the midst of the ministry processing that overall perspective is often hard to see so that these negative lessons can be discouraging. Leaders need to be encouraged concerning proper leadership which is pleasing to God. The ministry affirmation process item provides that needed encouragement. It is a special form of the more general divine affirmation process item. It encourages a leader and gives a renewed sense of ultimate purpose in leadership. It is God's "pat on the back."
definition	The <u>ministry affirmation process item</u> is a special kind of destiny experience in which God gives approval to a leader in terms of some ministry assignment in particular or some ministry experience in general which results in a renewed sense of purpose for the leader.
example	Acts 18:9-11. Paul in Corinth. Special vision given to encourage ministry and show God's protection.
Example	Paul and Barnabas. Their apostolic ministry confirmed. See Galatians 2:1-10 especially verse 9.
Example	Elijah. God meets Elijah in the midst of his depression. See I Kings 19:1-18
Example	Peter. Jesus' testing in John 21 is a significant restorative ministry affirmation.
Example	Jesus in the Lazarus resurrection incident. See especially John 11:41-42.
Example	Moses in the incident of rebellion with Korah, Dathan and Abiram. See especially Numbers 16:27-30. This is a complex process incident involving authority, power, and affirmation process items.
Kinds	Ministry affirmation means include: a vision, sign, inner voice, inner conviction, successful ministry incident, human expressions of appreciation, inner satisfaction in reflection on some aspect of ministry history, a word of knowledge or wisdom, prophecy, promotion, or expansion of sphere of influence.
Focus	Primarily, ministry affirmation serves as encouragement. Secondly, it often serves as confirmation of guidance.

**FEEDBACK MINISTRY AFFIRMATION PROCESS ITEM**

1. Examine at least two of the following examples for the "apparent need" prompting the ministry affirmation and the "means" through which ministry affirmation came. You will most likely need to read more of the context than I have given.

Apparent Need   Means of Affirmation

- a. Acts 18:9-11.  
Paul in Corinth.
- b. Galatians 2:1-10.  
Paul and Barnabas.
- c. I Kings 19:1-18.  
Elijah.
- d. John 21.  
Peter.
- e. John 11:41-42  
Jesus.
- f. Numbers 16:27-30  
Moses

2. Describe an important ministry affirmation process item you have personally experienced? Give the details.

<u>When</u>	<u>Apparent Need</u>	<u>Means</u>	<u>Results</u>
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ANSWERS-----

1. Apparent Need Means of Affirmation

- |                        |                                                                  |                                                                                                                                     |  |
|------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
| b. Galatians<br>2:1-10 | recognition of<br>unique ministry<br>Paul, Barnabas              | Human beings approve.<br>Leaders in Jerusalem church,<br>James, Peter, and John give<br>approval to Barnabas and<br>Paul's ministry |  |
| e. John 11:41-42       | Proof of: in-<br>timate communion<br>with God;<br>divine mission | A Miracle. Word of faith Jesus.<br>honored. Lazarus raised<br>from dead.                                                            |  |

2.

- |                |                                             |                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                 |
|----------------|---------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <u>When</u>    | <u>Need</u>                                 | <u>Means</u>                                                                                | <u>Results</u>                                                                                                                                                  |
| Winter<br>1981 | Guidance<br>in a major<br>boundary<br>phase | day of prayer<br>alone with God;<br>3 unsolicited<br>ministry requests;<br>via phone calls. | Not only did I receive<br>guidance but I also<br>knew that God was with<br>me and wanted to use<br>me. There was a great<br>joy and a sense of<br>anticipation. |

### Summary ON GUIDANCE Process Items

Guidance development is complicated and delicate. God must teach a leader to discern guidance, without thwarting the leader's personal initiative. While God is creating commitment to follow His guidance He must also teach the leader to sense individual responsibility for making decisions. This is not an overnight lesson. It takes place slowly, through many process items, over an extended period of time.

Leaders who influence followers toward God's purposes must be able to discern with certainty God's purposes. The guidance cluster items described give some perspectives as to how leaders in the past have sensed God's hand in their lives.

**Sovereign guidance**, in all its facets, is extremely important to the concept of spiritual authority. It is experiencing God in the crucial decisions of life. Normally a leader will not experience sovereign guidance on most of the leadership decisions of everyday life. But one who has spiritual authority can point to a track record of significant sovereign guidance both for personal life and for ministry. This is one of the elements which lends credence to spiritual authority.

Reflection on the **flesh act** process item is not an exercise in negative thinking. It is a process through which God can sharpen our discernment skills and strengthen our ability to recognize His voice. As we reflect on guidance instances, both our own and others, we are not looking to criticize the actions taken but to learn from them. We should look for lessons concerning how God communicates His guidance so that in the future we will be able to discern His guidance more clearly.

Sometimes **divine contacts** are unaware that God has used them at a special time in some one's life. Often a "phrase" or a message given in ministry is a key at the right moment. Years later it may come to light how "at a given moment someone was specially used" by God in a divine contact function.

Some crucial decisions, issues, or junctures in and life are so important that they *warrant extra certainty in guidance*. Such a case is Paul's guidance conversion. See Acts 9, 22, and 26. Note how God worked through Paul and independently through Ananias. See especially 9:10-18. This conversion was so important to worldwide Christianity that there needed to be no question of or room for accusations of self-delusion. God gave certainty confirmation through someone who could only have known by God's revelation. **Double confirmation** is one form of certainty guidance.

As a leader, when you are confronted with a crucial decision, ask God to give **double confirmation**. This may in turn force a faith challenge upon you.

Gideon's famous fleece is an alternate variation of **double confirmation**. It points out the essence of the processing--getting certainty guidance so that God's guidance is absolutely clear. There will be other variations which do not follow the exact steps or format but provide the essential function.

**Divine affirmation** is usually an inward thing which satisfies the leader alone. That leader sees that God is indeed with him/her and that the life-purpose of serving God is real and vital and worthwhile. However, sometimes the affirmation is external for others to know and see. The external divine affirmation usually is in connection with validation of spiritual authority.

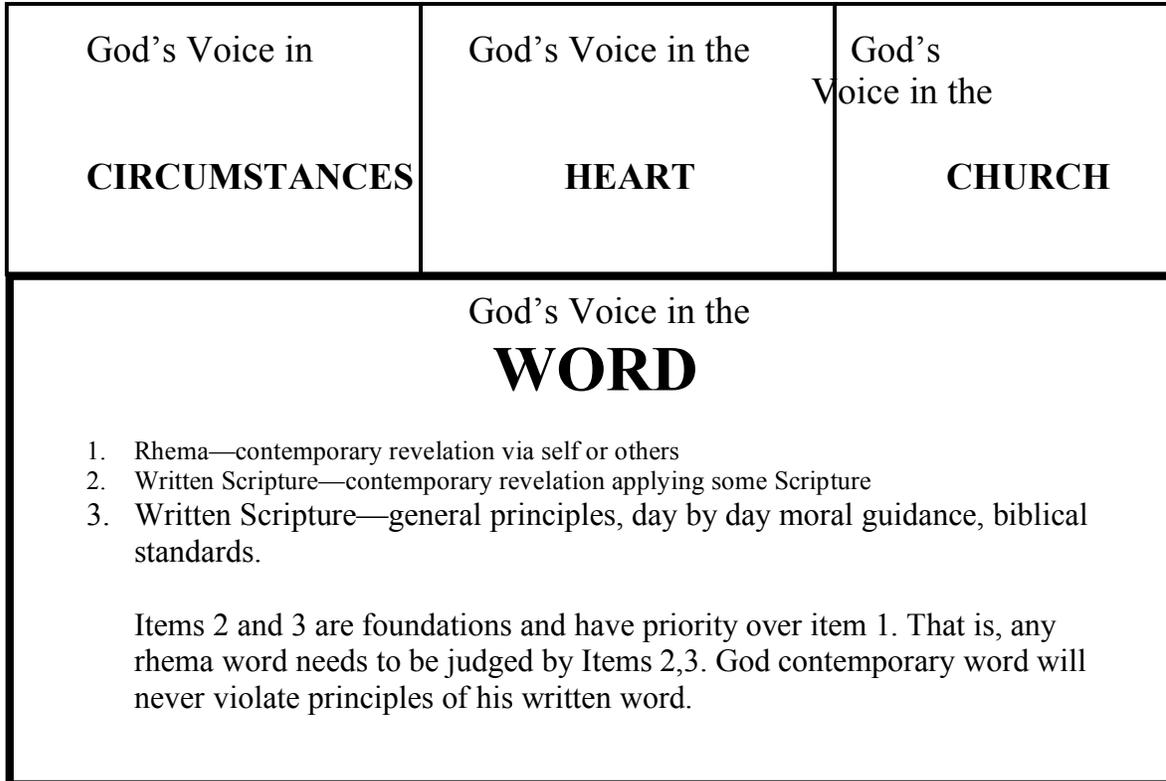
The routine of ministry needs to be a-periodically broken by the unusual. That is what **ministry affirmation** is all about. There is a genuine need to know that one's ministry is relevant and worthwhile and that one's life is indeed counting toward God's purposes. This reaffirmation is usually an inward need, which will infuse new life to the leader. Occasionally, this affirmation is outward to confirm to followers that the leader does indeed have spiritual authority. The process item which describes this special approval from God is called divine affirmation. It is closely linked with spiritual authority.

Frequently, **divine affirmation** or **ministry affirmation** comes when a leader seeks God in isolation from present ministry. Deliberate times of fasting and days of prayer spent alone with God are the seedbed of ministry affirmation. The need for ministry affirmation is not a sign of weakness but a harbinger of renewal and refreshment that will motivate further service.

**FOUR IMPORTANT GUIDANCE FACTORS**

Introduction The biblical thrust in guidance is moral guidance and not decision-making guidance. The majority of admonitions toward guidance reflect conduct for living. A basic framework for viewing guidance is given in the following diagram first introduced to me by Frank Sells, one of my Bible college instructors. A daily obedient walk with God will allow for guidance to come via these four channels. Those Seeking **GUIDANCE** must learn to discern God's voice via these basic guidance channels.

**Guidance Diagram**



Circumstances Christians use the phrases "open doors" and "closed doors" to indicate that God sovereignly or providentially controls circumstances to give direction concerning guidance. Open doors mean: special opportunities appear; something becomes available at a timely moment; the way to do something is clear and unhindered. Closed doors mean: the opportunity to do something is not available; something desired becomes unavailable; the way to do something is blocked.

The Heart Christians use the phrase "God's voice in the heart" to mean convictions or feelings or desires assumed to be from God.

The Church The Church, in this diagram, stands for counsel from Christians as corporate groups to whom the believer is responsible as well as individual believers who can give wise counsel.

The Word The Word is used here to mean both the written Word and revelatory Word. **FOUR**

**IMPORTANT GENERAL GUIDANCE FACTORS** continued

Hearing God's voice in the written Word means knowing and applying Bible truth on a given guidance matter. This will include guidance drawn from direct teaching on the matter, principles derived from teaching and illustration, and/or the sensing of God intending a specific message to be personally applied upon reading a passage concerning its relevance to a situation. Revelatory Word means the direct intervention of God to give a special word of application or clarification on a situation. Such words may be given directly to the believer (audible, sensed inwardly, dreams, visions, angelic visitations, or by impression) or may come via some of the spontaneous word gifts such as word of knowledge, word of wisdom, word of faith, or prophecy.

Caution Word God's voice in the written Word is foundational. A revelatory Word (rhema) should never contradict the written Word. A revelatory word for major decisions should be confirmed. Once confirmed, revelatory word and written word are foundational and carry priority over the superstructural factors of circumstances, the heart and the Church.

Caution Circumstances Circumstances can be engendered both by God and Satan. Major decisions should never be made on circumstances alone. However, timely circumstances do give a tremendous boost to confidence especially when one is praying along the exact lines and the circumstance happens.

Caution The Heart What God is saying to us inwardly must be tested. The desires of the heart cannot always be trusted. What we think God is saying may be confused with what we wish He would say. Inner convictions must be honored unless they violate biblical principles—that is a major biblical principle.

Caution Church While we want to take every advantage of what God has taught others, we must remember that we alone will be responsible for our decisions. Where counsel shows biblical principle, of course, we need to take that in to account. And in general, we will heed wise counsel. But others are not responsible for understanding God's will for us.

Basic Guideline Normally major decisions should not have any contradictions between guidance via the different factors. On some decisions there may be silence from some of the factors. But at least there shouldn't be contradictions. If there are, wait for clarification. In fact, a safe guideline is this. **On major decisions the guidance via all the factors should line up and confirm each other.**

Normal/ Unusual Most guidance comes via this model. Leaders will, however, need unusual direction via the Guidance cluster.