

LII. WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS
LESSON 52
... ABOUT DIVINE GUIDANCE

INTRODUCTION

Why do we need help/guidance in directing our lives? The answer is clearly seen in following two Scriptures.

Jeremiah 10:23, "O lord, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to DIRECT his steps."

Judges 21:25, "In those days there was no king in Israel: every man did that which was right in his own eyes."

Conclusions: Man as created by God does not have a built in guidance system whereby his life may be guided in an orderly manner in righteousness. The epitaph over man who attempts to direct his own life, according to what seems right in his own eyes, or according to his abilities is seen in the Book of Judges.

Since man is not capable of directing his own life, where does he go for that direction? When this question is fully analyzed, we have to conclude there are only two sources from which a person may get direction and guidance.

From the following Scriptures determine those two sources of guidance and the results derived from each source.

I Corinthians 3:18-20

Isaiah 45:11-13

Isaiah 58:11

Conclusions: There is the wisdom of the world/man's wisdom, which is foolishness and vain (empty); then, there is the wisdom of God, which when followed continually will bring the good things of life.

Now, since, according to 1 Corinthians 6:19-20, we who have received Jesus Christ as our Savior belong to God, whose wisdom/direction/guidance are we to follow; God's or the world's?

Conclusion: God's

God desires to guide and direct His children. However, as we see from Proverbs 3:5-6 this is conditional.

Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine on understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths.

Conclusions: We would note from the above scripture that the conditions for God's guidance are:

1. Trusting in God with all your heart;

2. Not depending on your own understanding, wisdom, knowledge, intelligence, education, training, abilities;
3. Giving all the credit and glory to God.

The purpose of this lesson is to learn to recognize God's guidance. How does God guide you? Being God, He can give direction and guidance any way He sees fit. But from the overall understanding that we have of the Bible, of history, and of human experience, we can point out certain ways in which God may most likely express Himself.

Both the Old and New Testament record super-natural visitations of God. The Apostle Paul saw a vision which showed Him God's will (Acts 9:1-9). So, also, did Peter in Acts 10:9:20.

One of the most extreme cases of God's guidance is recorded in Numbers 22:28-30, where God through a donkey spoke to Balaam, when Balaam was going against God's will.

An example of circumstantial guidance is seen in the case of Jonah. Jonah had been given specific instructions by God, but instead of following God's directions, he found a ship which was going in another direction and concluded that the ship was a providential circumstance enabling him to get out of an unpleasant assignment. This was false guidance, or presumption on the part of Jonah, since God promptly used a great fish to bring Jonah back to his original assignment, (Jonah 1:1-17).

GOD'S GUIDANCE

Numbers 12:4-8 reveals five ways in which God may speak/ give direction to His children.

Numbers 12:4-8

Conclusions: We would note from the above Scripture that God:

1. Speaks audibly;
2. Speaks in visions (day or when awake);
3. Speaks in dreams (night or when asleep);
4. Direct to ones spirit; and
5. Speaks/guides through figurative language/parables.

Although God has/does speak/guide/direct His children in the above mentioned ways, there are four (4) other ways in which God reveals His will, which are **PRIMARY**. These four primary sources of guidance are seen in the following Scriptures.

1. Psalms 119:105

- **Psalm 119:24**
- **Psalm 119:11**
- **2 Timothy 3:16**
- **2 Peter 1:20-21**
- **Matthew 4:4**
- **John 17:17**
- **Romans 10:17 (Hebrews 11:6)**

2. John 16:13

- **Isaiah 30:21**
- **1 Kings 19:11-13**
- **2 Corinthians 3:6**
- **I John 2:20,27**
- **2 Corinthians 1:22; Mark 1:8**

3. Proverbs 9:10

- **1 Corinthians 1:30**
- **Ephesians 5:1-2**
- **Galatians 5:13**
- **Romans 13:8-10**

4. 1 Peter 2:25

- **Isaiah 9:6**
- **Proverbs 15:22**
- **1 Peter 5:1-3**
- **Hebrew 13:17**
- **Titus 1:5-9**
- **1 Thessalonians 5:12**

Conclusions: The primary ways in which God guides us are:

- 1. The infallible Word of God, the complete revelation of His will as in Scripture, the Bible;**
- 2. The indwelling Spirit of God, always leading to and never contrary to the Word He inspired;**

3. Through knowledge of God, if we know Him, we will also know what He wants for and of us;
4. Submission to the Oversight Ministry of Jesus, which ministry in the local Church is invested in the Elders.

RESPONSE TO THE TRUTH

Proverbs 3:5-6, Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine on understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths."

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P.O. Box 372

Axtell, Texas 76624