

VINEYARD HARVEST

H O U S E C H U R C H



THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT

THE WORD OF GOD



Urim & Thummim – Possible meanings are Lights & Perfection or Revelation & Truth or Doctrine & Truth –

All forms of enquiry of the Lord has to have an entry into His presence. For those in the Old Testament that form was not always easy and had a code of practice that often was convoluted. Yet, God in His mercy offered an easier way in times of difficulty through the Urim and Thummim which was a breastplate of 12 stones that allowed for enquiry of God without having to go into the Holiest place in order to get that information. From what I can gather, **it was an act of faith** that really decided which way the final decision went. Yet, it seems that the answers that came were solid and fruitful. When King David was in trouble at Ziklag and had lost everything to the enemy (even his people wanted to stone him) he turned to this form of enquiry of the Lord. He got his answer and his victory through the answer he received. However, historians and Bible scholars have understood that this form of enquiry of the Lord phased out itself at this particular time as prophets came into the picture in greater numbers.

When I read about this particular instruction of the Lord to Moses when He asked him to make this breastplate, I asked what parallel for this do we have in the New Testament. The answer came immediately to me saying; 'The Word and The Spirit'. The word is light and revelation just as the Spirit is the revealer of all truth being the Spirit of Truth. With this truth in hand, this parallel of enquiry between OT & NT is easily absorbed and understood in the modern day context of enquiring of the Lord.

In the early days of my Christian walk, one of the hardest things that I have had to understand is God's will for my life. This particular question in Christianity has echoed through the halls of many a church worldwide as many Christians have asked me the same question; "What is God's will for my life?" or "What should I do about this particular situation?" Since I am the priest wearing or carrying the Urim & Thummim (Word & Spirit) I always tried to answer through God's word & Spirit.

As time went by in my walk with God, I learnt to seek the word for every direction in life but found that often time that the word would not yield its secrets to me. I had to avoid intellectual approaches to the word and what was popular theology because I found that when I gravitated toward that, I usually ended up in frustration and confusion or made the wrong decision. (I was notorious for making wrong decisions till I admitted I needed help from God). The other danger was to lean to my own understanding to find my answers. So, to avoid bad decisions and to truly know the will of God I used the word and the Spirit to determine my path. This took discipline to do.

Many have sought signs and coincidences to determine what God is speaking and revealing concerning His will for their lives. Many have gone into astrology, necromancy (consulting the dead), cleromancy (casting of lots), tarrot card reading and other forms of divination to determine their future and the will of God. Many Christians who have come from other religions often carry with them old practices which I have discovered cause them to go back to this form of consultation to determine their future. All such practices are curses and cursed and become open doors for the devil to play his games in people. It should be avoided at all costs. Many have turned to prophets and prophetesses and have lost their way. In Asia when I minister, they will line up for prophecy with their mobile phones on record mode. They want a word but have not done anything previous words have told them till then. They think of it as soothsaying and an easy solution to life. I have discovered that *most of these people do not know that God*

loves them and that is why they seek prophecy. Others have received prophecy but have not understood it in the light of the Spirit of the word. All prophecy must be confirmed by two or three witnesses of God's own word the lamp and light to our feet and our path.

The word of God and Spirit of God have been given for the purposes of determining our path no matter what question is foremost on our minds. The trouble is, many want quick fixes to their questions. I have often discovered in counselling that people will come to me to find the will of God for their lives only to reject the answer from the word by the Spirit of God through me. They do this because it calls for obedience, sacrifice and waiting. Oh! The waiting on God. It is so hard they say. I agree. Yet, in time, we will see that it is the best answer to our problems. Many have rushed into marriage only to find out that they married the wrong person and have divorced not long after. Others have gone into business or taken a job in another country or done something else that have caused them to regret their decision because they did not consult God through the Word and His Spirit. Even if they did and got an answer, they have not heeded the answer and taken the appropriate actions.

There is many a slip between the cup and the lip. Having an answer does not mean that you will fulfill the instructions that come with the answer. Great trust is needed to rely on God the Spirit and His word at all times because there are many enemies to that word. They want to steal it from you or distract you from it especially when waiting is involved. After a disastrous first marriage I had to wait on God ten years before I found the correct wife. Many distractions came to sway me away from whom God had prepared for me. Many good reasons were given and many trials were faced in the process of waiting. When the word finally did come ten years later from God that I would find a wife, it came in the most incredible way. Yet, I had to wait and keep sharp for the fulfillment of that word so that I would not miss it. Furthermore, I had to work to keep the second marriage according to the word even though I now had fulfillment of the word of God in me. That is why I always say, *Receive, Retain and Release*. You cannot keep what you receive unless you retain it and you cannot release what you have received unless you retain it. The key word here is retain what God has said to you and keep it.

Immediate solutions can be long lasting solutions only if you stick to the word and the Spirit Stages in life of discovering God's will for our lives is another understanding we need. Varying circumstances in life can put us in a position where we need God's word on issues or questions that pop up regularly. This is so because of the dynamic changing nature of the world and inconsistencies associated with imperfection. What is good for today may not be good for tomorrow. So, Jesus the same yesterday, today and tomorrow must be understood. We are living in such evil times that many are failing in so many ways. Many Christians are also falling and many in the world are losing heart and even taking their own lives. My sister in law's neighbor in Perth committed suicide just a few days ago. He was rich and had everything in life but obviously did not have God and hope for the future. Maybe you are ready to give up on life and your faith because you see no road ahead or what you have been waiting for has not come to pass. Spare a thought for those who did receive promises and knew what to do but never saw the promises. Chapter 11 of Hebrews in the Bible is full of such people.

You may not want to commit suicide but you may want to give up. What is worse is living in quandary and confusion. Peace is a premium product these days. It is not easily available except for those who have rooted themselves in the Lord (Word) and His Spirit (The Holy Spirit). They are our Urim and Thummim. They are always available to bring the answer from God for every situation we go through in life.

I encourage you to seek the word and the Spirit who gives life to the word. The answers come as light and revelation. You will be able to see the direction you must go in even if it is only for a foot or two at a time. At least it will start you in the right direction. The rest follows by faith. Just remember, all that we do is by faith. Faith opens the door of our hearts to the word of God and His Spirit. It is the only way to see God and know Him.

Lots of love

Pastor Noble

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