

# GUIDANCE PART 1

July 23, 2017 | Pastor Randy Remington

This will be a two-part study on how God leads us in our lives. It is one of the most asked questions to Pastors and leaders. We all want to be in God's will, we want our hearts to be settled knowing we're doing what God wants us to be doing, where he wants it done.

Maybe you have experienced this anxiety or uncertainty, crying out; "what is God's will for my life"? This can be exhausting, making many decisions, especially making the big weighty decisions that have long term consequences, and in the middle of this stressful process, not wanting to miss God's will.

We will see that there are two important things we need in this process; wisdom (from God) and faith. These are not mutually exclusive, they actually work together.

Some people on this journey of discovering God's will, will always look for a sign. This can actually show spiritual immaturity; we can be so "mystical" we can miss it all together. Others just "go with their gut" on instincts alone.

So as we begin this study we will see there is something deeper that God is doing in this process.

We will look at several scriptures in Proverbs, the author being King Solomon. This young king was probably 17-18 years old when he took his Father David's throne. When God offered him whatever he wanted, he asked God for wisdom. Unfortunately, Solomon would end up leaning on and depending on that wisdom as opposed to God.

His father David wanted God, in the end Solomon wanted God's wisdom. Here is a quote that will become important to understand this important subject:

## **"Submission to God proceeds direction from God"**

*"To humans belong the plans of the heart, but from the Lord comes the proper answer of the tongue. All a person's ways seem pure to them, but motives are weighed by the Lord. Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and he will establish your plans. 4 The Lord works out everything to its proper end—even the wicked for a day of disaster... In their hearts humans plan their course, but the Lord establishes their steps. (Proverbs 16:1-4, 9)*

We can plan our lives, but in the end God is directing and guiding our steps. This doesn't mean we that we shrink from our responsibilities, but he is in the middle of this process showing us his plans.

In this proverb, we see a very active God that see's the heart and is very involved in this process. If his participation affects even the wicked, how much more the righteous?

## **1. THERE IS A LIMIT TO OUR UNDERSTANDING (HUMANLY SPEAKING)**

Yes, we plan and consider, but it is God who gives guidance. "We can make our plans, but the Lord determines our steps". He will guide our steps, but we must submit to him.

Have you ever made plans that include suffering, loss, detours? But as we submit to him many times we walk through these things. This is not because God is mean or wants us to suffer, but here is something that is built in our character during these times that can't be replaced or duplicated any other way! Listen to Romans 5:

*"We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance. And endurance develops strength of character, and character strengthens our confident hope of salvation. And this hope will not lead to disappointment. For we know how dearly God loves us, because he has given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with his love." (Romans 5:3-5 NLT)*

God is teaching and working in us endurance and perseverance and other strong traits This scripture tells us that we will face trials, but also it also assures us that he will build character in us as a result.

Our confidence in this is that he loves us with a love we can't even comprehend. Because he has given us the Holy Spirit. **"to fill our hearts with his love."**

Pastor Randy referred to a study involving children that were raised without love being present. They learned that a portion of their brain did not develop properly as a result of that missing love. If you want to perform at your highest level, you need to know you are loved.

Everything in our world will scream at us that we earn love (even God's love) by our "performance". On the contrary, we can be assured and certain that he will guide you because he loves you! He says "I will never leave or forsake you", he will never abandon us along the way.

### **"God doesn't control us, but he leads us and sometimes we'll experience difficult things along the way"**

We must be careful of a "Christian paganism", meaning constantly looking for signs or a "word" through someone else. God will guide us and as we follow him by faith, at times God will confirm his path and purpose through others.

***"The integrity of the upright guides them, but the unfaithful are destroyed by their duplicity."  
(Proverbs 11:3)***

As character is formed in us we begin to walk confidently in God's will and purpose, not; "somebody tell me what to do".

***"The plans of the righteous are just, but the advice of the wicked is deceitful."  
(Proverbs 12:5)***

***"Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and he will establish your plans."  
(Proverbs 16:3)***

***"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; 6 in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight."  
(Proverbs 3:5-6)***

## **2. IN THE N.T. WE ARE TAUGHT TO SEEK GOD'S KINGDOM AND TO DO HIS WILL.**

### **"Direction determines destination, not intention"**

Our intentions can be good, but if we're heading the wrong way we will get lost.

He makes our paths straight as we don't lean on our own understanding. Solomon leaned on his own wisdom and understanding, this at the heart is a submission issue...it always proceeds direction.

***"Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and he will establish your plans."  
(Proverbs 16:3)***

## **3. COMMIT = ROLL**

***"Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you."  
(1 Peter 5:7)***

The idea here is to roll it over unto God. We get the opportunity to commit those things to the Lord and again as in Romans 5, it is because he loves and cares for us.

## HERE'S THE BOTTOM LINE:

- He has already visited your future, he knows his purpose and will for each of us.
- We ask for wisdom from God and then have faith in his ability to guide us. We never trust in our own wisdom, but we submit to God and he will give us direction.
- His path for us may contain trials and tribulations. We know that God doesn't control us, but he leads us and sometimes we'll experience difficult things along the way. But these trials, allow character to be formed in us.
- This isn't about our intentions, as good as they are, we can end up lost. This is about God's direction that will get us to the destination.
- Once we've decided to walk in faith in him and submit ourselves to him we can "roll" all that anxiety to God, because he loves and cares for us!

## Discussion Questions

1. Maybe the subject of God's will for you has become a burden, confusion or 100 other feelings. Share with your group as you look back what you have felt and experienced concerning God's guidance in your life.
2. We saw that there were two important things we need in this process; wisdom (from God) and faith. We learned that these are not mutually exclusive, in fact they actually work together. When you think of God's will and guidance, how do you see wisdom from God and faith working together?
3. On page one of your notes, we talked about a young king named Solomon. We saw how God would have offered him anything he wanted and he correctly asked for wisdom. Sadly, later in his life he would begin to depend on that wisdom instead of submitting to God. So please discuss this statement; "Submission to God proceeds direction from God".
4. As we take another look at our first point starting on page 2, we realize as we ask for wisdom and walk in faith, submitting to God that; "We can make our plans, but the Lord determines our steps" We would never plan to go through difficult trials and tribulations, but many times, even though he is guiding us, we find ourselves in the middle of difficult situations. Please discuss this statement that I believe will help us understand this important truth; "God doesn't control us, but he leads us and sometimes we'll experience difficult things along the way" (Romans 5:3-5)
5. I must admit that I hadn't considered our next point. "Direction determines destination, not intention" Pastor Randy used an illustration, that no matter how good your intentions, if you're trying to get to Seattle and get on southbound I-5, you're going the wrong way. Talk about people's good intentions versus God's direction to our destination.
6. Lastly, take another look at I Peter 5:7 and consider together that we are invited to "roll" or commit our anxiety, our fears, our uncertainty to him. Have you experienced this yourself? If so, then share this with the rest of the group. If not, discuss a practical way to roll these his way. Notice that just like Roman's, we're able to do this because of his love and care for us.