

An

INTERACTIVE

Learning
Experience

"We have heard His voice...

We have seen this day that God speaks with man."

Deuteronomy 5:24

HOW TO HEAR
GOD'S
VOICE

Mark & Patti
VIRKLER

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CHAPTER 1

GOD WANTS TO BE YOUR FRIEND

Hungering for God

When I accepted Jesus Christ into my heart at age 15, an immediate hunger to know God sprang up within my spirit. I first attempted to satisfy this desire by devouring the Bible. Within weeks, it was obvious to me that the people in the Bible knew God through hearing Him speak to them and seeing visions of Him. God was their Friend. They walked and talked with Him. Every day, Adam and Eve were hearing God’s voice and living out of it. What an astounding lifestyle! From Genesis to Revelation people heard God’s voice and saw visions. I wanted that, too! What I didn’t know at the time was that this hunger to know God had actually been placed in my heart by the Holy Spirit, and that God fully intended to satisfy this passion.

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Eternal Life Is Intimacy with Almighty God!

Jesus said, “This is eternal life, that they might **know** Thee, the only true God and Jesus Christ whom Thou hast sent” (Jn. 17:3, emphasis added). What a dynamic statement: eternal life is **knowing** God! But this is not the simple, casual “knowing” of an acquaintance, or even a close friend. The word used here for “know” is *ginosko*, and it means “to be involved in an intimate, growing relationship.” In the Greek version of the Old Testament, this is the word used in Genesis 4:1, where it says, “Adam **knew** Eve and she bore a son” (emphasis added). This is the most intimate relationship possible. Jesus makes the fantastic statement that this is what eternal life is all about! This is the essence of eternal life: to be involved in an intimate, growing relationship with the God of all creation and His only Son, Jesus. What a magnificent destiny!

Paul grasped this precious truth. In Philippians 3:10,11, he said that his great desire was, “that I might **know** Him, and the power of His [inner] resurrection and the

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fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death; in order that I may attain to the [outer] resurrection from the dead” (emphasis added). Can you hear the yearning of Paul’s heart? “That I might **know** Him!” Out of that precious love relationship, we will sense His life flowing within us, putting the flesh to death and flowing out through us to others. This is the reason for our salvation! This is why we were born again!

The Hebrew counterpart of the Greek *ginosko* is *yada*¹, and we like to use that word to characterize our time of loving fellowship in prayer. Prayer is so much more than presenting our petitions to God. It is our “*yada* time.” Prayer is the link between lovers. It is communing with our Lover, Jesus — being intimate, quietly sensing each other’s presence, being totally available to one another. It is a treasuring of one another so much that we desire to be together constantly, to share everything with one another, and to walk through life together. It is a feasting on one another’s love. It is communion between two lovers: a relationship, not rules. Lovers come together whenever they can to share what is on their hearts. Their relationship is characterized by joy and spontaneity, not legalistic bondage.

Romance With the King of Kings

It is so important that we learn to seek the Lord for Himself alone, and not for the things He can give us. He longs for us to abide in Him, to feast on His love. He wants us to enjoy fellowship with Him as our dearest Friend. His heart yearns to be ministered to by our love.

We hurt Him so when we become too busy with our daily tasks to spend time enjoying His love or when we carelessly let sin slip into our lives, destroying our close communion. We must seek Him as our greatest treasure, seeing our time of sharing with Him as the highest priority in our lives.

As a result of our relationship with Him, we will begin to see His power flowing out from us, touching hearts, renewing life and strength, and working miracles. For out of relationship will come faith — simple faith, which is simply being close enough to Jesus to know what He wants to do in a situation and then doing whatever He instructs. But the only way we will ever be able to know exactly what Jesus is thinking and saying is by spending much time with Him — living in His presence every moment of our lives. There are no shortcuts to this! But, oh, the fullness of joy we find in His presence!

“Come Wholly Unto Me”

The Lord speaks of coming wholeheartedly to Him so we can fully experience Him. The following are five aspects of the wholeheartedness that God requires in our approach to Him:

- Make Me your **greatest treasure** so I can give Myself to you (Mark 12:30).
- **Search** for Me with your whole heart so I can reveal Myself to you (Jer. 29:13).
- **Trust** Me with your whole heart so I can guide your steps (Prov. 3:5).
- **Praise** Me with your whole heart so I can gift you with My presence (Ps. 9:1).
- **Return** to Me with your whole heart so I can be compassionate and bless you (Joel 2:12).

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Communion: The Desire of God's Heart

God created us for the supreme purpose of having a love relationship with Him. Let's look throughout the covenants at the unchanging desire of God's heart.

We have already talked about the lifestyle of communion Adam and Eve enjoyed in the Garden of Eden before the fall. In the cool of the day, perhaps in the morning and in the evening, God would seek out man for fellowship. How amazing! The Creator of all actively sought the companionship of His creation, walking and talking with them, sharing their life together. Was it for this that we were created?

Because of sin, man lost that close relationship. But God found a man who recognized His voice, believed His words, and obeyed His instructions. His name was Abraham, and he was honored with the title "the Friend of God" (James 2:23). Abraham is the father of all those who believe, and as Abraham's children we, too, can be known as God's friends.

In the fullness of time, God called Abraham's physical descendents, the nation of Israel, out of Egyptian bondage into a life and a land set apart unto Him. God led them with a pillar of fire by night and a cloud by day until they came to Mount Sinai. The people prepared and purified themselves to finally meet directly with their Deliverer. The mountain was covered with fire, with cloud, and with a thick darkness, and out of the midst of the darkness and fire, they heard the voice of God (Deut. 5:22-31)!

How wonderful! How amazing! How frightening! They didn't expect that the voice of God would come with the fire of God, and they decided they would rather not have a relationship with Him if He was going to be that way!

Instead they chose to send Moses to God as their representative, to let him have the relationship and find out what God wanted them to do. God agreed to their request but warned that, first, He was not going to stop talking. If they didn't want to hear Him, they would have to leave. And second, if they did not want to hear Him, they would instead have to live under laws, commandments, statutes, and judgments.

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The only alternative to relationship is law. But that was not what He wanted for His children.

The years passed, and God's people lived under the Law, not expecting that anyone but the occasional prophet or seer would hear from God. Eventually there grew up a young man whose heart longed for his God. As he tended his father's flocks, he understood the heart of the Shepherd of Israel. He contemplated the wonders of creation and learned to love the Creator. He meditated on the Law and perceived the mercy and justice of the great Judge. His heart overflowed with extravagant worship for his King, and God was pleased, saying, "I have found David...a man after Mine own heart." (Acts 13:22) "At last there is someone who 'gets it' — this is what I have always wanted — to love and to be loved!"

Near the end of Jesus' earthly life, He took the time to pray for His disciples. Not just those who had walked with Him along the Galilee countryside but for those of us who would believe because of their testimony. Jesus said that the Father had given Him authority over all people so that He might give eternal life to those whom He had been given. In John 17:3, Jesus defined what that eternal life was that He wanted to give to those who believed in Him: "Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent." Jesus lived and died so that we might have an intimate, growing, personal relationship with God the Father and His Son Jesus Christ.

We all know the story of Mary and Martha (Luke 10:38-42). Though Jesus loved Martha and no doubt appreciated her acts of service, it was Mary's decision to leave her work and simply sit at Jesus' feet that won His words of praise. It is not our works that will last forever, but our loving relationship with Him that will never be taken away from us.

The writer of Hebrews reminds us of the foolishness of the Hebrew children at the mountain of God (Heb. 12:18-26). But he also gives us great hope, telling us that God is giving us another chance! We, the Church of Jesus Christ, have come to another mountain and God is still speaking! We again have the opportunity to choose — will we welcome God's voice and the purifying fire that must accompany it, or will we again refuse Him Who is speaking? Will we finally embrace the loving personal communion our God is offering, or will we be content to let someone represent us in God's presence and just tell us what He is saying? Will we live in relationship or under law?

Finally we come to John's vision on the Isle of Patmos. He has seen so many amazing things, and suddenly he "heard what sounded like a great multitude, like the roar of rushing waters and like loud peals of thunder, shouting, 'Hallelujah! For our Lord God Almighty reigns! Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come and his bride has made herself ready.'"

The culmination of all of history is a wedding! How wonderful! And we — the Church, the body of believers — we have been chosen to be the Bride of Christ,

the Eternal Son of God! Can we comprehend such an amazing thing? Jesus wants to spend eternity sharing His Life with us! And He wants to start today.

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From My Journal

Allow me to share two entries from my journal. Notice how the *rhema* is grounded in Logos, and though not really anything new to me, is still what I need to hear over and over so that I can believe it for each moment of each day.

(We will explore *Logos* and *rhema* in future chapters, but for now let us define *Logos* as the written Word of God — the Bible — and *rhema* as the voice of God in your heart.)

*“I am the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I am the first and the last, the light and the power. I am able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that you are able to think and ask. **Just come to Me, and I will be your strength. I will be your lover. You must simply come to Me. It cannot be accomplished without time together, so, come to Me often, continuously. I am always here. I am always ready to listen and respond. I am a great and loving God, slow to anger and abounding in lovingkindness. I do forgive your sins. I do clothe you with righteousness. You must only seek Me with all your heart and turn from your ways, and come to Me. Will you do that?**”*

“I enjoy just being with you, not doing anything special together, just being together. I enjoy the fragrance of your worship. Times of solitude are peaceful to Me. It is like a quiet brook, flowing on the mountainside. I desire your presence. It is refreshing to Me. It is the fulfillment of My purposes when you choose to be with Me. It brings Me great pleasure. Do it often. Do not think every time we come together it must be to accomplish something. Simply being together is the greatest accomplishment, just being with one another. Come let us enjoy one another.”

Prayer Is a Dialogue, Not a Monologue

Prayer is our link to God, and therefore, the most important activity we can engage in. Prayer is supposed to be powerful, effective and meaningful in our lives. Yet many times it is nothing more than a dutiful recitation of the items on our prayer list. We need to learn how to make prayer what it should be — a dynamic dialogue with the Lover of our souls.

Of paramount importance is learning to break free from the prison of rationalism in which Western culture is locked and relearning how to have spiritual experiences — experiences that come from God’s Spirit to my spirit and only secondarily to my brain. We must return to the balance that was so beautifully expressed in

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Jesus' life Who did nothing on His own initiative, but only what He heard and saw the Father doing (John 5:19,20,30).

The following are the things I needed to learn for prayer to become purposeful in my life:

- ✓ I can have a relationship with God through spiritual experiences rather than the dry monologue of simple mental prayer.
- ✓ The essence of prayer is my love relationship with the King of Kings, not simply going to Him to get things.
- ✓ The main purpose for learning to hear God's voice is so that I might really know Him — His heart, His joys, His desires, His hurts, His character, His will.
- ✓ The principles from the Bible that relate to prayer and the spiritual realm provide direction and understanding as I travel the road of spiritual experiences.
- ✓ The Holy Spirit will mold my prayer life, instead of me taking the principles of prayer God has shown me and reducing them to legalistic bondage.
- ✓ Spirit-born specific action and power flow as a natural result of my love relationship, causing the activities of my life to be of the Spirit and not the flesh. This keeps my relationship with the King of Kings from being simply self-indulgent on my part and helps me to realize that many others need to be touched by His love also.

Christianity Is More Than a Religion

One basic distinction between Christianity and the many other religions is that Christianity goes beyond a simple code of ethics, a list of rules and laws that one must follow, and offers direct, spiritual experiences with a loving God. We not only know about God, we experience Him. We not only say the sinner's prayer, and accept by faith that we are saved, but we experience His Spirit bearing witness with our spirits that we are the children of God (Rom. 8:16). We not only seek guidance from the laws of the Bible, we also find guidance through the Spirit granting peace in our hearts.

We do not simply read the Bible as a lifeless book with black print on white pages, but we experience it as alive (Heb. 4:12). God "illuminates" or quickens it to our hearts as we pray for a spirit of revelation (Eph. 1:17). We do not just pray according to our own desires; rather, God "burdens" our hearts to pray in harmony with His will. God has sent His Holy Spirit into our hearts, crying "Abba Father" (Rom. 8:15), so that we can have a direct on-going love experience with Him. It is a

major provision of the New Testament period that God has come to dwell within the hearts of men. This is taught in many places throughout the Bible. For instance:

And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; that is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not behold Him or know Him, but you know Him because He abides with you, and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. (John 14:16-18)

Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? (1 Corinthians 6:19)

But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the surpassing greatness of the power may be of God and not from ourselves.... (2 Corinthians 4:7)

I am sure all Christians have experienced the truth of Philippians 4:13, "I can do all things through Him [Christ] Who strengthens me [fuses His strength to mine, literal Greek]." Being too weak to handle a problem, we have called upon the indwelling Spirit to help us and have found His strength overcoming our weakness, His joy overcoming our sorrow, or His peace overcoming our anxiety.

Christianity is much more than a code of ethics; it is much more than a religion. It is a love relationship with the King of Kings. It is a direct encounter with Him through the indwelling work of His Holy Spirit, which we freely receive as His gift to us. This, then, causes Christianity to ascend far beyond rationalism into the world of direct spiritual experiences. First Corinthians 2:9,10 tells us:

Things which eye has not seen and ear has not heard, and which have not entered the heart of man, all that God has prepared for those who love Him. For to us God revealed them through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God.

Divine Revelation Within Our Spirits

We come to know truth with our hearts or spirits, rather than with our minds. God reveals things that our natural eyes and ears could never sense through His Spirit speaking directly to our spirits. It is not that our natural eyes, ears and mind have no place in God's glorious revelation, for they are wonders of His creation as much as our hearts and spirits are. However, each part of man (his body, soul, and spirit) has a special function in God's plan.

God says that there are some things that He can only "reveal through the Spirit." Through the indwelling Holy Spirit, God has given us direct communion with Himself. We hear His voice within our hearts. We are led by the Spirit (Rom. 8:14). We have inner subjective experiences. Through insight, we receive revelation from Him, and He illumines Scripture to us. Through intuition, we sense the

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promptings of the Holy Spirit and the voice of God. So, our life in the spirit, our relationship with God, is an inner, intuitive, spiritual, heart experience.

The Use and Abuse of Doctrine and Technique

We must receive the caution Jesus gave in John 5:39,40. “You search the Scriptures, because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is these that bear witness to Me; and you are unwilling to come to Me, that you may have eternal life.” It is quite easy to acquire correct doctrine and head knowledge from Scripture. We can learn what the Word says about Christ and become satisfied with that information. But such intellectual exercise does not profit our spirits at all. We must take a further step of loving trust in Jesus as a Person Who is alive right now and yearns to be a part of our lives. Only through heart faith can we experience the things that the Scriptures testify about Him.

Finney Spoke of Three Classes of People

Many, understanding the “Confession of Faith” as summarizing the doctrines of the Bible, very much neglect the Bible and rest in a belief of the articles of faith. Others, more cautious and more in earnest, search the Scriptures to see what they say about Christ, but stop short and rest in the formation of correct theological opinions; while others, and they are the only saved class, love the Scriptures intensely because they testify of Jesus. They search and devour the Scriptures because they tell them who Jesus is and what they may trust Him for.

They do not stop short and rest in this testimony; but by an act of loving trust [they] go directly to Him, to His person, thus joining their souls to Him in a union that receives from Him, by a direct divine communication, the things for which they are led to trust Him. This is certainly Christian experience. This is receiving from Christ the eternal life which God has given us in Him. This is saving faith... The error to which I call attention does not consist in laying too much stress in teaching and believing the facts and doctrines of the Gospel: but consists in stopping short of trusting the personal Christ for what those facts and doctrines teach us to trust Him, and satisfying ourselves with believing the testimony about Him, instead of committing our souls to Him by an act of loving trust.

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Do not stop with the doctrine and techniques taught in this manual or trust in them. Life and power flow only from Jesus. On the other hand, do not discard doctrines or techniques. Recognize that they have been given as channels through which

the grace of God flows. Let them lead you into a full encounter with our Lord Jesus Christ, allowing you to wholly experience His life.

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Experiencing Scripture, Not Just Codifying It

I can study the Bible rationally, simply with the mind, and learn many facts about God. For instance, I can learn that God loves me. But since love is an inner heart experience, I cannot fully experience God's love until He touches my heart, heals my hurts, and breaks my hardness. When He fills me to overflowing and brings tears of joy to my eyes, then through an intuitive, spiritual experience, I have fully experienced the love I read about.

However, spirit-to-Spirit encounters with God have become much too rare among Western Christians. Since rationalism has taken over the Western world in the past few hundred years, the Church has also come under its influence and has not given the attention it should to the work of the Spirit in our lives. Therefore, we are often bound by rationalism and miss the fullness of relationship with our Father that the early Church enjoyed.

Forty-nine percent of the New Testament contains references to spiritual (non-rational) experiences. To be bound by rationalism will effectively cut off half of New Testament Christianity. If you are not relating intuitively to God, but only intellectually, you will lose your opportunity to flow in the nine gifts of the Holy Spirit; to receive guidance through dreams and visions; to have a fully meaningful and effective prayer life; to commune with the Lord in a dialogue, to build an extremely intimate relationship with Him; and to wholly experience the inward benefits of true worship.

Through rationalism (an over-emphasis on reason), Christianity and the Western world have ceased to know how to deal with their inner lives (commonly called heart, spirit, subconscious, or unconscious). Because this entire area of our lives has been cut off and ignored, not only by Western culture but also by the Church, people have not been able to deal successfully with the forces within them (repressed hurts, fears, anxieties, forces of darkness — demons) and have been left more and more to seek escapes such as drinking, drugs, sensual fulfillment and suicide. Others become neurotic and psychotic; still others go to the occult and Eastern religions to satisfy the inner desires of the spirit which are not being met in "rational Christianity."

We must rediscover direct contact with God and once again become open to intuitive, spiritual experiences. We must rediscover our spiritual senses and reinstate them in our lives, allowing the power of the Father, of Jesus Christ, and of the Holy Spirit to heal, strengthen and guide us from within. Therein lies the work of the

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Church. Direct inner experiences with the Lord bring healing to the spirit, soul and body.

Take your Bible and **prayerfully read and meditate on** First Corinthians 1:18–2:16, asking God to grant you understanding and revelation concerning these verses. In your journal, please record the thoughts and insights you receive.

The following, Figure 1.1 and Figure 1.2, is a brief comparison of rationalism and Spirit-to-spirit encounters. Take time to consider its truth and your own life in regard to these two philosophies. Where do you stand?

A Brief Examination of the Two Approaches

True reality is the physical world.

True reality is the spiritual world.

Reality is perceived through the mind.

Reality is perceived through the spirit.

My goal is to develop my mind.

My goal is to develop my spirit.

I live out of what my mind is telling me.

I live out of what my spirit is telling me.

My mind directs me through calculated, cognitive, and analytical thoughts.

My spirit directs me through spontaneous, flowing thoughts that are placed in it by the Spirit of God.

My mind is cultivated by using it in academic study.

My spirit is cultivated by using it in communication with God.

Direction is received from my mind analysis of stored knowledge.

Direction is received from my spirit by waiting quietly upon the Lord allowing Him to spontaneously inject into my heart His thoughts, burdens, and visions.

Out of the mind flows *Logos* —the written, recorded Word of God.

Out of the spirit flows *rhema* — what God is speaking to me at that moment.

A Christian who has **only** developed his mind flows with a knowledge of the *Logos*.

A Christian with a developed spirit flows with the power of the Spirit and is grounded in a knowledge of the *Logos*.

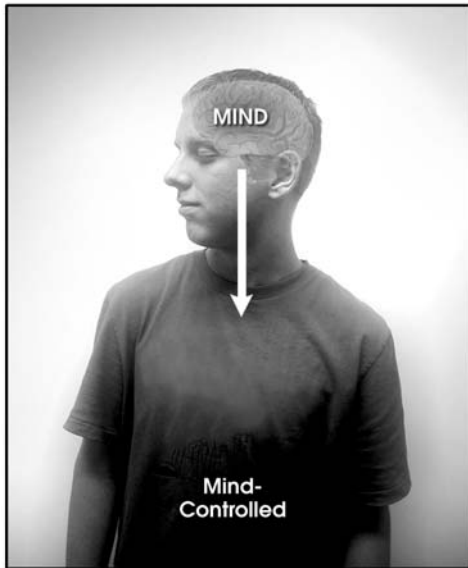
Figure 1.1

A Theological Backdrop for Experiencing Spiritual Intimacy

The Mind and the Spirit (1 Cor. 1:18 2:16)

To experience spiritual communication, most Westerners will have to do the following:

Dethrone the Mind
(Rationalism)



Rationalism Defined: "Reliance on reason as the basis for establishment of religious truth: a theory that reason is in itself a source of knowledge superior to and independent of sense perceptions."

(Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary)

Enthroned the Spirit
(Spirit Control)



Realize that knowledge can be transmitted Spirit-to-spirit.

"Things which eye has not seen and ear has not heard, and which have not entered the heart of man, all that God has prepared for those who love Him. For to us God revealed them through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God."
(1 Cor. 2:9,10)

God is calling us to present our minds and our hearts to Him to fill and to flow through. Biblical meditation incorporates both Spirit-led reasoning and heart revelation.

Jesus allowed divine initiative to guide both His heart and His mind (Jn. 5:19). Let us seek to do the same. Our lives will be fully restored and balanced when they match the lives of New Testament Christians.

Figure 1.2

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God is not calling us to use the mind **OR** the spirit, but the mind **AND** the spirit. Biblical meditation **combines the analysis of the mind with the spontaneity of the heart**, or both left and right brain functions. (We will explore this in detail in the next chapter.) Jesus joined rationalism and spiritual communion in perfect balance in His own personal life. Let us seek to do the same. Our lives will be fully restored and balanced when they match the lives of New Testament Christians.

Being a Christian does not mean throwing your mind away. Your mind is used as you approach God, but your mind has now found its **proper place**. Although it is the organ that **processes** revelation, it is not the organ through which revelation is **received**. The spirit is. The mind and the spirit work hand-in-hand. Direction in your walk comes by *rhema* through your spirit. Your Spirit-anointed mind acts as a check and safeguard, comparing all *rhema* to *Logos*.

Revelation itself is not irrational, but rather superrational. To say it another way, revelation is not foolishness; it has simply taken into account the reality of the spiritual world, and this appears irrational to rationalism, which has limited its scope merely to the physical world.

For example, for Abraham and Sarah to believe they were going to have a baby at 90 years of age is irrational if your framework is limited only to the physical laws. However, if you believe in a God Who injects His supernatural power into the natural, and Who said He was going to give them a child, then it is perfectly rational (or super-rational) to believe for a child.

Contrasting Two Worldviews

The following are two worldviews that you might embrace. Only one of them is true, but let me show you both so you can carefully examine your life and determine your position, and then decide if that is where you want to stand.

One Worldview — Rationalism

In this worldview you believe that man lives in a box — a space/time/energy/mass box. This is the totality of the real world. You contact this world through your five outer senses: touch, taste, sight, hearing, and smell. If you were to leave this box and travel toward the spiritual world, you would find that it is either non-existent or, if it does exist, it is unknowable.

This is the worldview my religious leaders taught me when I was first saved. They did admit to a spiritual world, but they said it was unknowable in this dispensation. I was told not to expect any direct contact with God during this age because we had been given the Bible and there was no longer a need to encounter God directly. I was also taught not to expect dreams or visions or God's voice or tongues or healing or miracles or any of the gifts of the Holy Spirit to operate. Even though my mind

FIRST WORLDVIEW — RATIONALISM

The Box—Spiritual world nonexistent or unknowable

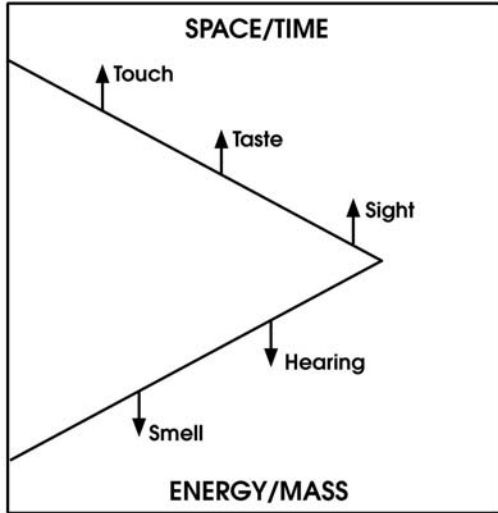


Figure 1.3

SECOND WORLDVIEW — RATIONALISM/MYSTICISM COMBINED

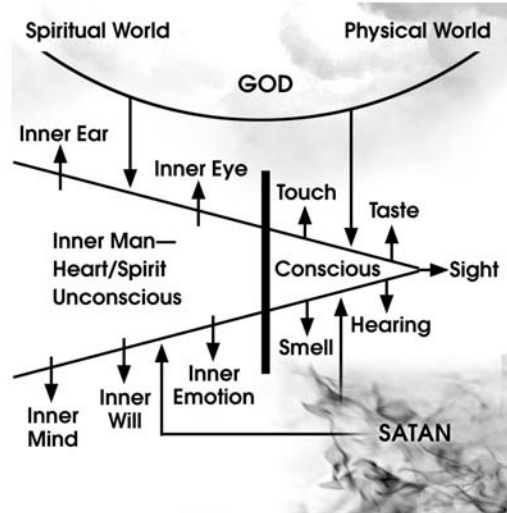


Figure 1.4

accepted this teaching, my heart hungered for direct spirit encounter with Almighty God, and it would not be satisfied with anything less.

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A Second Worldview — Rationalism/Mysticism Combined

Mysticism is not a word I use very often because of some people’s fears and inability to separate Eastern mysticism from Christian mysticism. However, here I am using it to mean a **belief in direct spirit encounter**. Surely Christianity as it is portrayed in the Bible involves a lot of direct spirit encounter as God meets with mankind through angels, dreams, visions, His voice and supernatural occurrences of many kinds.

In this worldview you believe that there is both a physical world and a spiritual world. You are a conscious individual with five senses that interact with the outer world: touch, taste, sight, hearing and smell. However, in this worldview you recognize that you have a heart or a spirit also. Paul called this the “inner man” in Romans 7:22 and this part of you also has five senses. These five senses are designed to touch the spiritual world. They are: the eyes of the heart, which see dream and vision; the ears of the heart, which hear God’s spoken words (as well as the words of satan, angels and demons); the inner mind, which is able to ponder and meditate deep within (for example, the Bible says in Luke 2:19 that “Mary pondered these things in her heart”); the inner will, where man can make commitments as Paul did when he “purposed in

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his spirit to go to Jerusalem” (Acts 19:21); and the emotion of his heart, where man is able to sense and experience the emotions of Almighty God flowing through him. For example, love, joy and peace are all emotions of God that are grown within us as the fruit of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is joined to our spirits (1 Cor. 6:17), and thus we experience the feelings of God through the emotional capacity of our spirits, which have been designed by God to feel and incubate the emotions of His Holy Spirit Who lives within us.

In this worldview, instead of having five senses that touch one world, we have ten senses that touch two worlds. Obviously this results in a much fuller and more complete life than living rationally only. We recognize that both God and satan are able to communicate with man on both levels, through the outer world and through the inner spiritual world. For example the Bible says that “the devil had already **put into the heart** of Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon, to betray Him...” (John 13:2, emphasis added). The following diagram outlines this second worldview.

Which Worldview Is Yours?

In which worldview do you live more comfortably? Are you more at ease responding to your outer senses, or are you equally comfortable with your inner senses, such as vision and intuition? If you are not living as you want to, you can change. First, acknowledge you are not what you want to be and ask the Lord’s forgiveness for allowing yourself to be led astray by the rationalism of our culture. Second, ask the Lord to change you, to heal you, and to restore the eyes and ears of your heart. Then continue reading, and we will give you more specific help in making this transition. I had to make this change, so I can promise you that it is possible.

The person who has decided that the spiritual experiences found within the Bible are no longer available today will probably relegate any and all spiritual experiences to satan. I, however, believe the Bible is for today and is to be lived in all its fullness. Even though for many years I was taught to dispensationalize many parts of it away, I have now rejected that teaching and am a Bible-believing Christian — one who believes the Bible is to be lived in these days!

I used to scorn liberals who had demythalized away the supernatural parts of the Bible. I was glad I was an evangelical, a Bible-believing Christian. However, one day the Lord pointed out to me that I did not believe the whole Bible was for me, either. He reminded me that I believed the Old Testament was for the Jews; the Gospels were about the supernatural lifestyle of Jesus and not a way of life I could experience myself; the book of Acts was transitional and not for today; and the book of Revelation was for the future. All I had left to me was the teaching portions of the Epistles that did not speak about the supernatural, such as the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

I was appalled! I repented for my dispensationalism and told God I wanted my Bible back, so I could live it from cover to cover. If you don't have your whole Bible to live, I suggest you, too, may want to take a moment right now in prayer and repent for allowing it to be stolen from you and tell God you want it all back for you to live today.

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Going Beyond Rational Christianity

As I began moving away from rational Christianity toward spiritual Christianity, the Lord gave me the following focuses to help me see the moves I needed to make.

Then the Lord spoke to me a verse of Scripture from John 5:39,40. He said, "Mark, 'you search the Scriptures, because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is these that bear witness of Me; and you are unwilling to COME TO ME, THAT YOU MAY HAVE LIFE.'" It was as if a sword went through me. Of course! I had idolized the Bible! In my love for the Scriptures, I had made them God rather than a book that God had written to me about other people's experiences with Him. I had been willing to live out of the Bible, rather than out of God Himself.

I was pierced within when I realized that Jesus had initially spoken this verse to the Pharisees of His day. I began to argue with God that I wasn't a Pharisee! But as I told Him everything I did, the Lord replied that the Pharisees also had done those things. I became frightened, realizing that it was very likely I might indeed be a pharisee.

God Is Calling Us to Go Beyond Rational Christianity

Rational Christianity

1. Code of ethics
2. Laws
3. Works
4. Head knowledge
5. Theology
6. External guidance
7. Self effort
8. Conscious level only

Spiritual Christianity

1. The power that works within
2. Intimacy (Abba Father)
3. Romance (marriage of the Bride)
4. Illumined truth
5. Spiritual encounter
6. Inner witness
7. Fused witness
8. Dreams, visions, communion

Figure 1.5

Notes

I noted that the thing the Pharisees loved most was the Law. They memorized it, spoke it, lived it, and taught it to others. That was a perfect description of me. I lived out of biblical law rather than out of an intimacy with the Holy Spirit. I had not learned how to live out of the truth that Christ had died so we could continuously experience the life of the Holy Spirit within us, and live in Him, rather than a set of rules.

“And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; that is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not behold Him or know Him, but you know Him because He abides with you, and will be in you.” (John 14:16,17)

Offering a Prayer of Repentance

I repented, asking the Lord’s forgiveness for living like a pharisee and idolizing the Bible. I made a commitment to **come to Him** and to begin trusting the moving of the Holy Spirit within my heart. **It was a new beginning for me!**

If you need to offer a similar prayer, please stop now and spend time with God before continuing. You can use the test in Appendix I to allow the Holy Spirit to search your heart for any pharisaical characteristics.

Very Different From the New Age Movement!

Sometimes people ask me what the difference is between what the New Age teaches and what I am teaching here in *How to Hear God’s Voice*. As I demonstrate below, we begin and build from a totally different foundation than the New Age movement.

Therefore, the differences are immense. And these are just a few. As we go along I will point out more. I believe it is ludicrous to suggest that people beginning from such totally opposite foundations could end up in the same place. The New Ager will find himself contacting demons, familiar spirits, and evil spirits. The Christian who is covered by the blood of Jesus and guided by the Holy Spirit will be led into the throne room of God as John was in Revelation.

Guardrails for the Spiritual Path

It is understandable that there would be caution in the hearts of some people about exploring the spiritual realm. If the only supernatural people you have heard

of were operating from satan's kingdom, and there has been nothing supernatural about your Christianity, of course you will want to be careful. But do not allow satan to plant fear in your heart and prevent you from experiencing all that God has provided for you. You do not need to be afraid because God has laid out some very clear protective guidelines that will keep you safe as you enter the spiritual world. Stated succinctly they are:

1. You are a born-again Christian, having accepted Jesus Christ into your heart as your Lord and Savior, and having had your sins washed away by His cleansing blood.*
2. You accept the Bible as the inerrant Word of God.
3. You demonstrate your love and respect for God by your commitment to knowing His Word. You follow a plan for reading through the entire Bible regularly (such as once each year), as well as enjoying more in-depth meditation on books, characters, or topics.
4. You have an attitude of submission to what God has shown you from the Bible.

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We believe:	The New Ager Believes:
The God of the Bible is the God of this universe.	The God of the Bible is not the God of this universe.
Salvation is by the blood of Jesus.	There is no need of salvation.
The Bible is the inerrant Word of God.	The Bible is not the inerrant Word of God.
We should be students of the Bible.	There is no need to be a student of the Bible.
All Spirit encounter must be tested against the Bible.	Spirit encounter need not be tested against the Bible.
We should be linked to the Body of Christ.	There is no need whatsoever to be linked to the Body of Christ.

Figure 1.6

* If you have not yet asked Jesus Christ into your life as your Lord and Savior, then please turn to Appendix A now for more information on why you would want to take this step, and a prayer you can pray so that you can be born again.

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5. You have two or three spiritual advisors to whom you go for input on a regular basis.

A fairly young Christian can meet all these requirements. In fact, new Christians should begin communing with God immediately as they begin their walk with Him. There they will find the rest and peace their souls so eagerly long for.

Establishing Spiritual Advisors

I believe it is absolutely imperative that everyone recognize the people God has placed as spiritual advisors in their lives. The Bible says we are to submit ourselves to one another (Eph. 5:21). Hebrews 13:17 specifically states, “Obey your leaders, and submit to them; for they watch over your soul, as those who will give an account. Let them do this with joy and not grief, for this would be unprofitable for you.”

What does “obey” mean? The Greek word *peitho* which is used in Hebrews 13:17 (above) means “to allow yourself to be persuaded by.” Obedience is the posture of your heart. It is an attitude that says, “I am open and listening to what God is saying to me through you.”

Submission is an openness to the Spirit-led counsel and correction of several others, while keeping a sense of personal responsibility for our own discernment of God’s voice within us.

We note several key points in this definition:

- 1) You are going to several (at least two or three) people.
- 2) You are not asking for their opinions. You are asking them to seek God and tell you what they sense in their hearts from Him.
- 3) You are going to maintain personal responsibility for the final decision, since on judgment day you will ultimately be the one responsible for your life’s actions (Rom. 14:12).

If the counsel of your advisors disagrees with what you believe the Lord has told you, you will go back to God in prayer, asking Him to show you the truth in what these three have offered to you, and how He wants you to act upon it.

Using the above approach prevents petty dictators from running your life and protects you from man’s wisdom (which is not God’s wisdom) and your own foolishness, while keeping you from violating your own conscience. This is all priceless. Adopt this as a lifestyle in all you do. We have!

What is the purpose of such submission or openness to the input of others? “In the multitude of counselors there is safety” (Prov. 11:14). God has established spiritual advisors as a loving means of protecting us from self-deception within our

own hearts, as well as from the trickery of satan. This becomes particularly important as you begin to walk in the spirit realm, becoming open to visions and God’s intuitive voice within. The role of the spiritual advisor is to provide much needed confirmation for you as a learner just beginning to hear God’s voice, offering you encouragement to go on and assuring you that it truly is the voice of God you are hearing. He also helps catch any error in your journaling and, when necessary, cautions you to wait a bit before proceeding with any action.

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The center of this relationship is not authority but *friendship*. The one who can serve effectively as a spiritual advisor in your life is:

- One who is a *close friend* — one who knows you, and whose voice and heart you recognize.
- One who has a *solid biblical orientation*.
- One who is *sensitive to the voice of the Spirit* of God in his own heart.
- One who is *willing to commit himself to you*, who will invest his time and energy, and is willing to lay down his life for you.
- One who is himself *relating to spiritual advisors on a regular basis*.
- One who is “*equal to*” or “*ahead of you*” in the area you are asking him (or her) about.

For your part, you are willing to honor the voice of your advisors. You take your initial journaling and prophecy to them for confirmation, in order to help you gain confidence in discerning the voice of God within your heart. I especially like to have confirmation from my spiritual advisors when making a major decision, one that calls for a major change in the direction of my life, my ministry, or my job, or a major investment that will commit me financially for an extended period.

You also recognize that God is the authority over all (Rom. 13:1), and that the heart of the king is in the Lord’s hand (Prov. 21:1). Therefore, you pray for God to grant wisdom to those who counsel you (1 Tim. 2:1-4).

When asked, the spiritual advisor will seek God for confirmation or adjustment concerning the things you bring before him. He will share with you what the Lord says to him. If there is a discrepancy, you will go back to the Lord to find out what He has to say to help clear up the disagreement. You will again present to your spiritual advisor what you sense God is saying, in an effort to resolve the difficulty.

How Many Spiritual Advisors Should I Have?

“Every fact is to be confirmed by the testimony of two or three witnesses”
(2 Cor. 13:1).

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I recommend that everyone have two or three spiritual advisors. When major directional moves are being made, I prefer a consensus of all three. I have consistently received spiritual counsel from at least three individuals since 1976. They have effectively kept me from making major mistakes in my life, which is why I love promoting God's concept that "in the multitude of counselors there is safety" (Prov. 11:14).

Who Should Be My Spiritual Advisors?

Some people have a hard time finding spiritual counselors. Let me suggest a few helpful hints: First, recognize that there are no perfect people. Therefore you might as well plan to receive spiritual counsel through an imperfect person and trust that God can work His perfection through imperfect people.

Also, you will most likely find your spiritual advisors among the people God has already placed around you. Some of these relationships are already in place. For instance, parents, spouses, employers, home cell group leaders, pastors, elders, etc. all have spheres of influence in your life. Married couples will obviously want to honor and seek out each other's advice. Each may also want a second person to whom they look for spiritual input concerning some of their journaling. They should talk it over with their spouse and agree together so they are both comfortable with the choices of spiritual advisors outside the marriage. Each should choose someone of the same sex since it is not wise to build close spiritual relationships with the opposite sex. There is too much danger that they will evolve into physical relationships and cause destructive explosions.

Isn't This Like the Shepherding Movement of the 1970s?

Not really. Those involved in the shepherding movement were trying to restore the concept of spiritual covering and spiritual authority, however, in some cases it turned into domination, legalism, and a spirit of control. Jesus said that we do not rule over others as the heathen do with the use of force, but **in love we serve one another**. The use of domination, intimidation, and control is strictly forbidden in the way of love (1 Pet. 5:1-6). Love draws, domination forces.

The picture of church leadership given in the Bible is of a shepherd and his sheep. Shepherds must lead sheep. Sheep cannot be driven. Therefore I will repeat, the center of these relationships must be friendship and spiritual kinship, not control. Any authority **is in a *rhema* word from God**, which can come through your spiritual advisor. However, it is the *rhema* that has the authority, not any position or title. (See www.cbeinternational.org.)

Again I will emphasize that after you have received the input and counsel of your advisors, and have prayerfully considered all that they have said, *you* maintain final responsibility before God for your response to what you believe is His *rhema* word to you. In Paul's discussion concerning believers having different understandings of God's will in Romans 14, he does not insist that everyone must do as he says or as the elders say, despite what they believe they have heard from God.

On the contrary, in verse 12 he reminds them of their personal accountability before God, and in verse 23 he declares, "he that doubts is damned if he eat, because he eats not of faith: for whatsoever is not of faith is sin." If you do something that you believe is against what God has told you, *even if you are wrong*, it is sin for you because you are acting in disobedience and outside of faith.

The Bible declares: "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad" (2 Cor. 5:10). I am not aware of anyplace in Scripture where God accepted "the Nuremburg defense:" "I'm not guilty of the sinful thing I did because I was just following orders." You will stand alone before God to give an account of your obedience to His *Logos* and His *rhema* to you.

First Kings 13 relates a sobering story that strongly emphasizes this point. A man of God came out of Judah by the word of the Lord with a prophetic message for King Jeroboam. Though the king initially rejected the prophet's words, the Lord confirmed them with supernatural manifestations. Seeing the power of God, the king changed his tune and invited the prophet to stay, eat and be refreshed at his house. But the prophet refused, saying, "For so it was commanded me by the word of the LORD, saying, 'You shall eat no bread, nor drink water, nor return by the way which you came.'" (1 Kings 13:9,10 NASB).

So far this is a fairly standard Bible story, unfolding as you would expect. But then something unforeseen happens. An "old prophet" went out to meet this new guy in the neighborhood who was also hearing from God. He, too, invited the man of God to stop by his house for a bite to eat. The young prophet gave him the same answer as he had given the king, "No, God told me not to." But the old prophet replied, "I am also a prophet like you and God told me it was okay for you to eat with me." And so he did.

According to most of the teaching on submission given in the Church today, the younger prophet did the right thing by obeying his elder. The older man had a recognized office of prophet in the community, and he said that he was giving the word of the Lord. The younger man was not only *justified* in setting aside what he believed the Lord had told him; he was actually *obligated* to do so, according to contemporary teaching.

Unfortunately for him, the Lord didn't see it that way. Through the lying older prophet, the Lord spoke His judgment on the young man: "Thus says the LORD, 'Because you have disobeyed the command of the LORD, and have not

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observed the commandment which the LORD your God commanded you, but have returned and eaten bread and drunk water in the place of which He said to you, 'Eat no bread and drink no water'; your body shall not come to the grave of your fathers...." Now when he had gone, a lion met him on the way and killed him, and his body was thrown on the road, with the donkey standing beside it; the lion also was standing beside the body" (1 Kings 13:21-25 NASB).

He paid for his "submission" to man over his obedience to the *rhema* of God to him with his life. Wisdom demands that you humbly seek the advice of spiritual counselors and listen to them with an open spirit (recognizing that you could be mistaken), but you carry final responsibility for what you do with God's word to you.

Changing Advisors

I believe we are free to change spiritual mentors as we grow and develop. If you change spiritual advisors every six months, this most likely indicates a problem in your life. However, if every five years or so you are replacing your advisors, it may be an indication that growth and change are taking place in your life, which is necessitating new people to mentor you. The important thing is that when you leave one mentoring relationship you enter another; you should not live without adequate counsel.

Since one of my criteria for a spiritual advisor is that he must be equal to or ahead of me in the area I am asking him about, I usually have several sets of spiritual advisors. One group is knowledgeable in the area of health, so I take my health issues to them. Another set are financial leaders, so I take my financial issues to them. Others have experience in working in universities, so I take questions about my building of Christian Leadership University to them. Another group is biblically and spiritually mature individuals, so I take questions about my spiritual life to them. I expect you will also grow from one set of two or three spiritual advisors to several sets of counselors.

Prayer: "God, we trust You to work through the principle of spiritual counsel as laid out in Your Word, and to work Your perfection through our imperfection. Lord, who have You placed around me that You want me to draw upon as a spiritual mentor?"

Now fix your eyes upon the Lord as you wait before Him. See whose names pop into your mind, and jot them down on a piece of paper. Contact these individuals and briefly explain the concept of a spiritual advisor as given above, and why you are being encouraged to seek counselors as you explore this methodology for hearing God's voice. If they express a willingness to seek confirmation from the Lord about assuming this service to you, make copies of the page entitled "To Be Signed by One's

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God over the long term. Some never get started, because they are never certain whether what they are hearing is God or not and they allow doubt to block the flow. Others begin with confidence, but when they make a mistake in hearing God's voice, or **think** they have made a mistake, their faith is damaged so badly they quit.

During the first few days and weeks of journaling, I strongly recommend that you share all your journaling with at least one of your spiritual advisors for confirmation that you are on the right track. Once you both have confidence in your discernment, you can cut back to only sharing those things that a) you are uncertain about whether they came from God, or b) are big decisions.

Spiritual Advisor's Understanding

"In the multitude of counselors there is safety" (Prov. 11:14).

Submission is openness to the Spirit-led counsel and correction of several others, while keeping a sense of personal responsibility for our own discernment of God's voice within us.

Having understood the role of a spiritual advisor as defined above, I am willing to seek God for spiritual wisdom when asked by _____ and report back to them in a timely manner. I will not give my opinion; I will share what I feel God is speaking into my heart concerning the situation.

I myself choose to also walk in relationship to two or more spiritual advisors in the Body of Christ.

I understand that to offer spiritual counsel does not involve the use of force, domination, manipulation or control (1 Pet. 5:1-6), and I will never use any of these in our relationship.

When asked for counsel in an area in which I do not feel fully qualified and anointed, I will recommend other spiritual advisors who I know are strong in the area in question.

I will never encourage this person to do anything contrary to the spirit or the letter of Scripture.

If I do not follow these principles, the person indicated above is encouraged to find another spiritual advisor to whom they can relate.

Date _____ Name _____

Please provide a copy of this understanding to each party in the relationship. This page may be photocopied.

Left and Right Hemisphere Brain Functions

Notes

You may think it strange to explore how the brain works in the middle of a discussion on spirituality and hearing the voice of God. I enjoy learning about studies in disciplines other than Christianity that relate to the steps of growth that I am

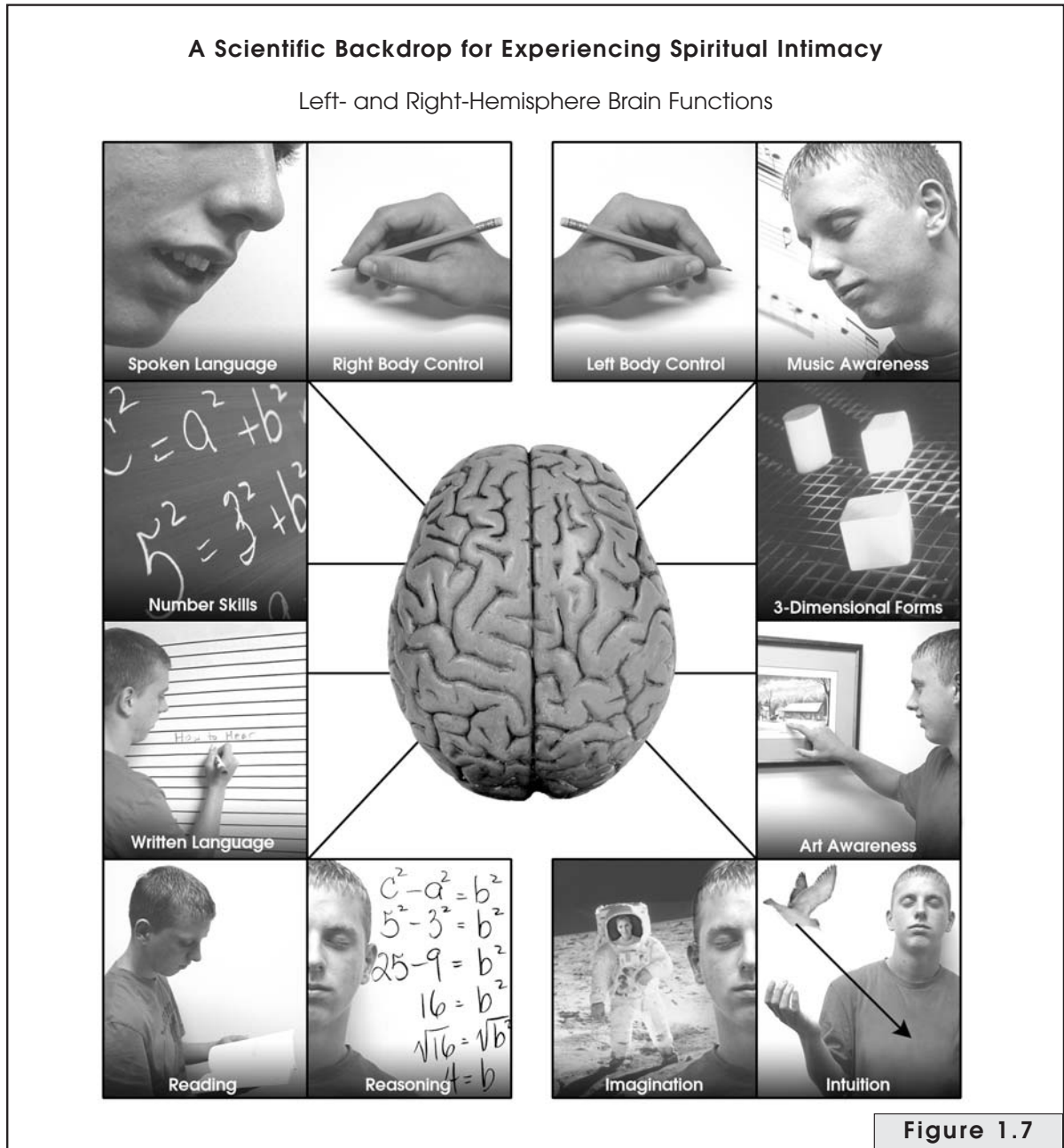


Figure 1.7

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taking in my Christian walk. The discussion on left and right hemisphere brain functions is one of these studies.

Some people refuse to learn how left and right brain functions can apply to their spiritual lives because they are not taught in the Bible. My response is that while all of the Bible is truth, not all truth is in the Bible. To reject scientific discoveries because they were not first stated in the Scriptures would be ignorant and narrow-minded in the extreme. None of us would knowingly choose that position. Just because something is not taught in the Bible does not mean it is not true. God never claimed to put everything He knew in the Bible. As a matter of fact, Jesus said He knew things He wasn't going to tell the disciples because they could not yet bear it (John 16:12).

Therefore, my standard for affirming truth is not limited to clear statements of Scripture. Instead I require that what I embrace must be compatible with principles in the Bible. Left and right brain understanding is compatible with biblical principles, particularly the doctrine that God has given each of us unique gifts (Rom. 12:6-8; Gal. 4:11; 1 Cor. 12:1-12).

In 1981, Roger Sperry won the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for his experimentation on left and right hemisphere brain functions. It has been discovered that although we do use both sides of our brains, most of us tend to rely a bit more heavily on one side or the other. The chart on the preceding page provides a pictorial overview of the functions carried on by each hemisphere of the brain. Please take a moment and examine it now.

You will note that the left hemisphere of the brain works primarily with analytical functions, while the right hemisphere processes intuitive and visionary functions.

“Brain Preference Indicator Test”

Please go to Appendix B now and complete the “Brain Preference Indicator Test.” You will score this yourself using the scoring key at the end of the Appendix. If you have a score of 5.0, that means you are perfectly balanced and use both sides of your brain equally. A person with a score of 5.0 can move very easily from one side to the other. There is a large bell curve near the center of the scoring key, meaning that 80 percent of the scores will be between 4 and 6, and 98 percent of all scores will be between 3 and 7. Only 1 percent of the scores are under 3 and another 1 percent above 7, which means these people are extremely left- or right-brain. This indicates that most of us do use both sides of our brains a fair amount.

The scale is exponential, with small moves out from 5.0 being quite significant. I am a 4.5 on the scale which means I am **considerably** left-brain. Therefore, this book on *How to Hear God's Voice* has many charts and step-by-step formulas in

it. That is what left-brain people need and what they are all about. Right-brain individuals simply say, "Oh, hearing God's voice is easy: you just know that you know that you know!" Well, that doesn't help a left-brain person at all. I am writing as a left-brainer and for left-brainers. Not that this won't help right-brainers, also. It will. It will confirm to them that what they are doing naturally is good and is right, and it will give them a detailed vocabulary to communicate the way they live inwardly to others who do not naturally live that same way.

My wife, Patti, (a 5.01) has rewritten this book into a right-brain version called *Dialogue With God* which skips all the charts and things that left-brainers demand and need. If you are a right-brainer, you will probably enjoy *Dialogue With God*. (Note: We put both our names on all the books we have written, but Patti is the primary author of *Dialogue With God* and Mark is the primary author of *How to Hear God's Voice*.)

When I began to journal, God told me to love my wife exactly as she was and to not try to change her into a 4.5. Honoring her intuition (as well as my intuition) has helped me make much wiser decisions in my life. Honoring the right-brain strengths of my wife has greatly improved my marriage. Testing our children and helping them find jobs that are consistent with their brain preference has blessed and established them in the workplace. Our left-brain daughter is an editor and phone consultant. Our right-brain son is a typesetter, webmaster, and marketer. Let journaling and an understanding of left- and right-brain functions bring success to your marriage, your life, and your family.

In surveying groups of people in America, I have found that approximately 60 percent lean toward left-brain functions and about 40 percent toward right-brain functions. Only a few indicate that they have a balance between the two. This imbalance probably exists because our educational system considers reading, writing and arithmetic (required courses which deal with left-brain functions) to be more central to effective living than art, music and drama (elective courses which deal with right-brain functions). This idolatry of the left-brain functions is so complete in our culture that scientists have discovered that the left half of the brain actually grows slightly heavier than the right side of the brain during the schooling years.

Psychologists tell us that they consider the majority of people in our culture to be neurotic. I suspect that a large contributing factor to this widespread neurosis is the failure to cultivate both sides of our brains in a balanced way.

Corresponding to this idolization of logic is the demise of creativity, which is a more right-brain function involving vision, intuition and visualization. Statistics show that almost all children rank high in creativity before they enter school at age five. By age seven, only 10 percent still have high creativity, and by the time we are adults, only 2 percent score high in creativity tests.

Therefore, what we are doing in our current educational system is essentially destroying the creative ability God has placed within man. I believe it is because we

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train the left side of the brain — the logical, analytical part — and stifle the right side of the brain — the intuitive, imaginative side. Where in Scripture do we see God suggesting we do this? I suspect God gave us two sides of our brains so we could offer both sides to Him to use.

Understanding right and left brain functions can help us understand and respect those with gifts different from ours. For instance, when a husband and wife are involved in making a decision, the husband may reason it out (a left-brain function) while the wife may intuit the decision (a right-brain function). If they have learned to honor the strengths in one another, they will not cut off the other's gift simply because it does not line up with their own decision-making process, but will instead value it as a complement to their own abilities.

Those who function more strongly in the left brain will find the revelation process flowing most naturally in conjunction with their analytical thoughts. As an example, Luke (Luke 1:1-4) investigated everything carefully, then wrote it out in consecutive order (obviously left-brain activity). May I suggest that he allowed the Holy Spirit's intuitive, spontaneous impressions to flow into his reasoning process, and the end product was pure revelation that stands to this day.

On the other hand, when John wrote Revelation he said, "I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and I heard behind me a loud voice...saying, 'Write in a book what you see ...'" (Rev. 1:10,11). This revelation process involved no left-brain functions (except the actual writing). Rather, I believe it flowed through the right side of the brain, coming from the heart. This process also resulted in a pure revelation, one that still stands today.

You can see that there are at least two different approaches you can use when receiving pure revelation: Luke's method and John's method. Both are valid. Both can result in purity. Both are to be honored. It is hard for us to honor the one who is different from us. The left-brain person is likely to characterize the right-brain person as flaky, impulsive and fly-by-night. The right-brain person is likely to describe the left-brain person as so analytical and academic that there is no possibility that the Holy Spirit could flow through him or her. Let us come to the place where we can honor both Luke's and John's approach to receiving revelation, knowing that the Holy Spirit can flow purely through both.

I do not equate the right side of the brain directly with the heart. Rather I would like to suggest that the capacities of the heart are to flow into both sides of our brains. We will discuss this in more detail in the next chapter.

Moving From Left to Right

People often ask, "How can I set aside my own reasoning and experience the inner intuitive flow?" Let us consider what Elisha did when he needed to hear a

prophetic word from God. When he wanted to move from logic and reason (left-brain activity) to the word of the Lord spoken intuitively within (flowing through the right side of his brain), Elisha engaged in a right-brain activity: "Bring me a minstrel, so that I might hear the word of the Lord" (paraphrased from 2 Kings 3:15). The music drew him from the left side of his brain to the right side where he was perfectly positioned before the presence of the Lord, able to hear the spontaneous words that were spoken within.

Many people also find that the use of vision or enjoying the beauty of nature (both right-brain functions) position them properly before the intuitive voice of the Holy Spirit. In interesting university studies by Calvin Jeske, from Calgary, Canada, it has been shown that speaking in tongues stimulates right-brain electrical activity, as opposed to normal speech, which stimulates left-brain electrical activity. Therefore, I recommend that you use vision, music, nature, and speaking in tongues to help prepare yourself to more easily hear the intuitive voice of the Holy Spirit.

Summary

God yearns to be your Friend. He wants you to recognize His voice so that you can get to know Him personally. He longs for you to spend *yada* time with Him, having no agenda other than sharing love together. He wants you to offer Him your physical senses, the faculties of your soul, and the senses of your spirit so that you can *know* Him fully and deeply. He wants you to move out of your box and into His flow, out of your mind and into your heart, out of rationalism into true spiritual Christianity.

Personal Response

Write a love letter to Jesus. Tell Him how much you appreciate Him and how special He is to you.

Then let it become a two-way love letter. Let Jesus speak back to you. After you have written a paragraph or two to Him, fix your eyes upon Jesus, and tune to flowing thoughts. Let Him talk to you through a flow of thoughts which will simply appear in your mind as you fix your eyes upon Him. He wants to tell you of His love for you. As these thoughts begin to appear, simply write them down. While you write, they will continue to flow. You will discover you are having a two-way conversation with God, and recording it on paper. It will be very exciting!

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Confirm this is God speaking to you by reading what you have written to your spouse or one of your spiritual advisors and asking if they sense it is from God. Don't forget to thank Him for seeking you out to be His friend!

Endnote

1. Documentation on the precise definitions of *ginosko* and *yada* may be found on pages 395-398 of *The Dictionary of New Testament Theology, Vol. 2* by Colin Brown.