

GETTING GUIDANCE FROM GOD

In the Bible, we see many examples of people asking for and receiving God's direction. This lesson will give the young Christian some principles for finding that direction today. It is easy to get taken up with the methodology of how to get God's direction. The primary conditions for those who are seeking God's guidance are proper motives and a good relationship with Christ, just as in John 15:5, the requirement for bearing fruit is abiding in Christ. Our motive should be to find God's will for us in a certain decision, not to get God to approve our own desires.

1. **Romans 8:14** What is one of the tests of being a true Christian?

2. **Proverbs 14:12** What is God's warning to us?

3. **Ephesians 2:10** What has God planned for every Christian?

4. How will we know the good works that God has for us to do? What are God's promises?
 - a. **Psalm 25:12**

 - b. **Psalm 32:8**

5. **Proverbs 3:5-6** What three things does God require of those who want Him to "make their paths straight" (guide them)?
 - a. _____ (see Jeremiah 29:13)

 - b. _____ (feelings, wisdom, etc.)

 - c. _____ (all decisions)

There are four components or essentials for guidance. We need indications from all four of these components to have assurance of God's direction in making decisions. Let's look at these four essentials.

FIRST ESSENTIAL: The Bible

6. **Psalm 119:105** How is the Bible described?
7. There are four main ways that God uses the Bible to direct us.
 - a. **Psalm 119:11** The Bible shows us _____.
 - b. **Luke 10:27**(for example)The Bible gives us _____.
 - c. **1 Corinthians 10:11** God guides us through the _____ of other people.
 - d. **Ephesians 6:17** The _____ speaks to us through the Bible.

Note: God will not give you guidance about something that is clearly taught in the Bible. For example, it is a waste of time to pray for guidance about marrying a non-Christian. That is forbidden in the Bible.

SECOND ESSENTIAL: Circumstances

8. **Romans 8:28** What does God promise those who are trying to do His will?
9. In Genesis 24, Abraham sent his servant to find a wife for his son, Isaac. What were the circumstances that Abraham desired?
 - a. **verse 3**
 - b. **verses 4, 41**
 - c. **verse 8**

Note: There are many circumstances, both positive and negative, that will be involved in any decision you make:

age	geography	education	health
sex	freedom to act	experience	timing
need	legal matters	finances	others

THIRD ESSENTIAL: The Holy Spirit

10. What are some of the ways that the Holy Spirit will lead you?
 - a. **Isaiah 30:21**

- b. **Galatians 5:22** As you follow God's guidance, the Holy Spirit will give you assurance that the path you are taking is God's will by giving you His _____ (the third fruit of the Holy Spirit).
- c. **Acts 16:7**
- d. **Acts 16:9-10**
- e. **Ephesians 6:17** (See question 7d.)

FOURTH ESSENTIAL: Answered Prayer

11. **Luke 11:9** What is Jesus' invitation and promise to you?
 - a. _____ , and it shall be _____ .
 - b. _____ , and you shall _____ .
 - c. _____ , and it shall be _____ .

12. **1 Samuel 16:1-13** The prophet Samuel told David, the shepherd boy, that God had chosen him as the next king of Israel. What prevented God's will (David being king) from being done?

13. For the next several years, David had to flee from King Saul, who was trying to kill him. Read **1 Samuel 24, 26 and 31**.
 - a. **24:2-6, 26:6-9** What two opportunities did David have? What did he do?

 - b. **26:10** What were some ways that David thought the Lord would probably use to dispose of King Saul?
 - 1)
 - 2)
 - 3)

 - c. **31:1-5** How did God make it possible for David to become king?

Note: Negative circumstances are excellent things about which to pray. God often removes the obstacles to a course of action in response to prayer. This gives wonderful assurance of God's will.

14. **Judges 6:36-40** What signs did Gideon request from God?

a. **verses 36-38**

b. **verses 39-40**

Note: A true sign has nothing to do with the problem itself. It is generally something that only God can control. Answers to prayer are directly related to the problem. It seems best not to ask the Lord for a sign unless He gives you assurance to ask for a sign (see Isaiah 7:10-14).

PRACTICAL APPLICATION

When you wish to find the Lord's direction in a decision, it is very helpful to take a sheet of paper and make one column for each possible course of action. In each column, starting at the top, list all of the positive circumstances, Bible verses that the Lord gives you, what the Holy Spirit seems to be saying to you, and finally, at the bottom, the negative circumstances that seem to hinder this course of action. Be sure to leave plenty of space for each category so that you can add what the Lord gives you each day. Keep this form in your Bible or prayer book and add to it as you have your daily devotions. Expect to see one column get fuller and fuller and the other(s) become less and less significant. You can expect the Lord to confirm His will by using three or four of the essentials. When this happens, you will know God's will in the matter.

GUIDANCE CHART

You will find that using a chart like the one below will help you see clearly just how the Lord is leading you.

Course "A" or "Yes"

A. Circumstances

List all of the positive circumstances (reasons) that would make Course A desirable.

B. Bible Verses

List all of the Bible verses that the Lord gives you that would indicate you should follow Course A.

Course "B" or "No"

A. Circumstances

List all of the positive circumstances (reasons) that would make Course B desirable.

B. Bible Verses

List all of the Bible verses that the Lord gives you that would indicate you should follow Course B.

C. Holy Spirit

Write what the Holy Spirit seems to indicate about this course.

D. Negative Circumstances

List all of the negative circumstances that seem to make Course A undesirable or impossible. Begin to pray about these things. If God wants you to go this way, He will change these circumstances.

C. Holy Spirit

Write what the Holy Spirit seems to indicate about this course.

D. Negative Circumstances

List all of the negative circumstances that seem to make Course B undesirable or impossible. Begin to pray about these things. If God wants you to go this way, He will change these circumstances.

AVOID ABUSING GUIDANCE!

A certain attractive Christian girl was told by no less than four different young men in her church that the Lord had given them guidance that she should marry them. Obviously, at least three of these young men did not have true guidance from the Lord. How can you avoid making such mistakes? How can you avoid abusing guidance? Here are some suggestions.

First, avoid “shopping for verses.” That is, reading certain parts of the Bible where you know that you can get the answer that you want. Other improper ways are reading many chapters of the Bible at a time, or just opening the Bible at random hoping to “find a verse.” You should be reading a certain amount of the Bible daily — perhaps a chapter each in the Old Testament and New Testament. You can expect that the Lord will give you verses from the places in the Bible that you read regularly.

Second, you must avoid taking a verse and your feelings and calling that guidance to act. You need all four points of guidance to know God’s will. Note that your feelings may not be from the Holy Spirit.

Third, as much as possible, you need to die to your own desires. In other words, you must commit yourself to doing whatever the Lord directs you to do. This is the meaning of Proverbs 3:5-6.

Fourth, three times in Proverbs we are told that there is safety in a number of counselors. It is wise to seek the advice of your follow-up counselor or pastor.

Fifth, avoid being careless about using the phrase, “The Lord led me.” Sometimes Christians carelessly use the phrase, “The Lord led me to do ...” when they really

have not sought the Lord's will. It is often just a front for doing what they "feel like" doing. Often, they end up having to reverse their decision. The result of this is that it seems like God made a mistake. This brings dishonor to the Lord and tends to discredit the idea that God really does give guidance to His people.

Sixth, we must avoid being impatient. Psalm 25 deals with getting guidance from God, and we find the word "wait" used three times. Timing is vital. Only God knows the right time, so wait until you have clear guidance from the Lord.

MEMORY VERSE: Proverbs 3:5-6