

Finding Clear Guidance When Discerning God's Direction



Finding Clear Guidance

"Who, then, are those who fear (Reverence) The Lord? He will instruct them in the ways they should choose." -**Psalm 25:12**

"Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance." -**James 1 2-3**

Process for Discerning God's Direction

1. Clear The Pathway:

- **Clear It of Sin, ([Strongholds Assessment](#)).** We don't have to stay stuck. The Lord wants to celebrate our movement toward Him.
 - Spend time in "Deep" Quiet Listening to the Sounds of the Silence.
 - Sin fragments our thinking making it impossible to discern God's Will for our lives.
 - Sin cuts out our "assurance" of anything.
- **Clear It of Strong Desires, ([Surrender Assessment](#))**
 - "Thy" Will Not "MY" Will Be Done.
 - No mind games. God will not be fooled.
- **Goal: Submissive Neutrality** - When we seek God more than our personal desires.
 - A "Pure" heart is synonymous with Finding Clear Direction. ([Spiritual Cardio Assessment](#))
 - An impure heart corrupts the mind causing us to miss God's direction.

What's Your Plan?

- *"13 Enter through the **narrow gate**. For wide is the **gate** and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. 14 But small is the **gate** and **narrow** the road that leads to life, and only a few find it."* **Matthew 7:13-14** How will you "Narrow" the gate in your life in order that your path will be straight and clear? Access has been provided to three assessments to assist you on your journey. Pray and write it out. Get Accountable!

2. Exercise Patience

- **Patience Requires Waiting on The Lord.** Rush, and we will move in a direction God's not in.
 - The stronger the desire, the more difficult it is to wait for The Lord's guidance.
 - "Waiting on the Lord" is a phrase that appears in the Bible, specifically in the Old Testament book of Psalms and the book of Isaiah. It is often used to encourage people to trust in God's timing and to be patient while waiting for Him to act.
 - Waiting on the Lord involves the confident expectation of a positive result in which we place a great hope. **This expectation is based on coming to know God.** Those who do not know the Lord and trust Him, cannot wait on Him. ([Big 4 Questions Assessment](#))
 - Waiting on the Lord involves actively walking in step with God as He unfolds His plans. It is far more than sitting around, twiddling our thumbs. When we wait on the Lord, we trust that God is at work even when His timetable is longer than we'd like. We wait on Him because He is God and we are not. And waiting on God is good for us. As we wait on the Lord, He changes us and strengthens us. He rewards those who wait, and His timing is perfect.

- **Cover Yourself with Psalm 91 While Waiting.**

Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.

I will say of the Lord, "He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust."

Surely, He will save you from the fowler's snare, and from the deadly pestilence.

He will cover you with his feathers, and under His wings you will find refuge;

His faithfulness will be your shield and rampart.

You will not fear the terror of night, nor the arrow that flies by day,

nor the pestilence that stalks in the darkness, nor the plague that destroys at midday.

A thousand may fall at your side, ten thousand at your right hand but it will not come near you.

You will only observe with your eyes and see the punishment of the wicked.

If you say, "The Lord is my refuge," and you make the Most High your dwelling,

no harm will overtake you; no disaster will come near your tent.

For He will command His angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways;

they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.

You will tread on the lion and the cobra; you will trample the great lion and the serpent.

"Because he loves me," says the Lord, "I will rescue him;

I will protect him, for he acknowledges my name.

He will call on me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble,

I will deliver him and honor him.

With long life I will satisfy him and show him my salvation."

Affirmation: "The Lord is my refuge."

3. Be Alert to Pressure

- **External Pressure - From People**

- Other people are able to be rigorously honest - **With YOUR Life.**
- Other people are able to be highly aggressive - **With YOUR Life.**
- Other people tend to have immovable faith - **With YOUR Life.**
- Etc. Getting the Drift?

- **External Pressure - From Things**

- Circumstances can cause you to put God in a box so you can takeover.
- Deadlines can cause you to put God in a box so you can takeover.
- Finances are the main thing that cause you to put God in a box so you can takeover.

- **External Pressure - From Places**

- During times of intense pressure, we look for an escape - a break. Be Careful!
- Where you go to get a break and forget about things for a while can end up being a means of sabotage.
- Keep in mind, "An impure heart corrupts the mind causing us to miss God's direction."
- Going to the wrong places for respite **will** cause you to miss God's direction.
- Going to safe and empowering places can actually uncover God's direction.
- A safe and empowering place should help you to accept your powerlessness and have the courage to "Let Go and Let God."

What's Your Plan?

- Some of these Pressures you may be able to take on alone. If so, what does that look like? Others will require "Controls" to be put into place. What will this look like?

- **Internal Pressure**

- "Exaggerated" Fear and Anxiety. The pressure is on and your "Fight" or "Flight" response kicks in.
- There are various styles of fighting. The fighting suggested is Education, Patience, and Acceptance.
- **Proverbs 9:9** - Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be yet wiser: teach a just man, and he will increase in learning.
- Patience comes from wisdom and learning.

- Acceptance is the answer to all my problems. When fearful and anxious, you get disturbed because you do not accept the situation as it is. **The only solution is to admit your personal lack of power and accept the reality of the situation.** It's probably not going to play out the way you're projecting it.

What's Your Plan?

- Some of these Pressures you may be able to take on alone. If so, what does that look like? Others will require "Controls" to be put into place. What will this look like?

Affirmation: "I know from experience the future has a way of taking care of itself."

4. Persist In Prayer

- Keep Asking.
- As we persist in prayer, God sifts our desires and requests.
- God is not concerned with time when we pray. God is outside of time - it is meaningless to Him.
- As we persist in prayer, God will bring to our minds things we never thought of when we began trying to settle our situation on our own.

5. Rest In God's Promises

- "I THE LORD search the heart and test the mind, to give every man according to his ways,
- according to the fruit of that grows out of his heart."
- "I will give you a new heart and a new spirit I will put within you."
- "And My peace, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your heart through Christ Jesus."
- "But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this defiles a person."
- "Draw near to Me, and I will draw near to you."
- Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not
- your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid."
- "Let not steadfast love and faithfulness forsake you; bind them around your neck; write them on the tablet of your heart."

- “Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find
- rest for your souls.”
- “You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.”
- “I have not given you the spirit of fear.”
- “I created you with a sound, strong, mind,”
- “Never Will I Leave You Nor Forsake You.”
- “FOCUS, I Will Make A Way.”
- "So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God.”
- “I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.”
- "Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your
- God is with you wherever you go.”
- "I THE LORD am faithful and I will strengthen you and protect you.”
- "Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong.”
- "I THE LORD give strength to my people; and bless them with peace.”
- "Be strong and courageous. Do not fear or be in dread of them, for it is I THE LORD who goes
- with you. I will not leave you or forsake you.”
- Meditate on these verses.
- Read stories in the Bible to learn how God gave guidance. Learn "His" ways.

6. Wait for the Peace

- **Colossians 3:15-16: 15** Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. **16** Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts.
- **Philippians 4:6-7: 6** Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. **7** And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.
- **Goal:** Unshakable Oneness with God.

“Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.”
-James 1:4