

GOD'S LEADING, GUIDANCE AND MOVING INTO THE CALL OF GOD

(Faith Centre - Hyderabad, India - Oct/Nov 1989)

A. God's Leading and Guidance.

1. Establish and maintain **daily relationship with God**, praise Him, worship Him, intercede, read the Word. Seek Him early each day. Record, Mark, Learn, Confess the Word.
2. **Out of relationship comes revelation** - the witness of the Spirit in your heart, *1Jn 2:27, Jn 16:13, Jn 14:26, Col 3:15*, and revelation from the Word, *Ps 119:105,130*.
3. **Guidance by the Holy Spirit** - *Ac 8:29, Ac 10:19,20, Ac 11:12*.
 - a. **The inner witness** and voice of the Holy Spirit, *Ac 13:2, Ac 16:6,7, 1Jn 2:27* – “The anointing which we have received from Himteaches you concerning all things, and is true, and is no lie....”
Jn 14:26, 16:13, Rom 8:14.

Sometimes the witness of the Holy Spirit may be a “still small voice” as in *1K 19:12* but at other times may even be audible as in *Ac 9:4*, “Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?”

As we pray earnestly over a situation and wait before God to know His Will, we become aware of a firm conviction within. If the same, sure conviction remains after two or three further times of prayer, over several days or weeks, then we can move ahead with assurance in God's Will, *Pro 3:5,6, Ps 32:8, Ps 23:3*.

The key to guidance is in *Jn 7:17*, “be willing to do His Will.” The surrender of our will to God's Will. Be honest to admit to God how you really feel about it, *Mk 14:36*. Simply ask God to show you His way, *Lk 11:9*.

Ask in faith and expect God to answer, *Jam 1:5*. Seek long term guidance for job, ministry, partner for life. Give thanks through His promises for His guidance. *Ps 16:11,7, (Jer 10:23 + Pro 20:24), Ps 138:8, Is 48:17, Is 30:21, Gen 24:27, Jn 8:12, Ps 119:105, Ps 37:23, Pro 4:18*.

Keep in God's Word daily. Seek mature counsel of those who know and love you and who know God. There is great security in the corporate witness of a group seeking God's Will, *Ac 13:1-3*. Don't forget about sanctified “common sense” - a sound mind, a renewed mind, *2Tim 1:7, Rom 12:2*.

- b. **By Spiritual Gifts**. Guidance may be given by Word of Knowledge, Word of Wisdom, Prophecy, or Discernment of Spirits. Paul wrote to Timothy to recall prophecies given to Him and to move forward in them, *1Tim 1:18, 1Tim 4:14,15*.

Sometimes the Lord gives us a personal prophecy of His guidance, encouragement and strength. In *Ac 11:27-30*, Agabus brought a prophecy to the Antioch church preparing them to be able to assist needy believers about to go through a famine period in Judea. [This kind of prophecy needs to come through a proven ministry, to be checked by other mature believers present, *1Cor 14:29*, to have the “witness” of reality about it which produces a loving response in the Body of Christ, and to come to pass!]

Prophecy is never directional, it is always either confirming what the Lord has already

told you, or preparing you for what the Lord is about to say to you. We are not to live by second hand revelation, *1Jn 2:27*.

- c. **Guidance by the “peace of God”** in your heart. God is the God of peace, *Heb 13:20, Jud 6:24*. We have peace with God, *Rom 5:1*, through Jesus Christ. The peace of God is given to us by the Lord and it confirms the inner witness of the Holy Spirit, *Col 3:15, Phil 4:7*. Do not move if your spirit is agitated. Wait on the Lord for His peace.

4. **Guidance by the Word of God.**

God’s Word is a lamp for our feet and a light shining down the pathway ahead, *Ps 119:105, Ps 119:130, Pro 4:18, Jn 8:12*. God’s Will is expressed in His Word and as we obey His commands we are walking in His pathway, *Ps 119:35,32*. Matthew 5,6,7 contain many of God’s commands, and wisdom is hearing and doing these things, *Mat 7:24,21, 1Sam 15:22, Mat 28:19,20*. Disciples of Jesus keep His commands. God’s Word guides us into God’s Will.

Frequently as we read the Word, the Holy Spirit “speaks” to us by bringing to our attention a particular word, phrase or verse, that seems to stand out from the rest of the passage we are reading. The Holy Spirit is “high lighting” a “word” to us, so that we will note it, record it, believe it and live by it. Often this is referred to as a “rhema”. Jesus said we would “live by every word (rhema) that God gives us,” *Mat 4:4*.

Generally when considering a course of action ask yourself:

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| a. | Does scripture forbid it? | <i>Eph 4:25-32</i> . |
| b. | Is it for God’s glory? | <i>1Cor 10:31, Col 3:17</i> |
| c. | Does it build others up? | <i>1Cor 14:26, 2Cor 12:19</i> |
| d. | Would Jesus have done it? | <i>1Pet 2:21</i> |
| e. | Is it fitting for a child of God? | <i>Col 1:9,10</i> |
| f. | Is it done in love? | <i>1Cor 13:2,3</i> |

Warning

Do not rely on opening the Bible at random to find guidance. (However in times of desperate need, in earnest prayer, when you do not know what to do, God often graciously gives a word to help you see the way through and encourage you.)

5. **Guidance through Circumstances** “falling into place.”

Circumstances can initiate guidance or confirm guidance but are not sufficient on their own to guide you.

A door of opportunity may suddenly open up for you as in *1Cor 16:8,9*, or perhaps what appears to be a door of opportunity suddenly slams shut, e.g. *Ac 16:6,7*.

Frequently a sudden needy situation will lead us to drop what we are doing and reach in help to another. As in *Mat 25:35,36* we may find a fellow believer hungry or thirsty, homeless, without clothes, in sickness or in prison and the Word says “as we have opportunity let us do good to all men, especially to those of the household of faith,” *Gal 6:10*.

The presence of unsaved neighbours nearby is a situation that will lead you to pray earnestly for their salvation, each day, and cause you to cry out for opportunities to witness to them, by showing them friendship, help in needy circumstances, and speaking to them of God's love and salvation. *See Mat 9:13, Lk 19:10, Lk 15:2,7,10, Ac 1:8.*

When Jacob heard there was corn in Egypt he sent his sons to buy some, *Gen 42:1*. The news brought to Nehemiah about Jerusalem in *Neh 1:3* brought an immediate response in his life, *Neh 1:4f*. When Abraham heard that Lot had been taken captive he did not hesitate to go to his aid, *Gen 14:13-16*.

Even when a door of ministry opens up to us we are not free to enter it, if our family is not in godly order, *1Tim 3:4,5*, if our business affairs are found to be in question by the "tax-man", *Rom 13:6,7*, if we are not in good relationships and standing in our local assembly, *Rom 16:17*. We must have a good report of the local brethren.

Prayerfully consider the circumstances before you and see how they line up with at least two other factors of guidance.

6. **Guidance through godly Counsellors.**

Godly counsellors who are:

- a. full of the Holy Spirit, *Ac 6:3*.
- b. walking in life from God, *Gal. 2:20*.
- c. currently serving God effectively.
- d. experienced, mature believers.
- e. expecting and able to receive word of knowledge, word of wisdom, and prophecy.
- f. not biased, prejudiced, or self seeking. Do not share your vision with anyone who may be jealous, seeking to control you, or full of their own ideas.
- g. of good repute, *Ac 6:3*.

See also *Pro 11:14, Pro 12:15, Pro 15:22, Pro 20:18, Pro 24:6*.

The words "multitude of counsellors" does not mean going from one counsellor to another, this will bring confusion. Don't do it. Get the counsellors together in one place to pray and seek the Lord together and come to the corporate witness of the Spirit, e.g. *Ac 13:1-3*.

7. **Guidance through Visions and Dreams and Angels.**

Visions as with Ananias in *Ac 9:10-16*, Peter, *Ac 10:9-16*, Paul, *Ac 16:9*.

Dreams see *Mat 2:12*, the wise men, *Mat 2:13*, Joseph, also *Mat 2:19* and *Mat 2:22*. Joseph, son of Jacob, had very significant experiences through dreams, *Gen 40:5-19, Gen 41:1-36*.

Angels ministering to Elijah, *1K 19:5-8*, guiding the apostles, *Ac 5:17-21*, Cornelius, *Ac 10:1-7*, Philip, *Ac 8:26* (We need to beware of false angels however, *2Cor 11:14, Gal 1:8*, check all revelation against the Word of God and other lines of guidance).

8. **Beware of "fleeces" *Jud 6:36-40*.**

Gideon knew God's will as it was revealed to him in *Jud 6:11-16*. He wanted the fleece because he doubted God's Word to him. He knew it was not a godly method of guidance, *6:39*, and was afraid God would be angry. It occurs only once in the Word. Do not rely on fleeces. "Trust in the Word not in the wool!" - Dave Wilkerson.

9. Guidance is in some measure dependent upon a **godly character** and a right attitude.
- meekness *Ps 25:9*
 - integrity *Pro 11:3*
 - sound mindedness *2Tim 1:7*
 - willingness to mature
 - waiting on God *Jer 33:3*
 - committing your way to God *Ps 37:5*
 - being prepared to obey *Jn 7:17*
 - removal of sin and iniquity *Rom 6:22*
10. Guidance is **insufficient** if it is based on
- a Bible verse only **or**
 - one favourable circumstance, **or**
 - a peaceful feeling **or**
 - some good ideas.

For sure guidance you need at least **three factors lining up** to point the way, *2Cor 13:1*.

11. **Seek, pray and ask for guidance**, claiming His promises to guide us. *Heb 10:23,36, 6:12, Rom 4:19-21, Lk 11:9-13, Col 1:9-11, Pro 3:6, 4:18, (Jer 10:23 + Pro 20:24), Pro 4:25-27, Ps 16:11, Ps 36:9, 16:7, 32:8, 37:23, 138:8, 121:8, 31:15, 119:105,130, 85:13, 18:32, Is 45:13, 48:17, 30:21, Jn 14:26, 14:6, 16:13, 7:17, 8:12, 2Chr 27:6, 12:14, 2Sam 5:19, Gen 24:27, Col 1:9,10.*
Overall *Jn 14:6 + Gen 24:27*. Expect God's Answer, *Mk 11:24, Jam 1:5-7*.
12. **Full surrender**, Jesus is Lord, give the Lord first place in your heart, life. Are you serving and following Him? *Ps 37:4*.
13. **Choose His Will**, *Jn 7:17, Josh 24:15*. Deny self, *Lk 9:23*.
14. Guidance establishes major purpose, direction, the call of God. Walking in the Spirit, *Gal 5:25*, following the leading of the Spirit step by step.

B. Moving into the Call of God.

1. **What is my ministry?** *Job 23:10-14*.
- Recognise the desires of the Spirit in you, your desires from God. Do you desire to be a Pastor, Leader, Teacher, Minister, Prophet, Evangelist, to witness, preach, pray, intercede, serve others, heal the sick? After you have surrendered your life to the Lord, the desires in you are from the Lord.
 - Bring these desires (or desire) to Him, and ask Him to sanctify them. Listen to His Voice. Commit it to Him, *Ps 37:4,5*.
 - Respond to these desires in your heart, in your spirit in faith. Exercise faith in it, confess it before God, believe what God can do in you and through you, *Eph 3:20*.
 - Start to take opportunities as the Lord gives them to serve others with the ability He gives you.
 - Listen to His leading, be teachable, *1Sam 3:10*. He will tell you what to do. Are you willing to go where He sends you, to be, do and say what He wants? If not, tell Him and ask Him to change you.
 - Offer yourself, *Is 6:8,9*. Be available. He wants our availability not our ability. Do not raise up your own schemes and plans and do your own thing.

- g. Maintain disciplined dependence on God, daily, *Lk 11:2, Lk 9:23, Phil 2:13*, in all things, in times of stress too, in trials and tests, do not be a quitter. Faithfulness not ministry to be rewarded.
- h. **Stages in the call**, e.g. David.
- i. *1Sam 16:11* caring for the sheep - Faithfulness *1Sam 17:34,35*.
 - ii. **First anointing** - *1Sam 16:13*.
 - iii. In King's court *1Sam 16:23* playing music.
Kills Goliath *1Sam 17:49* the giant.
King's Jealousy *1Sam 18:7,8* against David.
Persecution, and chased out of the palace.
 - iv. Lonely fugitive, joined by 400 others who were dissatisfied with Saul. Rejected, persecuted, pressured, in wilderness, ashes and burnt out hopes, great trials, tests, *1Sam 30:6*. Proved, refined by fire. The trial of his faith, *1Pet 1:7, 1Tim 6:12*, e.g. Joseph, Moses. David refused to take revenge, take the Kingdom by force, or touch the Lord's Anointed. He left God to work it out, bring increase, *Ps 75:6*. Saul is slain *1Sam 31* - the ministry of the flesh passes away.
 - v. David moves into a place of limited authority, *2Sam 2:4*.
Second anointing - 7¹/₂ years. King of Judah.
Ac 26:16-18 God's confidence in us. He will take us on. Refuse unbelief, *Heb 3:12*, which is like dark glasses or a blindfold.
Build a big vision, from God, and from others. Associate with mighty men of faith. Be available.
 - vi. **Third anointing** - Full recognition by the Body of Christ, and other ministries, *2Sam 5:3*.
Ac 13:1,2 - They knew in their hearts God had called them.
They were:
sent by the Lord and the church.
well related to the local body,
had the good will of the spiritual oversight in the Body of Christ.
2. God has plans for each person's life, spiritual gifts and functions.
Plans - *Jer 29:11-13, Eph 2:10, Gal 6:4, Job 23:10-14, Eph 1:4, 1Pet 4:10, 2Tim 1:9*.
Gifts - *1Cor 12:7-11*.
Functions - *Rom 12:3-8*.
3. If you are trusting in the Lord, believing in His Name, fully committed and available to the Lord, seeking God, to obey Him in all things, walking with a sincere heart before Him,
then YOU are in the centre of His Will **NOW**. If God wants you to go, do, be, say something, He will show you clearly. *Jer 10:23, Pro 20:24, Ps 32:8, Ps 18:32*. Do not murmur, complain or doubt, but praise Him. Give thanks. *1Tim 6:6, Eph 5:20, Col 3:17, Col 3:22-24*.
4. If you are in the centre of His Will, you are in the centre of His authority, mercy, grace and

salvation. Take authority over every judging, condemning word and refuse it, refute it, cut it off in Jesus' Name, and declare your righteousness in Christ. *Is 54:17, Col 2:16, 1Cor 1:30, 2Cor 5:21, Rom 5:9, Eph 6:14, 1Thes 5:8, Gal 5:6.* (Don't forget to confess your sins and be cleansed by the Blood if you are in the wrong, *1Jn 1:9*)

5. Willingly submit to others in the Body of Christ, that are over you in the Lord, *1Thes 5:12*. Serve faithfully in the ministry the Lord has given you, *Lk 16:10,11*. Faithfully serve in another man's vineyard and the Lord will give you your own, and will give you faithful men to serve you in due time, *Lk 16:12*.

Refuse selfish ambition, scheming and envy. God opens the door and brings promotion, *Ps 75:6,7, Pro 18:16*. Avoid rebellion, *Num 16:1-3*. Do not give room to bitterness, resentment, unforgiveness, or being critical of a leader, *Mk 11:25,26*.

If something upsets you, go to the leader and share how you feel about it. Do not go about spreading complaints. Pray daily for those over you in the Lord.

6. It is quite common to feel inadequate, unqualified, and rather reluctant to enter the call of God, *Ex 3:11, Jud 6:15*. God may bring a real brokenness before we enter the call so that we will totally depend upon the Lord.
7. When we make mistakes in our call and ministry, God does not give up on us and put us out, *Rom 11:29*. He requires us to confess our sins, repent, and allow mature men in the church to restore us, *Gal 6:1*.
8. When God gives us gifts of ministry, and authority in His Name, these are so we can powerfully minister to others as a servant to them. *Lk 22:27, Phil 2:5-7, Gal 5:13, Phil 2:3, Mk 10:45, Jn 13:1-15, Mat 20:25-28*. Power and authority in God's Kingdom operates through servanthood, not by domination, manipulation, and intimidation, which are the ways of the powers of darkness.
9. Remember that no one ministry, or gift, or calling is more important to God than any other. He chooses our ministry for us. He does not reward the gift He has given us but our faithfulness in service, *Mat 25:21,23*. The five talent servant and the two talent servant were equally faithful and both received the same reward, *Col 3:22-24*.
10. If you believe you are called into ministry, but have no clear doors of service open to you, keep seeking God daily in prayer and in the Word and then go out, taking every opportunity to do something for God, e.g. join an open-air team, teach a Sunday School class, witness on the streets, visit and pray for the sick, or any other chance that comes along. God will bring increase and fruitfulness.