



Life Principles Notes™

Seeking God's Guidance

Summary:

What question would you guess I am asked more than any other? When people come to ask for my help, the question they most often ask is, “How can I make a godly decision about my particular situation?” Many people grow up and take their places in business and in society without knowing the basic process of discovering God’s will on a daily basis.

The wonderful truth is that our God loves us so much that He is willing to show us exactly what to do in any situation that might face us.

The Bible tells us, “This is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests which we have asked from Him” (1 John 5:14-15). We can know His desire for every decision.

Key Passage: [1 John 5:14-15](#)

Supporting Scripture: *Psalm 32:8; Proverbs 3:5-6; Mark 11:24.*

Scriptural Principles:

1 God gives clear instructions throughout the Bible.

God always wants us to know His will. He has said, “I will instruct you and teach you in the way which you should go; I will counsel you with My eye upon you” (Psalm 32:8). If we ask Him, He will direct our path. The Bible also gives many illustrations of how clearly He directed His people, such as Adam, Abraham, Moses, Joshua, Paul, and many others. Proverbs 3:5-6 tells us, “Trust in the Lord with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He will make your paths straight.” This means that in every decision we face, our God is eager to show us exactly what we should do.

2 God has given us the promise of His guidance.

First, we have the assurance that God will absolutely provide His clear instruction about any life situation. His desire to guide us is consistent with who He is: our Lord and Master. Why would He hide His specific desire from us? Why would He tell us to simply go and do our best? Our God is eager for us to serve Him. He wants us to experience the joy of His service, and of knowing and doing His will. This means that we can face any decision with confidence, knowing that we need only ask Him, and that His way is the right way.

3 God has given us a pilot for our guidance.

Many people never realize that God has not only given us His promise of guidance, but someone to help us personally in every situation. This “pilot” is the Holy Spirit, who lives within those of us who are New Testament believers. Old Testament followers heard God’s voice through dreams and visions. On some rare occasions God will still speak to us in this way, but most of the time it is unnecessary for two reasons: because we have the Word of God to give us specific commands, and because we have the presence of God within us in the person of the Holy Spirit.

4 God's guidance is known if we avoid certain pitfalls.

We must avoid certain pitfalls in order to receive God's guidance. The first of these is our fleshly desire. As fallen human beings, we sometimes want things that God does not want for us. A second pitfall is listening to counsel. The problem with the advice of some friends is that, first, they are not us; second, they don't know God's will for us; third, they seek to please us as our friends. Therefore we must be careful who counsels us. A third pitfall is impatience. We tend to run ahead of God, rather than wait for His timing. A fourth pitfall is doubting God. Poor self-image also keeps us from believing that God would provide us with guidance.

5 God's guidance begins with cleansing.

What is the pattern and the first step in finding God's guidance? A clean heart is essential for a clear answer from God. Sin creates an obstacle between us, but a clean heart helps us think clearly. Then God can bring us to a state of neutrality, where we'll have an attitude of surrender that allows us to obey His will. We may have to ask, "Lord, what would you have me do?" This does not mean we will always like what He asks us to do, but we will be objective and teachable, prepared to be molded to His will for our lives.

6 God's guidance involves asking.

After we are cleansed and open toward an attitude of obedience, we can ask God about His will for our lives. This does not mean asking once and considering it done, but continuing to ask Him. We are to keep on asking, knocking, and seeking. Why? Because God knows that sometimes we are not ready for what He wants us to do. He is preparing us, and He is preparing the situation itself. We must persist in prayer, knowing that eventually He will give us very clear guidance in His time and in His way.

7 God's guidance is clarified through meditating.

After we have been cleansed of unconfessed sin, and have asked for the knowledge of His will, we can meditate on His will. Meditation means that we are willing to listen, to be quiet, to search His Word and His mind, and to wait upon Him. One of the wisest things we can do is to ask Him to speak to us through Scripture. Very often He will provide a verse that is just what we need. That verse or passage of Scripture will require meditation for days or maybe weeks, as God continues to prepare us for His will.

8 God's guidance requires waiting.

Sometimes, as God gives us a passage of Scripture for meditation, we find ourselves returning to it over and over, knowing that we haven't quite grasped it yet. Over days and weeks, God is searching our hearts, revealing things that should not be there, and gradually changing our attitude. We have the privilege of asking God and accepting His answer as already accomplished, according to Mark 11:24. We must only be willing to believe Him, and to know that if we ask anything according to His will, He will grant our prayer.

Conclusion:

Sometimes husbands and wives disagree on decisions, when God would unite their minds if they asked Him for guidance and waited on His clear answer. Seeking God's guidance is always the wise thing to do, and you and I should be waiting on Him each day, because life is full of tough decisions.

What about your life, my friend? What decisions are troubling you today? God wants you to know

that your heart need not be troubled, and you need not live in confusion. Even though this world gives us every kind of bad advice, you and I have the opportunity to go to a place of solitude, spend time with our Lord and Savior, and know that His Spirit, our pilot, will guide us toward every right decision, time after time. 🏹

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