

# DISCOVERING FOUR KEYS TO HEARING GOD'S VOICE



## AS EXEMPLIFIED IN HABAKKUK

## STATED BRIEFLY

**Key #1** "I will stand at my guardpost

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**Key #2** I will keep watch and see

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**Key #3** What He will speak to me..."

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**Key #4** Then the Lord said, "Record the vision..."

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Habakkuk 2:1,2

# CHRISTIAN SPIRIT ENCOUNTER IS VERY DIFFERENT FROM NEW AGE SPIRIT ENCOUNTER!

- ◆ Christians have different foundations
- ◆ Christians have different goals
- ◆ Christians have different processes



Therefore, even though apparent similarities exist, a closer look shows great differences.

## BIBLICAL SAFEGUARDS FOR HEARING GOD'S VOICE

(Check each that is currently in your life.)

- 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.
- 4. You have an attitude of submission to what God has shown you from the Bible.
- 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. It only takes a day and a half to read through the New Testament, and the rest of the requirements can be met upon conversion. It is wonderful if new believers begin communing with God during the early days of their spiritual walk. They then find the rest and peace their souls so eagerly long for.

- Check here if you meet the above five safeguards.
- Check here if you do not meet the above five safeguards but plan to resolve the problem area(s) within the next few weeks.
- Check here if you do not plan to meet the above five safeguards and choose not to return for the rest of the seminar.

# ONE KEY SAFEGUARD – “SPIRITUAL COUNSELORS”

## PROVIDING AN UMBRELLA OF PROTECTION

“Obey (Greek: *Peitho* – allow yourself to be persuaded by) 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.” (Heb. 13:17)

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

God has established spiritual advisors as an umbrella of protection, to help guard us from self-deception within our own hearts, as well as from the deception of satan.

### WHAT TO LOOK FOR IN A SPIRITUAL COUNSELOR:

1. A **close friend**, one who knows the sheep, and whose sheep recognize his voice.
2. One who has a **solid biblical orientation**.
3. One who can sense the **voice of the Spirit** of God in his own heart.
4. One who is willing to **commit himself to the sheep**, who will invest his time and energy, and is willing to lay down his life for the sheep for whom he is responsible.
5. He himself **receives counsel**.
6. He is **ahead of me** in the area.

### WHICH JOURNAL ENTRIES DO I SUBMIT?

1. You will want to submit major decisions in your life to your spiritual counselor before acting on them. A major decision is one which calls for a major change in the direction of one’s life, ministry, or job, or a major financial commitment to which he will be bound for several years to come.
2. In addition, you will want to take your early journaling and prophecy to your counselor for confirmation, in order to help you gain confidence in discerning the voice of God within your heart.

You will also recognize that God is the authority over all authorities (Rom. 13:1), and that the heart of the king is in the Lord’s hand (Prov. 21:1). Therefore, as you pray for the one over you (I Tim. 2:1-4), you trust God to work His perfection through man’s imperfection.

### HOW MANY COUNSELORS DO I NEED?

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

### SOME ALREADY ESTABLISHED COUNSELORS ARE:

Parents, spouses, employers, home cell group leaders, pastors, elders, Sunday School teachers, spiritual directors and so on.

It is not wise to build close spiritual relationships with members of the opposite sex. There is too much danger of these evolving into physical relationships and causing destructive explosions.

### HOW TO AVOID AUTHORITARIAN ADVISORS

Jesus said that we don’t rule over others as the heathen do, with the use of force, but **in love we serve one another**. The use of domination, intimidation or control is strictly forbidden to the way of love (I Pet. 5:1-6).

The center of these relationships is friendship rather than authority.

*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.*

List below several names that come to your mind as those to whom God would have you receive counsel from.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

Have you been hurt by abusive authorities?  Yes  No

Has God healed your hurts?  Yes  No

If you are still unhealed, spend some time in prayer with a friend and let God guide you through the healing process.