

Guidance

Concept:

One of the basic, ongoing needs in my life is for the Lord's guidance. It seems like I am always pressured to make some decision that will have a long-term consequence. So naturally, I want to be acting correctly today, so my tomorrow will be in right order. Such decisions as employment, housing, education, ministry outflow, and many other questions are always surfacing and needing God's wisdom. These seem big, but every day there are smaller demands that need quality input. The word gives us a large picture and the Holy Spirit makes specific application. I know why the Lord does things like this! He wants me to consistently be pressing into Him and to keep my fellowship fresh with Him so He can keep His direction fresh to me. I need to constantly keep learning from small steps so when the big steps happen, I will be confident and can step with confidence.

One of the pictures that the Lord paints in His word of Himself is being a shepherd. We all know that the sheep definitely have the easy job; they simply follow the shepherd. When He leads, we, as sheep, just follow. Sheep have full confidence in their shepherd's ability. The shepherd has the responsibility of finding the best grass for food and the most secure place for safety. The sheep move every time they hear the shepherd's voice. There are times that some sheep don't respond, but of course, that is why the shepherd carried a staff. I think the application is very easy to make. We know the heart of our shepherd is for the good of his sheep. He desires to lead us into the best possible area for us: a place of freedom with loving boundaries where we can experience His rest. We need to recognize His voice. John 10:4 states, His sheep recognize His voice. Not only do we become aware of His voice, but we also are able to distinguish the voice of a counterfeit shepherd. There is a hireling (devil, flesh, world) that is not committed to our success and will abandon us at the first sign of trouble. The Word encourages us to run from such advice and stay close to the side of our protector. John chapter 10, explains that the shepherd has a plan for His sheep and it is a good plan. In Psalm 37:23,24, the Lord re-enforces this concept. He states, that our very steps are ordered by the Lord, Himself. That means, that each of us, have distinct steps that are tailored just for me. What a loving Shepherd!

The prophet, Jeremiah in Jeremiah 33:3, states, that I can call on the Lord and He will answer me. I will never get a busy signal or a voice mail. There is always a direct connection and the Lord always answers the phone and responds to my request and will even tell me about things that I don't even know about. Job 34:32 encourages us to ask the Lord to point out hidden things and then change them if they need changing. David had Nathan come to him and confront him on his sin in II Samuel 12. The purpose of the confrontation was so that David could be brought back into a place of safety and blessing. Even the following correction David received was only so he could enjoy the peaceful fruits that come from the Lord's discipline. (Hebrews 12:11)

Everything in our lives needs to be under the loving Lordship of Jesus Christ. That simply means, I will give Him access into my life and allow Him to tell me what to do. It is the Lord's good pleasure to show us direction for each step of our lives, especially when there is a change on the horizon. He will use His Spirit and His Word to bring about the revelation necessary for me to make a peaceful change. His word is a lamp for

our feet and a light to show my path. Light usually means the ability to see but it also means development. The light of the Word will be given illumination by the Spirit. The pitfalls of the enemy will be easily seen when the Word is my light. It is the Holy Spirit's role and desire to make the necessary applications to my life in His specific way so I am able to have the life-style and character that reflects the walk He has me taking.

Guidance is one of the places where the Holy Spirit demonstrates His desire to be involved in the everyday activities of my life. John 14:23, shows us how He will come and make His home with me. If the Holy Spirit is living in me, then it shouldn't be hard to have daily guidance. I should always have the awareness that my steps are being ordered by the Spirit of the Lord and divine appointments are just around the next corner.

Sometimes during pressure times, it seems like I just can't receive direction from the Lord. How is He going to speak to me today? Why is it so hard to "hear" today? Sometimes it seems everyone else is on tract and I am derailed. I am sure you have felt that way more than once. We know He is living in us and His Word is His will, but if only He would write it in big letters on walls of my home. Has that ever entered your mind? I certainly have thought about every statement I have mentioned. Let's look at scriptural examples of guidance in the Word and then be ready for the Holy Spirit to use each one in your life.

Definition of Terms:

1. Matthew 4:1
Led by the Spirit: Anago. To lead, to sail away, launch forth, to drive, intensely and induce.
2. Matthew 2:13
Appcareo: phanio. To shine, to show, and to be seen. Duam: Onai. A picture, an illumination and an image.
3. Acts 10:10
Trance: ekstasis. Displacement of the mind, bewilderment, be amazed, stand out of wits, and beside self.
4. Acts 27:10
Perceive: Theoreo. To be a spectator, discern, behold, consider, to look closely, to experience, to appear, and discern clearly.
5. John 10:3-5
Lord's voice: phone. Idea of disclosure, a tone articulated, appear, shine and be seen.
6. Acts 16:6
Forbidden: Koluo, prevent, hinder, keep from, withstand and to chastise.
7. Acts 16:7
Permit: eao. To let be, leave alone, not permit, cut short, fire goes out and not allow.

8. Acts 13:2
Said: epo. Speak or say, answer, bring word, call, command, grant, say speak, and tell.
9. Romans 9:1
Conscience: san ei desis. Co-perception, moral, consciousness, to see completely, to understand or become aware and to be privy.
10. Acts 20:22,23
Holy Spirit Testifies: Diamartaromai. To attest or protest earnestly, witness, change the channel of an act and bear record.

Scripture Application:

Dream:

1. Genesis 40:5
2. Judges 7:13
3. I Kings 3:5
4. Job 4:13
5. Job 33:14-19
6. Daniel 1:17
7. Daniel 2:28
8. Daniel 7:1
9. Matthew 1:20
10. Matthew 27:11
11. Acts 2:17
12. Genesis 15:1
13. Genesis 46:2
14. I Samuel 3:15
15. Psalms 89:12
16. Ezekiel 11:24

17. Daniel 8:15-17
18. Daniel 9:21-24
19. Obadiah 1:1
20. Zechariah 3:1-5
21. Luke 1:22
22. Luke 24:23
23. Acts 9:10,12
24. Acts 11:5
25. Acts 16:9-10
26. Acts 18:9

Perceiving:

27. Genesis 26:24
28. Zechariah 3:6,7
29. Mark 4:12
30. John 4:19
31. Acts 8:23
32. Acts 10:34
33. Acts 17:22
34. Acts 27:10

Prophetic:

35. Numbers 11:25
36. Ezra 5:1
37. I Kings 1:31
38. I Kings 14:12

39. II Kings 3:17
40. II Kings 6:16
41. II Chronicles 20:15-17
42. II Chronicles 20:37
43. Isaiah 7:10-13
44. Isaiah 28:14
45. Isaiah 66:5
46. Ezekiel 37:7
47. Jeremiah 7:2
48. Jeremiah 10:1
49. Jeremiah 21:11
50. Jeremiah 26:1-6
51. Jeremiah 27:9-11
52. Jeremiah 28:12-14
53. Jeremiah 29:10-14
54. Haggai 1:3,4
55. Malachi 1:1
56. Luke 1:67
57. Jude 14

Spoke:

58. Exodus 20:19,20
59. Numbers 12:6-9
60. Numbers 20:12
61. Deuteronomy 3:26

- 62. Isaiah 43:1-3
- 63. Hebrews 1:1-3
- 64. Hebrews 3:7
- 65. Hebrews 3:15
- 66. Hebrews 4:7
- 67. Revelation 2:7,17

Word of God:

- 68. I Samuel 9:27
- 69. I Chronicles 17:3
- 70. Habakkuk 2:1-3
- 71. Mathew 3:17
- 72. Luke 3:1-3
- 73. Luke 8:11,12
- 74. Luke 11:25
- 75. Acts 4:31
- 76. Acts 13:7
- 77. Acts 13:44
- 78. Romans 10:17
- 79. Ephesians 6:17
- 80. I Thessalonians 2:13
- 81. I Peter 1:23

Conscience:

- 82. Romans 2:15
- 83. Romans 3:5

- 84. I Corinthians 8:7-10
- 85. I Corinthians 10:25-29
- 86. II Corinthians 1:12
- 87. I Timothy 3:9

General:

- 88. Genesis 32:22-31
- 89. Genesis 37:5-7
- 90. Exodus 3:1-6
- 91. Exodus 4:1-2
- 92. Exodus 19:3-5
- 93. Exodus 19:16-25
- 94. Exodus 20:1
- 95. Exodus 28:36
- 96. Exodus 33:7-11
- 97. Exodus 33:14,15
- 98. Exodus 34:10
- 99. Leviticus 16:1-2
- 100. Numbers 12:1-8
- 101. Deuteronomy 2:22
- 102. Deuteronomy 11:18
- 103. Deuteronomy 33:8
- 104. Joshua 5:13-16
- 105. Joshua 7:10-20

106. Judges 6:7-10
107. Judges 6:11-14
108. I Samuel 3:1-16
109. I Samuel 16:6,7
110. II Chronicles 1:7-12
111. Psalm 18:19,28,30
112. Psalm 19: 2-7
113. Psalm 119:105,130,133,140
114. Proverbs 6:23
115. Isaiah 6:1-6
116. Isaiah 8:11
117. Isaiah 9:8
118. Isaiah 28:16
119. Jeremiah 1:4-10
120. Ezekiel 1:3
121. Amos 3:7
122. Matthew 13:11,16,18
123. Matthew 16:16-20
124. John 14:22-25
125. John 15:25
126. John 16:16-20
127. John 16:13
128. Romans 1:20
129. I Corinthians 2:9,10
130. Ephesians 1:9,10

Summary:

As you can see, there are many examples of the Lord speaking to His children and using a variety of ways to cause His directions to be received. I think, one of most encouraging stories is about Gideon in Judges 6 and 7. The Lord sent a prophet with a general word for all Israel explaining why things were like they were. He then sends an angel with a specific word for Gideon and explains Gideon's destiny. Gideon was not ready to fully receive this word, so there were two miracles involving fleeces to persuade Gideon's heart. The Lord then eliminates fear from around Gideon by dissolving his army down to 300. Then for good measure, Gideon overhears a dream with interpretation about the military victory he was going to have. I am confident that the Lord will do whatever it takes in my life to accomplish His will through me. His plans will succeed in my life because of His faithfulness to me. What a loving Father we have.

Action Point:

Write down three questions that you desire answered. Use Jeremiah 33:3 as your place of confidence and ask the Lord for your answers. Next, take a small New Testament book (i.e. Galatians, Titus, etc.) and read it everyday. As you are reading, write down the scriptures that you would normally underline. After a week, go back and read the scriptures you have written down. Did the Lord answer your question?