

## **WHAT WE ALL NEED SOMETIMES**

(Guidance)

*I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go;  
I will counsel you and watch over you.  
Do not be like the horse or the mule, which have no understanding  
but must be controlled by bit and bridle or they will not come to you. (Psalm 32:8-9)*

### **GOD STILL SPEAKS**

#### **What does hearing God require?**

1. A personal relationship with God

How could there be a personal relationship, a personal walk with God—or with anyone else—without individualized communication? (Dallas Willard, *Hearing God*)

2. A predisposition of belief

3. A predisposition of humility

When God speaks to us, it does not prove that we are righteous or even right. It does not even prove that we have correctly understood what he said. (Dallas Willard, *Hearing God*)

4. A predisposition of responsiveness

Guidance only makes sense for people who are resolved to respond.... It only makes sense to ask God for guidance in the context of a life committed to “seeking first the kingdom.” (John Ortberg, *The Life You’ve Always Wanted*)

#### **How does God speak?**

1. Through the written Word

2. Through audible words

- a. His words
- b. Our own words
- c. Another's words

3. Through inaudible words (thoughts, impressions, inner promptings)

4. Through His church

God does guide the individual richly and profoundly, but he also guides groups of people and can instruct the individual through the group experience. (Richard Foster, *Celebration of Discipline*)

5. Through involvement in His work

In many cases, our need to wonder about or be told what God wants in a certain situation is nothing short of a clear indication of how little we are engaged in his work. (Dallas Willard, *Hearing God*)

6. Through a variety of other means (dreams, visions, signs)

Visions, dreams, and angels continue to play some part—as I think they may do today. It would not be too much to say, however, that where these phenomena were the main, as opposed to occasional means of interaction, *it indicates a less developed spiritual life in the individual and in the church group.* (Dallas Willard, *Hearing God*)

## Will you be listening?

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Hearing God? A daring idea, some would say—presumptuous and even dangerous. But what if we are made for it? ...Is it not, in fact, more presumptuous and more dangerous to undertake human existence without hearing God?

- Dallas Willard, *Hearing God*