

FAITH & AUTHORITY

Inquire Of The Lord

I. Inquiring of the Lord is the first step of faith, of authority, of the Kingdom of God in any situation

- A. The first thing we do in any situation is we inquire of the Lord as to what He'd have us to say and what He'd have us to do
 - 1. John 14:10,5:19,30-The Father showed Jesus what to do and what to say and when Jesus did it and said it the Father in him did the works-That's the Kingdom Process
- B. Doing something "of yourself" without inquiring of the Lord first, even something spiritual, will lead to lack of fruitfulness and frustration
 - 1. John 5:19,30, 5:31 (AMP)-Anything you do of yourself is nothing
 - a. If you do something without inquiring of the Lord first, then it's just you and that's why those types of actions or endeavors will be unfruitful
 - b. That's why Jesus didn't say anything of himself or do anything of himself because he knew it wouldn't be fruitful or effective
 - c. **1 Corinthians 13:1-You take God out of what you do and there'll be no power in what you do**
 - 2. **Inquiring of the Lord is vital to your every endeavor if fruitfulness, success, and victory is what you desire**
 - a. The Kingdom Process doesn't run on good intentions; You can have good intentions, but if you act without inquiring of the Lord first you're in the wrong
- C. Proverbs 4:7-Wisdom is the principle thing in any situation or the FIRST thing
 - 1. **Wisdom**-Wisdom is doing the right thing at the right time to get the result that you desire
 - a. To act wisely-You can do something right and the wrong time and that's not acting wisely
 - b. **Discerning what is proper and useful**
 - c. The right use of knowledge
 - 2. We need knowledge and wisdom
 - a. Many of us have acquired spiritual knowledge (revelation of the Word), but without inquiring of the Lord we won't have the wisdom of how to apply the knowledge to get the result we desire
 - b. It's like having the equipment and knowing how it works, but not knowing how to use it in a specific situation to get the result you desire
 - 3. When wisdom isn't added to knowledge it leads to frustration
 - a. Some of been guilty of not inquiring of the Lord and then just acting on knowledge they've acquired and then the result doesn't show up and it leads to frustration

b. **Knowledge used improperly will leave you frustrated and cause your desired result to allude you**

D. Proverbs 8:17-Seek wisdom and you'll find it

1. If Jesus is getting wisdom and direction from the Father it's because he's seeking Him for it-Pr8:17
2. You have to inquire of the Lord in each and every single situation that involves your life
 - a. Don't do things based on the way you always have done them; A routine is not a leading
 - b. 1 Samuel 23:1-5, 30:8, 2 Samuel 5:19-He inquired of the Lord and heard the same answer
 - c. 2 Samuel 5:23-The situation may look the same, but that doesn't mean the answer will be the same

E. 1 Samuel 30:1-8-David is in a situation where he needs victory and his first step was to inquire of the Lord

1. Inquire-To ask (about), To consult (To check, to confer, to discuss, to refer), To seek (for information)
2. **The first step is not to speak to the mountain or do something in faith, the first step is to inquire**
3. David encouraged himself in the Lord-You got to get in position to hear if you want to hear; You won't hear from God while your yielding to fear and discouragement and unbelief

F. 2 Chronicles 20:1-The first thing to do always is to inquire of the Lord,

1. This is a situation where they are outnumbered, outmatched and it looks like their lives are about to end
2. If you want to hear from God it's vital that you create and maintain an atmosphere of faith
 - a. In fear you can't hear; in doubt you couldn't hear God's shout;
3. You can see the Kingdom Process here: We have no might against them, we don't know what to do, but our eyes are on you; The Battle is the Lord's; Hearken do what he shows you
4. We read this and see they put praisers on the front lines and then try to praise our way through something and yet we missed the key issue – They inquired of the Lord first
 - a. Their praising wasn't the foundation to their success it was their inquiring of the Lord

II. Prayer becomes the key issue in any situation

A. Prayer-Going to God and hearing from Him concerning what to say and what to do

1. Most people would have you to believe the Kingdom Process is we get in troubled and then go ask God to do something and He does it while we sit back and watch --- WRONG
 - a. Jesus didn't seek God to do something because that's not the Kingdom Process
 - b. We're not just seeking for God to do something, but seeking from God what to do
 - c. We're not engaging in effort based praying to get God to move (Exodus 14-God told Moses crying unto Him won't do them any good; what did them go was doing what they were told)

- d. **If you want God to move, inquire of him get his orders and keep them and He'll manifest-**
John 14:21
- 2. **Because we haven't understood co-laboring, our authority, and the way the Kingdom functions**
We've been after the result when we should have been after the instructions; We've been
trying to get God to move instead of inquiring of him and finding out how he wants us to
move
 - a. **Immaturity says God do something, Faith says God say something and show me what to do**
 - b. **Religion doesn't realize that this is a co-laboring**
- 3. **"We're praying and believing God" okay, but have you inquired of the Lord**
- B. Some people don't inquire of God and try to solve spiritual problems with natural solutions and that's them trying to be their own God
 - 1. It's man trying to meet his own needs without God; It's man making himself his source (It's socialism, it's the world's system, it's that Babylonian system)
 - a. It was the one of the first things that happened to Adam after he sinned; He's trying to make clothes and work the land by the sweat of his brow --- He's trying to get along without God-
Genesis 3:7
 - b. Matthew 6-Jesus is dealing with it in these verses; It's man trying to be his own provider by his worrying and his toiling and Jesus told you the answer to getting your needs met and the answer was to inquire of the Lord
 - c. It's you having a headache and taking Tylenol and not inquiring of the Lord; It's you being in financial trouble getting another job without inquiring of the Lord; It's having some problem with you kids and going to Google to find out what to do
 - d. The natural step you take should have been ordained by him, but how would you know that if you didn't inquire of him
 - e. **It's not my job to do the works, the Father in me he does the works (that's grace), my job is to do what I'm told (that's faith)**
- C. As believers we must stop looking to other things as our source-James 4:1-4
 - 1. They were in need, but didn't inquire of the Lord and make God their source
 - a. They had unfulfilled desires and they could not obtain what they were seeking; They were fighting and warring, but they had not because they asked not, they didn't inquire of the Lord
 - b. **They didn't inquire of the Lord but rather they relied on the world's system**
 - 2. He wrote this to believers telling them that they cheated on God because they ran out to the world to get their needs met; You can't run with the rabbits and hunt with the hounds
 - a. Hosea married a prostitute to show Israel they were running out on God looking to the world

- b. Psalm 119:128-"I esteem all your precepts concerning all things to be right and I hate every false way."
 - 3. 1 Chronicles 10:13-14-Not inquiring of the Lord, but rather inquiring of other things will cause you to end up in a bad place
 - a. Saul got in trouble because he didn't do what the Lord showed him and because he didn't inquire of the Lord, but rather inquired of other things
- D. Satan's wants you to make someone your source (Abraham and Sarah-Genesis 16)
 - 1. The key to winning is inquiring and the key to inquiring is to get your eyes on the right place
 - a. In 2 Chronicles 20 they said our eyes are on you – They were looking to God
 - b. John 11:41-Jesus lifted his eyes in front of Lazarus' tomb
 - 2. Psalm 121:1-2-If your help comes from the Lord then why are you looking somewhere else
 - a. Wherever your eyes are that's where you believe your help comes from
 - 3. The enemy wants you to get your eyes off of God and He wants you to make someone else your source
 - a. The principles is this; In any area you truly make God your source you will never lack again-Ps23:1
 - b. Satan knows if you look to God, inquire of him and do what he says, the Father will do the works-John 2:1-8
- E. People go years with things in their lives that clearly are not the will of God and never take the time to inquire of the Lord to find out what to do about this situation
 - 1. If you've failed in an area over and over again and tried many different things to succeed, maybe the problem is you haven't inquired of the Lord because you were trying to obtain it in your own effort

III. Our ability to inquire of the Lord and hear from has to increase and become greater

- A. Most believers aren't hearing from God; Most believers have no confidence in their ability to hear from God and it is the result of three things 1) lack of understanding, 2) Lack of faith 3) lack of practice
 - 1. John 10:27-"My sheep hear my voice."
 - 2. John 16:13-The Holy Spirit will guide you and speak to you what he has heard
 - 3. Proverbs 3:5-He directs my paths as I acknowledge him
- B. This is THE MOST IMPORTANT thing you can do, so don't rush past it, take the time to inquire of the Lord and hear from Him and get his direction-James 1:19
 - 1. Spend ample time at the beginning of a thing inquiring of the Lord
 - a. When you're not certain that what you're doing you got from God it robs you of faith and confidence that God will back you and therefore you undermine your own authority
 - b. The reason believers lack confidence in their authority is because they don't spend enough time with God to know without a doubt that He has sent them

2. The value of wisdom
 - a. Proverbs 8:1-36-Wisdom is better than rubies and nothing you can desire can compare to it
 - b. Proverbs 4:5-We are told to get it
- C. If you really understand and have revelation of and live by the Kingdom Process then inquiring of the Lord is something that becomes second nature to you, that you do without thinking because you know it's the first part of the process and without you don't move
 1. This should be second nature to us and it's not