



### Every Priest

“And [Jesus] has made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever.” (Rev. 1:6)

The Protestant faith has always believed in “The Priesthood of All Believers.”

Since every Christian believer can pray directly to God there is no need for any other “middle man” except for Jesus Christ Himself. Paul says that Jesus is our “High Priest.” (Heb. 4:14) Any believer can pray to God for such things as the advancement of the Kingdom of God, his or her personal needs, or the needs of others. In addition, any believer can be guided by God through the indwelling presence of The Holy Spirit.

“My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.” (John 10:27)

“When he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will show you things to come.” (John 16:13)

For God’s people to understand how they can be guided by the Lord is simple. As a wise man once said, “This is not complicated, it is simple but it is often hard to do.” The only thing that makes this hard is that as humans we get in our own way when it comes to being led by God.

Pentecostal or Charismatic believers believe in the gifts of the Holy Spirit as found in I Cor. 12. The antics of believers who are always saying “God told me this or that” can cause confusion. Because they have really muddied the waters. In the first place, God did not tell them most of those things, unless they are reading directly from Scriptures. In the second place not all believers are Prophets. Are all apostles? are all prophets? are all teachers? are all workers of miracles? (1 Corinthians 12:29) Finally, the people who are always saying “God told me ...” discourage other believers in believing that they too can be guided by God because so many of the “God told me ...” claims are obviously not true.

In the Old Testament God connected many supernatural occurrences to visible objects to help the children of Israel understand spiritual things and to illustrate invisible spiritual truth to New Testament believers. “For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, so that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. (Rom. 15:4)

“And thou shalt put in the breastplate of judgment the Urim and the Thummim; and they shall be upon Aaron's heart, when he goeth in before the Lord: and Aaron shall bear the judgment of the children of Israel upon his heart before the Lord continually.” Exodus 28:30

“And when Saul enquired of the Lord, the Lord answered him not, neither by dreams, nor by Urim, nor by prophets.” 1 Samuel 28:6

An understanding of the Urim and Thummim that was carried by the High Priest of Israel has long fascinated Christians. These two objects could be consulted by the High Priest. He wore them in a pocket next to his heart. Somehow they confirmed the will of God to His people. Perhaps they were small rocks or precious stones. Perhaps they moved. Perhaps they flashed. How they indicated God's will is not that important, it is enough to know that they did. The secret is all in their names and the fact that questions had to be asked which were seeking a “Yes” or “No” answer. It was a binary system. The symbolism, and therefore the lesson, is not complicated.

Any Bible dictionary will tell you that Urim mean “Lights” and Thummim means “Perfections.” Both words are plural nouns. Sometimes only Urim was consulted. The concept of Light is simple and straightforward. Light is bright, it pierces darkness, it reveals things, it dispels fear. The understanding Thummim is slightly more complicated but not impossible.

An example: You ask a friend a question. You desire a positive answer. Your friend answers with a big smile. You might even say her face “lights up.” Is that a Yes or a No? Positive or Negative? Affirmation or Denial? It is, of course, a Yes. You are assured or happy. Jesus is your High Priest before God. He prays to the Father for you. He loves you. He sacrificed Himself for you. If you calm down and sit before Him you can tell if he is smiling. No need to know how, you just do. But that is not all.

Acceptable translations from the Hebrew for Thummim run something like this: completeness, integrity, full, perfection, simplicity, and (by implication) peace. The Greek word for peace referring to a fruit of the Spirit also implies completeness or wholeness ( a sort of “getting it all together.”)

The Bible says, “You will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on you: because he trusts in you.” (Isaiah 26:3)

“And, let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.”  
(Col. 3:15)

“And the peace of God, which passes all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 4:7)

The presence of the peace which passes all understanding for the Christian is Thummim. If you have accepted Jesus as your Savior you have felt this peace (tranquility) at least once. There is nothing else like it. You can feel it again and again. It is deeper than emotion. It resides at the very depth of your being. Some call it your (human) spirit which is blended with the Holy Spirit within you, in your “heart.”

Here is the key factor. Urim and Thummim is given to the PRIESTS, not to the prophets, not to the kings. Every Christian believer is a Priest. So you’ve got them. They are kept next to Jesus’ heart. Do not let any prophet bully you, you are of equal value in Christ.