

YOUR PERSONAL GUIDANCE COUNSELOR

Essential Equipment For Life - Part 4

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Did Doug give \$100?

Fact: The rest of your life is uncharted terr. No one's been there!
Good News: God offers a guide!

JOHN 16:7, 13 (Jesus) "... I will send the Comforter to you... When the Holy Spirit, who is truth, comes, he shall guide you."

o When- believer ... God puts his Spirit inside you!
HS does many things. Today focus 1 aspect:

PS. 32:8 "I will instruct you and guide you along the best pathway for your life; I'll advise you and watch your progress." (LB)

- HS wants to guide you thru life!
Might make life easier? Fewer mistakes?
Reality: Without God's guidance -You just stumble thru life!

The secret of a fulfilled life:

GAL. 5:16 "Live by following the Spirit..."

Today- How does God guide us?
How can I receive his guidance?

I. HOW DOES THE HOLY SPIRIT GUIDE?

Many ways Mention 2 most common:

1. BY HELPING US REMEMBER WHAT GOD HAS ALREADY SAID

FACT: God has already told us most-what need to know-life
- In this book!
- If you'll read it- God will guide you!

- o **"God's will is found in God's Word"**
- o Maybe waiting for God to write in sky/ already in book!
Just open it! (No shelf life!)

PROBLEM: Retention. We don't remember! (95%)
How many "good forgetters"? (now, where was I?)

Fortunately - A part of HS's job- help you remember!

JOHN 14:26 "The Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name ...will remind you of everything I have said to you."

(NIV)

- o Ever had vs. pop into mind-needed it?
- o Happens sev. times a day with me.
When you've spent years reading/studying
Like breathing- nothing spectacular..

ILL: On phone advising -verses pop into.

Some of you -this never happens-because no Word inside to pop out!

The more you know the WORD of God-easier...WILL...

2. BY INSPIRING IDEAS IN OUR MINDS

When Satan..."tempt" When H.S..."inspiration"

ILL: People ask: Have ever heard God speak audibly?
BUT - He plants thoughts in my mind all the time!

God is trying to communicate to you- but you don't recog.!
ME?? Yes you! Myth: God only talks to super saints

JOB 33:13-18 "For God speaks again and again in dreams and visions...causing them to change their minds, and keeping them from pride... and keeping them from falling into some trap." (LB)

- Has God ever changed your mind?

ILL: I depend on this when preparing messages

- o Pray "God you know-be there. What do you want to say...them?"
- o I fill my mind with God's word. Go to sleep praying "I'm open!"
So usually my best ideas come in the shower!
"reading my mail" No. But HS is!
"talking directly to me" - I'm not that smart

Article: Perot-idea for his comp (bil-)-sitting in his church!
If you get a billion \$ idea at ch...

II. HOW CAN I RECEIVE GUIDANCE? 4 things:

1. ASK FOR IT!

PS. 27:11 "LORD, teach me your ways, and guide me to do what is right..." (NCV)

ILL: TV-HOME IMP: Tim lost-wrong state (Memories- growing up!)

Q #1: Why won't we ask for directions? A: It takes time!

Q #2: Does asking for D usually SAVE time? YES!

- "You **don't have** because..."

- Fact God is interested in the details of your life!

- He **wants** you to ask him for direction

- Best way: ask God a specific question...

More specific -the easier to answer

2. EXPECT IT!

JAMES 1:6 "...God is always ready to give a bountiful supply of wisdom to all who ask him; But when you ask him, be sure that you really expect him to tell you.." (LB)

This is the faith factor. Must trust God!

ILL: Mon. Kay "Where's nearest gas station?" (30 m-freeway)

"Get off freeway/go 10m. down that little road" Believe?

What if half way she'd turned around?

POINT: Guidance is only as good as the one giving it!

And it's only useful if you trust it!

Cliff "trust me"

We can always trust God's guidance- NEVER wrong.

BUT YOU MUST BELIEVE! God helps those who trust him.

God has promised to help.

When you really expect guidance, you'll really get it!

3. READ FOR IT!

Read the Bible for guidance

ILL: Putting together wheel barrow -tossed directions

- "how difficult can this be?" **scrounging...**

1st message (series) Instruction manual":

PS. 119:19 "I'm a pilgrim here on earth: I need a map--and your commands are my chart and guide." (LB)

ILL: Apollo rocket-on track less than 1% of time

Constant corrections - off track for wk- way off course!

o EVERYDAY- set a time where God has- undivided attention!

o Amazing- how often in syst reading-just what need-*that day!*

Just this week "Message"- several times

9 Things you want to look for when you read...

S.P.A.C.E.P.E.T.S. Is there...

4. WAIT FOR IT!

Biggest problem: We get in a hurry. Don't want to wait for guidance!

Get anxious/uptight "I've got to know now!"

So we try to figure it all out by ourselves

ISA. 50:11 "Some of you want to light your own fires and make your own light. So, go, walk and trust your own light to guide you. But this is what you'll receive... a place of pain." (NCV)

- get ourselves into deep guacamole!

Would any of you like to give a per. example of this verse??

Note: "make your own light"

When people are desperate for guidance, they'll try anything:

Psychic Hot lines ...Palm reading.. horoscopes...Aust:- Quartz crystals-

PS. 25:9 "He guides the humble in what is right and teaches them his way." (NIV)

- If you'll listen - God will guide you! - Be open\teachable... recept

-Humility is simply "depending on God!"

This is what the Christian Life is all about:

Having a pers. rel. to Christ & allowing his Spirit to guide you thru life!

If- begin to let God's Spirit guide you on a daily basis...

see changes in your life that you never thought were possible

TESTIMONY: Each week- a real life example **GREG & BRENDA**

When people ask the secret of Saddleback's growth- tell them it's no secret at all. Jesus Christ still has the power to change lives!

Today: Baby Boomers are desperate for spiritual guidance.

They want to know that their lives matter- have significance

Before we close...

HOW TO TEST AN IMPRESSION

How do I know if an idea is from God... or just something I thought up?

1. DOES IT AGREE WITH THE BIBLE?

LUKE 21:33 "Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away."

God will never ...contradict his written word
... tell you to violate/ignore a principle

ILL: "It feels so right to leave my wife for another"

2. DOES IT MAKE ME MORE LIKE CHRIST?

Christ is the ultimate standard by which we measure all

If God's goal is for you to develop Christ's character...
He won't tell you to do anything that would hinder you from that goal

JAMES 3:17 "If you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts...such "wisdom" does not come from heaven but is of the devil... The wisdom that comes from God is ...pure, peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy..." (NIV)

- a checklist

3. DOES MY CHURCH FAMILY CONFIRM IT?

PR. 11:9 "The wisdom of the righteous can save you." (GN)

A lot of damage done: "God told me to do this"
When in doubt- check it out with mature believers

ILL: If 5 godly friends tell you you're wrong...guess what?
If mature believers question an idea- you should too

This is why Lone Ranger Chrs- slip so easily into error
(No checks/balances) Need the church!

4. DOES IT CONCERN MY RESPONSIBILITY?

ROM. 14:10, 13 "We will all be judged one day, not by each other's standards, or even our own, but by the judgment of God... It is to God alone that we will have to answer for our actions." (Ph)

Logical: If-not your resp... why should God talk to you about it?

ILL: John 21- Peter asked Jesus about John's future

On thin ice when "God told me to tell you" ...
So many times -God has been discredited
When well-meaning Christians interfere in others' lives

5. DO I SENSE GOD'S PEACE ABOUT IT?

1 COR. 14:33 "God is not the author of confusion"

Nowhere in the Bible does God tell anyone to rush into a decision!
He doesn't operate that way. God is patient!

Satan DRIVES us compulsively / God DRAWS us gently.

****Worry, Fear, & Anxiety are ALWAYS a product of my own thinking/Satan's**

God commands us to never worry.

Sure sign that God is guiding you: Unexplainable peace in middle of storm!

CLOSE:

ROM. 8:14 "The true children of God are those who let God's Spirit lead them." (NCV)

Getting guidance is proof you really know Christ.

"I never sense God directing me" - Then- reason to doubt..!
"Why doesn't God speak to me?" NOT TUNED IN!

Jesus says

JOHN 8:47 "He who belongs to God hears what God says. The reason you do not hear is that you do not belong to God."

Simple Q: Have you opened your life to Jesus Christ?
Not religion...rel. Maybe Cath.... PRAY...