

Heart to Heart

*Bringing our hearts to Him,
Receiving His Heart for us!*

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We learned how to walk in the world and we can learn how to walk in the Spirit--tho it may take just as many falls to get the hang of it.

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Joyce fought Lupus and and abuse and won.

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Dear Steve,

This month continues a series on learning **the art of guidance** by the Lord. Just think, the God of heaven actually desires to direct our steps like partners in a dance, the dance of life. This is truly art, not science. Rules and principles are helpful and we will be writing more about them. But the main thing is relationship! Keeping our eyes on our dance partner and **being supple enough to move with Him**. That's the key and it is also our entry point into an exhilarating turn of events. Enjoy.

Walking in the Spirit

Keeping stride with the Lord.

Walking in the Spirit has two dimensions: conscious and unconscious!

Last month we looked at some of the ways that we may have been "sleep walking" with the Lord all of our lives. These are ways of being guided by His Hands so to speak as He opens and closes doors around us or moves us by impressions which seem like our own feelings. As we learn to recognize these previously "unconscious" methods, we can connect the dots and co-operate more readily with them in the future. But we can also learn to seek His Face and His Voice for fully conscious direction.

Dimension two: Christ-conscious guidance.

The Spirit led walk requires conscious and conscientious diligence and care in seeking it. It is the way of the wise.

Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is. Ephesians 5:17-18

The first principle of seeking guidance is: *don't ask, if you don't really want to know*. The Lord is not out to satisfy our intellectual curiosity about His will! And He may not tell you what you want to hear. So be prepared to yield to his will (see 1Kings 22:7-8). As Hannah Whitall Smith advises, "An immediate obedience is the safest and easiest course."

There are 5 "voices" that should harmonize: scripture, conscience,



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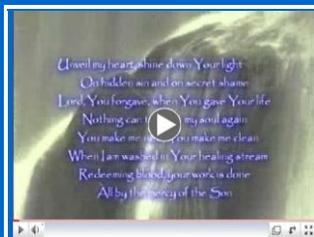
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Mercy of the Son with stream

inward impressions, wise counsel and providential circumstances. We will look at the first two this month.

1) Scripture.

God in His Word provides boundaries and guidelines (see Psalm 119-all of it!) so that we can know right and wrong with clarity on many issues and see the general outline of a right path for our lives. We, therefore, need to thoroughly take to heart the scriptures so that the Holy Spirit may use them to direct us in the Way and keep us from error.

Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth. John 17:17

This guidance takes precedence over all else. Hence there is a real need to search the scriptures and **keep things in balance**: whatever is plainly taught must be obeyed; adhere to principles, not isolated texts; keep the main thing, the main thing. At times the Lord will even quicken His Word (that you have already stored up in your heart) to give guidance about specific steps to take.

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

Psalms 119:105

Remember, though, that in Biblical times they didn't have airport searchlights! The lamp that lit their path on a dark night barely showed more than a few steps ahead at a time. Sometimes we see no further ahead than how to navigate the difficult moment we are in, but it is enough. We may wish for more, but what He gives truly is sufficient. I know--He led me through the valley of deep grief one step at a time, never seeing the road ahead. But we came out the other side!

RULE OF THUMB: Don't expect to "hear" a word spoken, if it has already been written.

a) **Negative guidance:** Nothing the Lord will lead us to do will contradict His Written Word.

b) **Positive guidance:** General principles of scripture point the way-but not all is made plain.

2) Conscience.

"Do the next right thing." We are meant to cultivate wisdom and right understanding as a means of being guided by the Lord. We have been given the ability to make right judgments and are expected to use it. "Common sense" is a gift of God; its counterfeit is the natural mind. The wants fruit, not nuts...(don't get me started). :)

We have a duty to educate our consciences (renewal of mind) and are called to seek practical wisdom and understanding (Proverbs 4:5-7).

At the same time we are commanded not to lean on our understanding at those times when we should be trusting.

How do you know it is time to trust?

Whenever something happens that you don't understand! This goes off in my life like popcorn.

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths. Proverbs 3:5-6

Curiously, it is not as hard to "get" wisdom as one might suppose. All that is needed is asking in faith—but the catch is you have to have the humility to realize you don't have it.

If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. But let him ask in faith, with no doubting. James 1:5-6

There are **3 divine guides** that right understanding can judge fairly easily:

1. **Right desire** (heart and feelings can safely lead if no moral law contradicts).
2. **Obvious necessity** (intellect and observation leave no room for doubt).
3. **Genuine duty** (the moral call is clear; it would be dishonorable not to do it).

Next month, we will look at inward impression, wise counsel and providential circumstances. In the meantime, here's a hint: ***it is easier to learn guidance over the little things***. So, try asking the Lord what He has for you on the menu next time you go out to eat or what He would like to cook with you in the kitchen. He is especially fond of mealtime fellowship...

Did we mention weekends?

We have started doing a condensed version of our seminar on weekends for people who can't take a week off from work, but would like to be refreshed and ministered to by what we offer. ***The next weekend begins this coming Friday night May 20th at 7PM.*** It continues on Saturday and Sunday from 9-5 both days and only costs \$50.00 which includes the 170 page workbook. If you are interested or know someone who could benefit please give us a call: 912-355-3532 or send us an email: info@healingstreamsusa.org.

Did we mention week nights?

Asking for prayer

Someone asked me recently if I would consider doing our teachings as ***a series on one week night a week***. I had tried this 5 years ago and for a variety of reasons didn't pursue it. Now, the idea of a weekly meeting has better traction with me because I can see how the

inevitable lapses in attendance can be bridged by the Workbook which we didn't have then. Please let me hear from you on this. **Would you be interested in attending?** If enough people are we would consider starting with Monday night meetings in mid-June. Please reply by this email.

From We to Thee

*Recognition is the key
we need to get free*

Eunice and I were talking about the **importance of recognition** right before falling off to sleep last night. Yes, we talk shop in bed--we eat and breathe these truths!! And why not? They help us find freedom just like Jesus promised.

Recognition was hugely important to me as a child: "Look at me color this page, Mommy," or "Dad! Check out my report card." But that is not **the kind of recognition I crave now**. I want to see what Jesus sees! Sometimes the light of recognition is delightful: "God, why won't this new gadget work? Oh, you have to slide *that* switch. Great, that did it!" or "Oh, look how beautiful that plain countenance just got when You touched him. No wonder You love like You do!"

Often enough, however, recognition means I finally see something I've been doing wrong. The light of Christ lights up something dark I had been probably trying not to see. Ouch? Not at all--it is hallelujah every time! Why? Because **at the very moment I see a dark pattern in me for the first time, I have gained a great victory**.

Watchman Nee says that the battle is half won with any fallen trait if we can just see it at last for what it is. The real obstacle is not our willingness to repent and go God's way, but **our unwitting blindness to how we have been going our way instead!** So when we see God point out our sin *as sin* (I am thinking of unforgiveness towards someone we have allowed ourselves to hold in reproach, or anxieties we have long excused and allowed to consume us, etc.), we may shrink from it in defeat.

Yet this is a true moment of victory--only moments before we were entirely in the dark! The very fact God has turned on the lights indicates He is ready to go to work to deliver us. There is so much GRACE in God. So remember the next time you recognize a painful truth about yourself that in Jesus grace and truth go together like peas and carrots. **Love is leading you into the Light.**

Truths with Traction!

A lifetime of learning has gone into the workbook that forms the basis of what we teach. Steve likes to say that these truths have been field tested! They are "**truths with traction**," guaranteed to get your emotional life unstuck from those pesky stronghold areas that the enemy loves to bring our walk to a halt with. All it takes is a small investment your time and treasure to have so many secrets of the heart opened to your understanding. In our seminars it is a constant thrill to see "**the lights go on**" for the students. Now you can have the seminar experience in the comfort of your own home! How can you resist?

Our Price: \$17.50

Available as a download: \$5.00

Healings Streams is a Christian ministry dedicated to helping people find peace and freedom from troubling issues of the emotional life. Such deep roots often become the source for a host of stress related diseases, psychological disorders and addictions. Even so, our goal for people is not just escape from emotional stress and its consequences, but full entry into true Kingdom living--plunging into the river of Peace that flows all around us from the throne of Grace. ***Let's all jump in!***

Sincerely,

Steve and Eunice Evans

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