

THE PRINCIPLES OF ABSOLUTE CERTAINTY

How To Know You're Making
The Right Decision Every Time.



Dr. Bill Greenman

ABSOLUTE CERTAINTY

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A Book In 2 Versions

Realizing there will be some readers not given to the faith I walk in, I decided to create the two versions you will see in this short but powerful book. The principles are basically the same, just founded on different principles of belief. My goal is to give everyone the opportunity to realize the power of certainty in their decisions.

I've used these principles for over 50 years and found them to never fail me. Oh, I have failed them on too many occasions, but they have never failed me when I put them all into practice. As with anything in life, you can only receive with the same energy you invest. I hope you will invest much time and thought into the use of these life-giving steps – whichever book you wish to follow.

Bill Greenman

ABSOLUTE CERTAINTY

Non-Faith-Based Version

INTRODUCTION

Every fact is to be confirmed by the testimony of two or three witnesses. The Bible

You can confirm beyond a shadow of a doubt that what you are desiring, dreaming, thinking about is right for you. The daily affairs of life can distract you. Friends and loved ones might not believe in your dreams. Even your own thoughts, imaginations, and ideas can rise up against you with doubts and fears. So, to assist you in realizing your dreams, desires, and that any decisions you make are true, there are 5 specific ways in which you can confirm what you believe - with absolute certainty.

Once you decide, you must hold your decision under the bright, revealing floodlamp of confirmation.

PREPARATION

What men really want is not knowledge but certainty.

Bertrand Russel

Having certainly requires knowing exactly what you want to be certain about. What is the problem, the issue, the event, the task about which you are seeking certainty? Until you decide this the rest of this book will be irrelevant to you.

Once you decide your topic or task you must then perform some form of research to learn everything you can about that topic or task. What is required? Who do you need to know? What do you need to learn? What will it cost in energy or finances? Knowing these few points will give you much more confidence when find your answer to the certainty question, because you are not just getting a yes or no to the question, but to the entire subject matter that surrounds that item.

If you will do this bit of research *before* seeking certainty, you will uncover most of the possible roadblocks *before* you begin seeking confirmation. Then, as you apply these 5 proven principles and you receive your certainty, you will have no further “what if’s” plaguing your mind because you took care of them already.

5 Steps to Knowing

You can use the following five steps for anything you want to confirm. These steps are all time-tested on a global scale. You won't need to wonder. Simply put these steps into practice and enjoy the freedom of being totally confident that you're on the right track. It's not rocket science – just practical daily tasks anyone can master.

But like anything in life, knowing something and being able to use that something can be light years apart. It's only when we step out onto the path that our next steps are illuminated. Knowing that you are on the right path of course, is paramount. Hopefully this small but powerful book will get you on that right path and help you stay on it for the rest of your life. That's my prayer for you. Enjoy!

Step #1:

ASK

The bottom line here is do you believe that the Creator of the universe actually is involved in or wants to be involved in the affairs of people – namely you. If yes then keep reading, but if not you can skip ahead to #2.

I believe there is a benevolent God who wants to talk with us every day. My time in prayer is often my greatest time of inspiration. It's not spooky or otherworldly – it's just conversation in my head with Him. By thoughts, pictures, and words in my mind, along with feelings of assurance in my heart, I believe God communicates clearly with me. But I have to take time to listen for Him. He wants to talk, like a loving Father.

So, prayer is just a simple two-way street – I talk, *and* I listen. When thoughts come in answer to my questions, then I can simply write them down and see

how the other certainty principles line up with what I've heard. If that sounds extremely simple it's because it is. This is not supposed to be complicated. The universe is vast and unknown, but the systems set in motion by God are fairly simple and very consistent. If you just take time to watch the sunrise, the sunshine on the leaves making oxygen, and sunset. The water cycle of evaporation, condensation, rain, evaporation. And in the seasons of the year, you can see the simplicity of His systems.

It's no different with our lives. We live by systems of eat, work, play, sleep, repeat. Our bodies are a vast array of systems – circulatory, respiratory, nervous, lymph, meridian, vision, digestions - all systems that just keep working. Seed, time, harvest - it's the way of all things. When I finally understood that reality, I looked for the *system* of finding certainty. It was not a long walk. Now you are walking it with me.

Step #2:

CALM

We all know what peace feels like. Here's a good way to test this issue of peace. When you think about your specific task or decision you need to make—a vision within you—when you dwell on it and daydream about it, do you have a peaceful feeling inside or do you have an uneasy feeling? If it's peace and gentleness, without a hint of restlessness mixed in, then it's a certainty point. Such peace is intuitive for human beings and can set a guard over your thoughts, emotions, and the very beliefs of your heart, to keep out fear and doubt.

Many times fear and doubt plagued my mind about things concerning my life. Yet in the face of unsettling circumstances I had peace that all would work out for me. I discovered I could actually practice the peace I was hoping to find. Here's how I do it.

You can try your own *Peace Drills* right now. The purpose of these drills is to give you firsthand experience with the feelings and thoughts that accompany peace, as compared with the opposite feelings. After you perform each drill be still for a moment, checking for the feeling of peace within you or the lack of it. Then, write down your impressions of those feelings for later study.

Drill #1: Think about something you know, without a doubt, is what you were made to do, such as one of your most obvious gifts.

Drill #2: Think about something you know is absolutely *not* something you are to do, such as stealing or lying.

The following questions will help you evaluate your feelings from Drills 1 and 2 above:

- What does peace (or the absence of it) feel like to you? Be sure to describe your feelings in detail.

- How is your physical state effected by this peace you feel (or the absence of it)—e.g., your posture, muscles, facial expression?
- What do you experience in your heart, or emotions?
- Where do your thoughts take you during this time of peace (or the absence of it)?

I suggest that you perform this drill again and again until you have a strong understanding of what peace, or the lack of it, feels like. Get to know those feelings, for they'll be vital for you in pursuing future certainty in life. Remember, if there is no peace, don't move toward that idea or goal! (At least not immediately – but more on that in a moment.) Always take the time to be sure about peace, for it is that one feeling that transcends your mind, will, and emotions.

Step #3: WISDOM

The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, but a wise man is he who listens to counsel. King Solomon

Success is pretty much guaranteed when you enlist wise counsels. The central word here is *wise*. A wise counselor is someone who you know is already experienced in the area you're asking about. If you need wise counsel in finances, you talk to someone with expertise in money matters. If you need wise counsel in cars, you approach someone experienced in that area. But if you go to the plumber when you need an electrical problem fixed, you may not be receiving the wisest counsel available.

It's mandatory to get wise counsel to confirm anything about which you are needing certainty. Yes, it's time consuming, but it's worth it. Better to take the

time now to be *sure* of yourself than to take the time later to *correct* yourself. Going slow, after all, is a great way to avoid problems.

Another positive of seeking wise counsels is their ability to “plus” your ideas and plans as they add something positive to them. I recently sat with a friend who has become a wise counselor to me in business matters. I shared with him my ideas for marketing some items. He took less than a minute to peruse the papers I handed him, then gave me several more things to do that proved extremely beneficial to me. Never underestimate the deep well of additional plans and ideas that wise counsel can offer. They’ll save you much time, heartache, and probably some money.

I suggest you make a list of the wise counsels you already have and the ones you’d like to have in the future, including all of their contact information. Then let them know they are people you will be seeking counsel from in the future and thank them for being there for you. I like to have at least 3 or more wise counsels for any subject or task.

Step #4:

HAPPENINGS

My wife, Meg, and I were seeking certainty about whether or not to buy a certain house. During our time of seeking, several circumstances fell into place that all pointed toward a direct confirmation to buy the house. One such circumstance was that the owner of the house from whom we were then renting wanted to move back into the house on a certain date. That date was directly in line with the time that we could move into the house we desired to purchase.

Another circumstance was the amount the seller required as a down payment. It was almost the exact amount we had just received from an inheritance. We eventually bought the house.

But please understand that those circumstances, although they were quite convincing, they were *not* the deciding factor in our purchase of that house. We

considered these only as *part* of the confirmation. I don't believe circumstances should ever be used as the only means of direction or certainty. Remember, this is a *system*, not a wish list.

By applying everyday circumstances as your sole means of confirming something, you may find yourself bouncing like a *pinball* from circumstance to circumstance, without ever really reaching your answer, your certainty. Why? **Because a pinball is directed by whatever it bumps into.** Led and guided completely by its circumstances it actually has no direction at all and accomplishes nothing of lasting value.

In order to avoid the pinball trap, you must trust circumstances *only* if they're in line with the other principles of certainty discussed here.

Step #5:

CALENDAR

There is an appointed time for everything. And there is a time for every event under heaven. King Solomon

If ever there was a stumbling block, this is it. I mean, you get a picture in your mind of what you want to do and you confirm it. You know that you know that you *know* it's right! Nothing on this planet could convince you otherwise! So, you obviously presume that *right now* is the time for it all to take place. It just makes sense, doesn't it? You are in certainty, aren't you? Not always.

When the four steps of confirmation listed above are in agreement, you can be pretty sure you have a green light to go for it. But if you launch out before the right time you can still fail. (Ask me how I know!) You must see to it that when you confirm your decision is "yes" or a task is to be done, that you know the specific

timing for the appropriate action. For many, including myself, this point of timing can be the most difficult to embrace. **Our desire often overpowers our patience.** Too many plans have fallen short of their intended mark by either being too early or too late.

Let me illustrate the importance of this step. When my wife and I bought the house I mentioned earlier, it still needed a lot of work to be completely ready to move into. After we moved in, the pressure to complete the work created a great deal of friction between us. It seemed as though we would never get it all done. My wife began to ask such questions as, “*Do you think we heard correctly about this house? Should we really have done this?*” Honest wondering can kill your certainty - and your relationships.

But we purposely thought back through our steps of confirmation and discussed each point. The certainty for buying that home seemed to be crystal clear...until we got to the timing issue. We suddenly realized that we had never even thought about *when* we should make the purchase. Over the next few days

as we looked at all our research, thoughts, and confirmations it was obvious we had been premature.

It was definitely a costly error, to be sure – financially and relationally. We endured not only the pressure of finishing our home mostly by ourselves, but also the distress of not fulfilling other financial commitments on time. This was not the ideal method of learning the lesson of timing, but it was a lesson that we'll never forget and hopefully will never repeat!

A confirmed idea, thought, or plan is settled forever in the heart of the receiver.

So how do you discover the right timing? By using the very system we just learned. The 4 steps before Timing are merely applied to Timing itself. By asking, checking your peace, going to your wise counsels, and looking over the circumstances, you will come to certainty about the timing. Yes, it takes even more time to be certain about timing – but what's the alternative except frustration over being too early or too late. Make the decision that you will engage the

entire 5 Steps on whatever you need certainty for from now on. And never take the easy way out by ignoring the timing.

Final Thoughts

The Five Step System of Certainty we've discussed here can deliver amazing peace in the midst of the storms that can rage against your mind. Knowing that you know that you know brings boldness and confidence. Please learn from the successes and failures I've mentioned here and use these points diligently in all you want to do for yourself and others.

I believe there is a definite purpose and plan for each of our lives. To make sure that we discover that *purpose* and achieve its *destiny* we must have *certainty*. We have to employ these steps in our daily lives, not only for our overall purpose in life but also for anything we wish to accomplish.

Activity:

Create a *Certainty Checklist* by listing those 5 steps to certainty down the left side of a page. Give yourself space enough between each step to write or type in the answers you receive when you apply each step. Take something you want certainty on right now – don't hesitate – and begin the confirming process.

Use this checklist for everything you seek to confirm from now on. When all 5 points agree you will have the confidence only absolute certainty can bring you. But don't get impatient – it takes time to do the entire list. Remember – this may take a few days, weeks, or longer to complete. I've had some items where I was able to confirm all except the timing in a day, then timing took weeks or longer. Don't rush the process.

King Solomon said, "*he who makes haste comes surely to poverty.*" Take your time. Be Absolutely Certain.

ABSOLUTE CERTAINTY

Faith-Based Version

INTRODUCTION

Every fact is to be confirmed by the testimony of two or three witnesses. 2 Corinthians 13:1

Once you begin to recognize the voice of the Lord and begin to understand His language, you must then confirm beyond a shadow of a doubt that what you are receiving is actually His instruction. Your enemy, the devil, will attempt to confuse and distract you. Friends and loved ones might not believe in your dreams. Even your own thoughts, imaginations and ideas can rise up with doubts and fears against you. Therefore, to assist you in attaining the answers to your questions and requests of Him and the potential good it holds for all, the Lord has established in His Word several ways in which we may confirm His leading with certainty.

Before enlisting any of these points of confirmation, your total commitment to the Lord and

His will for your life should be affirmed. You must be confident of a solid relationship with your Heavenly Father. Such a relationship will require much time spent with Him in prayer, Bible study, and fellowship with other committed followers of Jesus, and witnessing to those who have not heard about Christ. By establishing your relationship with the Lord, He can confirm His will to you much easier because you will better know His voice and ways. The more deeply you root that relationship, the more easily you will hear and understand the Holy Spirit's language and receive His leading.

Let me illustrate this. I have three children. When each was born, they were no more aware of me than anyone else. They recognized neither my voice nor the touch of my hand. But as I spent time with them, they heard my voice, felt my touch, and saw my face again and again. Eventually, our relationship was established, [as much as possible with newborns anyway.] When I spoke or simply entered the nursery, they would instantly respond to me, even if others

entered the room with me. As they grew and matured we were able to express our love for each other in two-way conversations. The relationship I now have with my grown children was built upon the foundation of consistent daily contact.

So it is with our heavenly Father. We must take time to build that relationship, for if it has not been properly secured, then clear communication with God will not be ours. Without such clarity, the following points of confirmation will be difficult for us to use. If you are a person who has yet to establish a relationship with the Lord, I suggest that before you proceed with the remainder of this book you make the decision to do so. Only a truly committed believer will adhere to the following points of certainty, for performing these points will require a degree of self-motivation and patience hard to sustain without the Lord's assistance.

PREPARATION

Prepare your work outside and make it ready for yourself in the field; Afterward, then, build your house.

Proverbs 24:27

Having certainty requires knowing exactly what you want to be certain about. What is the problem, the issue, the event, the task, the decision about which you are seeking certainty? Until you decide this the rest of this book will be irrelevant to you.

Once you decide your topic or task you must then perform some form of research to learn everything you can about that topic or task. What is required? Who do you need to know? What do you need to learn? What will it cost in energy, time, or finances? Knowing these few points will give you much more confidence when find your answer to the certainty question, because you are not just getting a yes or no to the question, but

certainty to the entire subject matter that surrounds that item.

If you will do this bit of research *before* seeking certainty, you will uncover most of the possible roadblocks *before* you begin seeking confirmation. Then, as you apply the 7 proven principles in the following pages and you receive your certainty, you will have no further “what if’s” plaguing your mind because you will have taken care of them already. You’ll know exactly what is required. You’ll be *Absolutely Certain*.

Seven Steps To Freedom

Hearing and following the voice of our Lord can be simultaneously the most exciting and nerve frazzling exercise of our Christian lives. The fear of “missing” God on any given instruction can paralyze the strongest disciple. But Jesus did not come to bind those desiring to do His will, but instead He came to free the captives. God has a will specific to you, which He reveals by His Spirit. By utilizing the following points of confirmation, you will be capable of attaining freedom from the binding chains of fear. Rest assured He will dispel all of your doubts when He shows you your *Purpose* and the plans it creates for your *Destiny*.

The following seven steps are to be employed for any or every item you desire to confirm as from the Lord. These are scriptural based and time-tested. No need to wonder about your answers or leadings any longer, just put these seven steps into practice and enjoy the freedom of being absolutely sure the Lord

has spoken to you. I know it sounds too good to be true, but we *are* dealing with the Creator of the universe here, and He *is* an expert at letting His children know His will beyond any and all doubt! I have created a *Confirmation Checklist* for you, which is located in the Appendix of this book. For any and every decision you need to make from now on simply write in the confirmations under the proper heading as they come to you. By using this form and you will be keeping a record of the times God has spoken to you with absolute certainty.

Step 1

PRAYER

*And when you pray, you are not to be as hypocrites; for they love to stand on the street corners in order to be seen by men. Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full. But you, when you pray, go into your inner room and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in secret, and your Father who is in secret will repay you. And when you are praying, **do not use meaningless repetitions**, as the Gentiles do, for they suppose that they will be heard for their **many words**.*

Mathew 6:5-7

Jesus was laying the foundation for personal prayer. He explained that *when* we pray [not if], we should walk into our prayer room and shut the door behind us. We are to be alone with God, no distractions

of TV, phone, or other people. We should speak to the Lord in secret. And if we do this, He will reward us outside the prayer room. One of the ways in which God will reward His children is through a greater ability to hear His voice and live out His instructions.

My time in prayer is often my greatest time of inspiration and the most productive time of communication with the Holy Spirit. It was during such times of communion with God that I began to understand His language and establish an unshakable relationship with my Heavenly Father.

When the Lord reveals to you the answer to a question or request, He will confirm it during such times of prayer. He will communicate to you as to whether or not you have received His will for you by the thoughts in your spirit and mind.

In John 10:27 Jesus made the statement that God's sheep will hear His voice and follow Him. We are His sheep and we will know His voice if we learn to listen for it. This means we must take time during our daily prayer sessions to listen for His words in our

mind and spirit. We should not be rude and monopolize the conversation, but also sit quietly and listen so He may speak His will. He is our Father. If we truly love Him as we say we do, then we must listen so we can then obey. Prayer must become a two-way channel if we are to receive our confirmation clearly.

And be sure to have something handy to write down what He shares with you. You wouldn't go into a highly important meeting with someone about a life changing topic and depend solely on your memory, so don't do so with such a meeting with the Lord. Show him the respect He is due by expecting Him to speak to you and being prepared to record it for your ability to obey at the proper time. And we will discuss timing in a later chapter.

Step 2

PEACE

*But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, **peace**, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.*

Galatians 5:22

We see here that peace is part of the fruit the Holy Spirit will develop in our lives. If God is giving you a vision or dream, which reveals to you His Purpose and Destiny for your life, He will always confirm it with the feeling of peace within you. This is often referred to as the witness of the Holy Spirit. Here's a good way to test this issue of peace.

When you think about the purpose, the vision set before you - when you dwell on it and daydream about the destiny it will create for you - do you have a peaceful feeling inside or is there an uneasy feeling? If what you see is from the Lord there will be peace,

gentleness, without a hint of restlessness mixed in.

*Philippians 4:6-7 - Be **anxious** for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the **peace** of God which surpasses all comprehension, shall **guard** your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*

Also, by praying from a stance of faith - trust and reliance upon the power and goodness of God - you can secure peace beyond the normal limitations of human existence. This deliberate discarding of fear and anxiety on your part due to your total trust in the Lord opens the door to His presence and peace. That peace will actually set a supernatural guard over your thoughts and the emotions and beliefs of your heart, to keep out further fear and doubt. I can attest it to be quite true.

Many have been the times when fear and doubt have plagued my soul over the things God has shown me concerning my destiny in His Kingdom - only to

be chased off decisively by an act of trusting prayer on my part. Then, in the face of circumstances which have not changed - I have peace the Lord will prevail and all will be as He said. My wife used to scold me that I never worried, and she would have to worry for both of us. [I would try to tell her that worry is a sin - but my delivery must have been flawed for it rarely produced the effect I hoped for. Is that a surprise?]

Try these two "Peace Drills" right now. The purpose of these drills is to give you first-hand experience with the feelings and thoughts that accompany the Lord's peace as compared with those which are not found with His peace. With each of these drills you must think about them with this question before your mind, *"Is this Your will for me, Lord?"* Then be still and quiet for a moment and check for the feeling of peace within you after each drill session.

First Drill, think about something you know without a doubt to be God's will, such as going to church or reading your Bible.

Second Drill, think about something you know

is absolutely **not** God's will, such as stealing or lying.

The following questions will help you evaluate your feelings. Writing down your impressions of the feelings and thoughts you had would be a good idea as well.

- What does God's peace, [or the absence of it], feel like?
- How is your physical state effected by this peace [or the absence of it] - your posture, muscles and facial expression for instance?
- What are you experiencing in your heart, your inner man?
- Where do your thoughts take you during this time of peace [or the absence of it]?

I suggest you perform these drills again and again until you have a strong understanding of what God's peace or the lack thereof feels like. Get to know those feelings well, for they will serve you often as you

pursue God's will throughout your life. Remember this point when you are confirming your purpose, your destiny plans, or anything from the Lord:

If there is no peace, do not move toward that goal!

Step 3

The Word of God

Thy word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

Psalm 119:105

All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness.

Second Timothy 3:13

These two verses explain that God's Word is both a light to assist in our search and fulfillment of direction, and a tool to train us in the areas needed to accomplish our goals. Our Father in heaven not only desires to illuminate our path, but He wants to equip us for the journey as well. His Word is more than able to handle both tasks. Please understand that the purpose God gives you will never contradict the Bible, but will always be in line with it. There are three methods the Father may utilize to confirm His will to

you through His Word.

1. Illumination. You may be reading the Bible one-day when a verse will seem to leap off the page at you. It will almost stand up on the page. You won't be able to leave that verse and may read it over and over again. This is one avenue God may use to confirm His plans, vision, thoughts, or ideas to you. When a verse seems to jump out at you in this way and is in line with what you feel you have received from the Lord, it will be a point of positive confirmation for you.

2. Repetition . This is a common means used by the Holy Spirit to confirm certain items to believers through His Word. Several times in one day or over a period of time the exact same Bible verse pertaining to what you are seeking Him about may come across your path. It may be spoken by a friend, read in a book, heard on the radio, or found in the Bible itself during daily reading. Such constant occurrence of the same scripture many times is the Lord confirming to us that we actually have heard from Him in a precise manner.

Here's an example. Meg and I were living in Fort Collins, Colorado when the Lord told *me* to move to Tampa, Florida and begin Circus Alleluia Ministries. I had no doubt I had heard from the Lord, but I knew Meg would have a hard time with it. I had dragged her around the country before - chasing my dreams of stardom - and I refused to do it again. So, I told Meg what I believed the Lord had said to me and also that unless He confirmed it to her we would not go. She agreed to fast and pray with me for three days about the matter.

Part way through the *first* day she came to me and said she had her answer. I was sure she was merely hearing her own mind say, "NO!" to the move and began to barrage her with reasons why we had to go the full three days before coming to a conclusion. She finally stopped me in mid-sentence to say she knew we were to go! I was stunned and speechless - a rare moment for me - which she took advantage of to tell me how God had shown her. Three times that morning the Lord had brought the scripture to her concerning

wives submitting to their husbands from three separate sources - her daily devotional reading, a Christian radio program and a ministry newsletter which came that day in the mail. The rest is history.

C. References. Another way the Lord may use His Word to confirm a thought or idea is by the Holy Spirit dropping Scripture references into you mind. Many times a I have prayed over certain ideas I felt were God, several references have entered my mind in rapid succession. Whenever this happens, I write them down and immediately look them up. Quite often these verses point toward or away from my idea, depending on whether or not God is the author of that idea. [Remember, He can give scriptures to confirm your idea or vision is **not** His will.] One thing you can be sure of is that if a thought, idea, vision, or plan is from the Lord, He will *always* confirm it by His Word.

Step 4

WISE COUNSELS

The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, but the wise man is he who listens to counsel. Proverbs 12:15

Through presumption comes nothing but strife, but with those who receive counsel is wisdom.

Proverbs 13:10

Success is guaranteed when you enlist wise counsel. The key word here is wise. Someone who is a wise counselor is a person experienced in the area you are discussing with him. If you need wise counsel in the financial arena, you talk to someone with expertise in money matters. If you need wise counsel in automobiles, you should approach someone experienced in that area. But if you have been going to the plumber when you about how to fix your car, you

may not be getting the wisest counsel available.

The finest counsel of all is the counsel of the Lord. The book of Proverbs states that it is His counsel which will stand long term. This being true, it is always best to seek Godly people for wise counsel. Such counselors could be pastors and elders of your local body to which you are committed. These men and women are specifically anointed by God to help direct your Christian life. Their knowledge of your personal life will be a valuable resource during such seeking times. However, they may not always be the most experienced on the specific areas for which you are seeking counsel. I have been blessed to be in Christian leadership for many years, but I would not consider myself a wise counsel in such areas as aeronautics or mathematics. I could pray for you and ask for some Divine words of wisdom - but I would find few of my own in my memory banks.

Concerning a plan or vision God has planted within your heart, always seek Godly people who have experience in the area of *that* plan or vision. You can

be assured based on these scriptures, that the Lord will share much confirmation with you through Godly, wise counsel. It is mandatory to get **wise counsel** to confirm what you receive from the Lord. Yes, it is time consuming, but worth it. Better to take the time now to be sure of yourself, than to take the time later to correct yourself. Going slow, after all, is a great way to avoid creating problem situations. Let me give you **an example** of listening to wise counsel and the need for slowing down.

While apprenticing in the very early years of my ministry I had offered my services to my Pastor and mentor - Dale Brooks - for anything needing to be done around the church. The church was built in rural Florida, surrounded by orange groves which were mostly dead and highly overgrown with weeds. One day Dale borrowed a large tractor with a mowing attachment called a brush hog. He showed me how to work the controls and asked me to mow in between the rows of trees on the back side of the property. I was glad to. The last thing he said to me as he climbed into

his car to go run some errands was, "Greenman, don't go too fast, keep it in the lower gears." I obliged...for a while. But being young and always in too much of a hurry, I decided I could up the gear and get done faster. I tried it and it seemed pretty easy to handle. In fact, it was so easy I decide to put it into high gear. Big mistake!

As I literally raced between the rows of trees I suddenly heard a loud thudding and the tractor shook as I ran over something large hidden in the brush. I turned my head to see what had caused this noise and as I did I unknowingly turned the wheel. When I turned my head forward again, I was aiming the tractor straight into the trunk of a large dead orange tree! I whipped the wheel hard to the right but the wheels were caught in the sandy soil and the powerful brush hog drove me full speed into the old fellow. Bark and tractor went everywhere. The engine died a sputtering, but instant death. I sat dumbfounded amidst the steam spewing skyward from the broken radiator. I had totaled the tractor, the tree, and Dale's confidence in

my ability to follow his sage wisdom.

When Dale, returned just moments after the disaster, matters turned for the worse. Dale's brother CL had come back with him and as he stood there assessing the damage a hellish host of red fire ants ran up his legs and began to bite him unmercifully. Needless to say, I made no points for the virtues of speed that day. Moral - if you are given wise counsel - take it and don't run, but walk slowly with it.

Another glory of the words of the wise is their ability to add more substance to your ideas and plans. It is wonderful to me that in just a few seconds of having been asked for their advice about something, how quickly they can "plus" it. I recently sat with a friend who has become a wise counsel to me in business matters and shared with him my ideas for marketing some items. He took less than a minute to peruse the papers I handed him and then gave me several more items which have proved extremely beneficial to my efforts. Never underestimate the deep well of additional plans and ideas the wise counsel can

afford you. And if you are not in the beneficial habit of seeking such counsel - begin immediately! You will earn a mountain of great advice which will save you much time and money.

Step 5

CIRCUMSTANCES

The Lord can manipulate and control natural circumstances to confirm His Word - His revelation to you. Through everyday happenings in your life, the Lord can create crystal clear direction toward or away from your vision. Many Christians often refer to the cliché, "*The Lord seemed to open the door,*" when referring to guidance on a certain item. This *is* a Bible based idiom, yet a dangerous one if given total obedience without seeking and receiving any of the other means of confirmation as well.

The reference to "opened" or "closed" doors comes from the apostle Paul's mention of it in *1 Corinthians 16:8-9*: "*But I shall remain in Ephesus until Pentecost; for a wide door for effective service has opened to me, and there are many adversaries.*" Obviously certain circumstances directed that

evangelism was in season in Ephesus, and Paul meant to harvest some souls. But to think that Paul was acting solely on such circumstantial evidence would be ignorant on our part. The apostle had many years of missionary work under his belt and was well versed in the guidance of God's Spirit. In fact, in this same letter he teaches on the supernatural gifts of the Lord and the Master Plan He has for the church - each member specifically placed in His body. Paul did not base his actions on open doors alone, and neither should we.

Let me share a personal example with you. My wife, Meg, and I were seeking a confirmation whether or not to buy a certain house. During our time of seeking that confirmation, several key circumstances fell into place that pointed toward a direct confirmation of the word we felt God was giving us - which was to purchase the house. One such circumstance was that the owner of the house we were then renting wanted to move back onto the house on a certain date. That date was directly in line with the time we could move into the house we desired to

purchase. Another circumstance was the amount the seller required as a down payment. It was almost the exact amount we had just received from an inheritance. We eventually bought the house.

Pinball Problems

These unique circumstances, although quite convincing, were not the deciding factor in buying that house. We considered these as only part of the confirmation we sought. Circumstances should never be employed as the only means of direction or confirmation. By applying circumstances as your sole means of confirming a word from the Lord, you may find yourself like a *pinball* bouncing from circumstance to circumstance, but never really attaining the goal the Father has set before you. A pinball is directed by whatever it encounters. Led and guided completely by its circumstances, it actually has no direction at all and accomplishes nothing of lasting value. Many Christians operate in such a haphazard way, devoid of divine guidance. In order to avoid that

pinball trap, trust circumstances *only* in conjunction with the other points of confirmation discussed here.

Step 6

SUPERNATURAL

God uses the supernatural. He will use open visions and He will use dreams. He will appear to people or have His angels appear to them. God can speak in an audible voice from the clouds or out of a burning bush. He can speak through prophecies, animals, and storms. Our heavenly Father can cause the oceans to part and trees to wither. He is a supernatural being.

As an assistant pastor and elder in two separate churches of several thousand members, and as a travelling teacher/evangelist, I have been both thrilled and shocked by the use and abuse of the gift of prophecy. Many wonderful words of direction have been given by God through anointed saints, and much good has been done. I have marveled at the utterances of young and old alike. But many times I have sat

heartbroken in counseling sessions as I listened to the tears of those destroyed by a "personal" prophecy. They followed the prophecy to the letter, only to be blown out of the water by an enemy torpedo in the spirit when it did not manifest the goods as promised. By taking "a word" from a well-meaning brother or sister, they ran headlong into the snare of the devil. No prophecy should ever be taken or lived out without the guidance and confirmation of spiritually mature leadership and the additional confirmation points in this book being in line.

First Corinthians 14:29 admonishes us to judge prophecies. Taking a "prophecy" unchecked can prove disastrous, but one tested and approved by Godly leadership will prove prosperous. Be alert as to the spiritual maturity of the one prophesying, as well. Although any believer can be used of the Lord to share a word of prophecy, it is a good and safe rule to consider the source. Seek Godly confirmation on supernatural utterances every time and avoid costly missteps.

Again and again throughout the Bible God used supernatural happenings to lead, guide and confirm His word and will to His people. He can and may do so with you. However, I caution you again - do not use supernatural happenings as a sole means of confirming the plans and ideas God may impart to you.

First, because the Bible states that Satan himself can appear as an "angel of light." Many brethren have been deceived in this way. [see 2 Corinthians 11:14; and 4:4]

Second, such happenings are rare when compared to the total time span of Biblical history. Thousands of years have recorded only hundreds of occurrences among millions of believers. I believe we will see dramatic increase in such events as the time of Christ's return draws closer, but even now they are the exception and not the rule. Always make sure supernatural manifestations are not your only means of confirming the word you feel God has spoken to you.

Step 7

TIMING

There is an appointed time for everything. There is a time for every event under Heaven. Ecclesiastes 3:1

If there ever was a stumbling block of galactic proportions this is it. Yes, you get a vision from God and He confirms it and you know, that you know, that you know, that you KNOW it's right! Wild horses and a marching band couldn't move you from your position of knowing! So, you naturally think the time is *now* for it all to take place. WRONG!!

When all six of the above points are in agreement you can be sure God has spoken to you and confirmed the word that He has revealed to your heart. But if you launch out *before* His perfect time dictates, you can fail miserably. You must see to it, when you confirm your goal, that you continue to seek Him

concerning the correct moment for stepping out and acting on that goal.

Remember, it is the Holy Spirit's duty to lead you and guide you in all truth. All truth includes God's exact timing. He will reveal it to you, and again it will come through His language of visions, dreams, thoughts, and ideas. For many, including myself, this point can be the most difficult to wait for the Lord to reveal. Our zeal often overpowers our patience. Too many plans have fallen short of the mark due to either haste or tardiness. God has a perfect time for your destiny. Find it and follow it.

Let me illustrate the importance of this seventh point. When my wife and I bought the house I mentioned earlier, we had much work to finish on it. After we moved in, the pressure to complete the work created a good deal of friction between us. It seemed as though we would never get it all done. My wife began to ask such questions as, "*Do you think we heard from God on this house? Should we have done this?*" Honest wondering can kill your faith.

But immediately we thought back to the steps of confirmation and discussed each point. The confirmation of buying the home seemed crystal clear...until we got to the timing issue. We suddenly realized that we had never sought the Lord about **when** we should make the purchase. As we did seek Him on this point over the next few days, He revealed that we had been premature. He had wanted us to give a portion of our inheritance money toward our pledge to some church related work. By giving to the Lord's work first, we would not have had enough for our down payment on the house. The time needed for God to bring in the balance of the down payment would have allowed the builder to complete the house and we never would have experienced the anxiety of doing the work ourselves.

It was a costly error, to be sure. Not only did we endure the pressure of finishing our home but also the distress of not paying off our commitment to the church fund on time. This was not the ideal method of learning the lesson of God's timing, but it was one we

will never forget and hopefully never repeat!

A confirmed word from God is settled forever in the heart of the receiver.

The seven steps of certainty we have discussed in this chapter can deliver commanding peace in the midst of the storms, which may rage against us. Knowing beyond a shadow of a doubt that the Lord has spoken His perfect will to you brings a bold confidence to the heart. I pray you will learn from our success and failures mentioned here and utilize these points diligently and often in your quest to find and live your Purpose.

Fleeces and Lots

I wish to share two more points with you concerning guidance and confirmation of the Purpose God puts in your heart. These ideas concern "putting out a fleece" and "drawing lots." I mention these two confirmation steps with great caution, for even though

both are Biblical and often times effective, they can be extremely dangerous if used alone.

In Judges chapters six and seven we read about Gideon who used a fleece - a sheepskin - to test God concerning a certain vision he had received. To make sure the Lord had spoken to him, Gideon laid the fleece on the ground one night and asked God to make the dew settle only on the fleece and not on the ground around it. The Lord did as Gideon requested. The next night Gideon tested the Lord again, asking Him to have the dew rest only on the ground and leave the fleece completely dry. God also granted this request. Gideon took these supernatural occurrences as a sign that he had received orders from the Lord and acting upon that confirmation, he led Israel to victory in battle.

Drawing lots is found in Acts chapter one where it was utilized to choose the apostle who would replace Judas Iscariot. The use of this method was probably based on Proverbs 16:33 which states; *"The lot is cast into the lap, but its every decision is from the Lord."*

The apostles prayed and asked the Lord to direct the drawing of the lots. When the lots were drawn, Mathias received the apostleship.

As I mentioned, both points of confirmation are Biblically based and were effective in their use. Both are dangerous, however, because they deal with supernatural happenings. By employing these types of confirmations you are asking the Lord to intervene supernaturally into your circumstances. This is an inferior form of guidance. You must remember that Satan can manipulate natural circumstances also.

I once heard a story of a woman who put out a fleece to the Lord after hearing about Gideon's venture. She was not born again but had been receiving many petitions from Christians to receive Christ as her Savior. She presented the fleece by stating she would accept the religion of the next person who came to her door. The next person of any religious caliber who came to her home was from an anti-Christian cult! She kept her word and plunged headlong into deception. She had used a Biblical principle, but because she was

dealing solely with natural circumstances to make her decision, she fell for the lie instead of searching diligently for the truth.

As we study Gideon in Judges chapter six, we see that he had a *weak* relationship with God when he put forth his fleece. In fact, in verse thirteen he even questioned whether God had His hand on Israel at all, let alone on Gideon. This explains why the Lord honored the requests of Gideon as He did. Because there was little communication taking place between Gideon and the Lord, God had few other options open to Him. Gideon is *not* the model of daily communication with the Father that he has been made out to be and we should *not* be following or teaching his example alone.

I don't ask my wife every morning to give me a sign that she is still my wife or that she will have supper ready when I come home from work. I know my wife. We communicate. We do not rely on signs and wonders to trust one another because we have developed our relationship. When we first began

dating we used romantic niceties to impress upon each other with the love we shared. Even though such signs and wonders are still in play in our lives, they are no longer necessary to convince each other of our feelings. Our relationship with Father God should be just as good, and in fact, even better!

We can also see in the book of Acts the real reason the apostles picked the new apostle by drawing straws. Because they had not yet established their spiritual relationship with the Holy Spirit as their guide. They had been trained by Jesus who was now no longer with them, forcing them to use the only reliable means of communication and confirmation they knew. They required natural means to confirm the word of God - casting lots as was taught in the Old Testament - the only written word of God available to them.

But years later, in Acts 13, the story was quite different. By this time the disciples had learned the new art of being led and guided by the Holy Spirit through thoughts, ideas, visions, and prophecies. They

expected the Lord to speak to them in their inner man. When Paul and Barnabas were called out by the Holy Spirit - probably through a prophecy - during a gathering of prophets and teachers, there is no mention of lots being cast or fleeces laid on the ground overnight. Instead, the word of the Lord came through men yielded to His Spirit as they were ministering to Him. Their relationship with the Lord had grown to the point that they could hear Him from within. Even after they had received the word, they took more time to pray and be sure the word was confirmed to all. Only then were the two missionaries sent out. Our relationship with the Almighty should ever be marching toward that goal.

I caution you: don't "get fleeced" or end up with the "short end of the stick" but using uncertain guidance systems. Never use these two items as the sole means of confirmation. I advise you to grow in your relationship with the Lord to the extent that you do not need such natural means to confirm His word to you, but that you can trust the conviction and

guidance of the Holy Spirit within you.

Final Thoughts

We have a Father who loves us dearly. He has definite purpose and plans for our lives. To make sure we discover that purpose and achieve those plans, with the element of doubt removed, He devised the points of confirmation we have discussed in this chapter. As we strive to utilize these points, they will become a strength and bulwark in our daily lives, not only for our specific plans, but for any instruction we feel the Holy Spirit is sharing with us. And once we have confirmed the will of God, we must then take the next step. We take ownership with *Absolute Certainty*.

APPENDIX

CONFIRMATION CHECKLIST

Utilize this list whenever you are making a decision of importance.
When all seven steps point in the same direction you know the Lord has confirmed His will in the matter.

-
- subject
1. Prayer
 2. Peace
 3. God's Word
 4. Wise Counsel
 5. Circumstances
 6. Supernatural
 7. Timing

About Dr. Bill Greenman

Since the mid-1970's, Dr. William "Bill" Greenman has been helping people discover their purpose and live their dreams in many different ways. He's been a living example of what he teaches as a counselor, pastor, teacher, conference speaker, author, illusionist, trapeze artist, circus owner, corporate executive, and entrepreneur. His vision for helping others has taken him, personally, to 5 continents and 20 nations. His books and training materials have circled the globe and continue to serve believers in many countries.

It's Bill's love of teaching people how to better themselves that motivates him most. Helping others discover who they are and then how to grow into all they can be—including their physical, mental, social, and spiritual health—is his daily inspiration.

Bill was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Divinity from Life Christian University in 2000 for his life's body of work and earned his Ph.D. in Practical Theology from that same institution in 2001. He also has degrees in Speech Communications, Biblical Studies, and Pastoral Ministry.

Bill has been married to his beautiful wife, Meg (who he met in the circus!), since 1975. They have 3 grown children and has 5 growing grandchildren. Bill

believes unequivocally that his family, after Jesus, is his deepest love and greatest responsibility.