

GUIDANCE: KNOWING GOD'S WILL PART 3

August 4, 2017 | Pastor Keith Jenkins

This lesson will be part 3 of our study into God's guidance and how we know God's will. In this lesson Pastor Keith will lead us through some very practical scriptural insights in relation to both our personal time with God and within the body of Christ.

As we dive into our last part of this study, I hope you can appreciate how amazing it is that we have a God who wants to bless, lead and guide us. There is no one like him, no one beside, no rivals and no one above him. No matter what you have experienced or are experiencing currently, he wants to guide you, he wants you to fully experience his plan for your life. As we learned last week, there is no sin or bad decisions, or anything from the enemy of our souls, that will stop his purpose for us if we just surrender to him!

We will see in this lesson, that we need to stop always looking for a "burning bush" experience. We can forfeit things when we are always looking elsewhere for guidance. At times we may have an experiences like this, but the most informative resource we have available to us is his word!

So as we begin this lesson, we need to ask ourselves:
How do I receive guidance, direction and instruction from him?
How do I know I heard God....?

Key: The vast majority of God's will for our lives is ALREADY REVEALED in the scriptures...read it, memorize it, live it... and you will find yourself in the will of God.

First let's deal with our positioning: Pastor Keith illustrated this from his time in the Marines when he led his platoon on patrol in the jungle and in the wee hours of the morning they lost radio contact. He didn't realize until morning that they had moved behind a mountain. Although, there was a transmission being sent.... **They were not in POSITION** to receive the transmission. We are certain that the Lord is always speaking and desiring to direct the lives of HIS CHILDREN (much like, we seek to speak into our children's lives.) So let's see how we can better position ourselves to hear and receive from God.

POSITIONED TO RECEIVE:

- We must withdraw & get alone with God (remember God wants to meet us)

Luke 5:16 "So He Himself often (as was his habit) withdrew into the wilderness and prayed".

We are all in different seasons of our lives, many of those seasons are very busy. Nevertheless, we must find time to be alone with God. The busyness of our lives are like waves that crash on the shore and when they recede they take a little with it. Time with the Lord refreshes and restores our souls and restores that which was taken.

- I must eliminate distraction (cares of this life, busyness) (the noise of life)

Mark 4:18-19 "Now these are the ones sown among thorns; they are the ones who hear the word, 19 and the cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things entering in choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful".

When you make a decision to make time to be with God, guaranteed the enemy and circumstances will fight you. The phone will ring; things will come up that will challenge that decision. We need to be connected to the vine, that is where our nourishment and life is.

Notice how Mark would describe the busyness and cares and riches of this world; "choke out the word". The effectiveness of his word in our lives is choked out, we must work toward eliminating distractions.

- I must intentionally set aside time to call to & listen to God

Jeremiah 33:3 'Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know.'

Psalms 62:5 "My soul, wait silently for God alone, For my expectation is from Him".

Luke 10:41-42 "And Jesus answered and said to her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things. 42 But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her."

Pastor Keith didn't dictate a specific time to spend and listen to God. But allow it to be quality time, not just us talking the entire time, but allow time for God to speak and an opportunity for us to listen.

- I must write down what I hear (think I hear) (a written record/journal)

Habakkuk 2:2 "Then the Lord answered me and said: "Write the vision And make it plain on tablets, That, he may run who reads it".

Okay let's think about this, the God of the universe is speaking to you, why wouldn't we take some notes?

Write what you say and what HE says, this will aid you as you test what you heard. Also, many times when God speaks it doesn't happen instantaneously; so it helps to have a record of what he said for later.

- I must offer thanksgiving...Thank God for speaking to me

PKS GRID: HOW DO I KNOW IF GOD IS SPEAKING/GUIDING/LEADING ME?

1. IF GOD IS SPEAKING/GUIDING ME, IT SHOULD AGREE WITH SCRIPTURE!

Luke 21:33 "Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away".

- You will never get a revelation that contradicts, violates or supersedes the scriptures
- You aren't the exception where God compromises his word!
- You will recognize the counterfeit because you know the Word

2. IF GOD IS SPEAKING/GUIDING ME, IT SHOULD MAKE ME MORE LIKE JESUS!

Galatians 4:19 "My little children, for whom I labor in birth again until Christ is formed in you"

If he is really leading and guiding me, then I will look more like Jesus, more Christ like.

3. IF GOD IS SPEAKING/GUIDING ME, MY CHURCH FAMILY/SPIRITUAL LEADERS SHOULD CONFIRM IT!

Proverbs 11:14 "Where there is no counsel, the people fail; but in the multitude of counselors there is safety".

Proverbs 24:6 "For by wise counsel you will wage your own war, And in a multitude of counselors there is safety".

Note: If you draw away/resist having your ideas tested by others...BEWARE of deception

Note: If you get a revelation that no other Christian can confirm...IT'S NOT GOD!

Two biggest reasons people miss the will of God for their lives:

- They have no godly friends to confer with or they live isolated from the community of faith
- They refuse to listen to wise counsel

4. IF GOD IS SPEAKING/GUIDING ME, IT OUGHT TO HAVE THE FRUIT OF HIS SPIRIT (GAL 5:22)

Love, Goodness, Joy, Faithfulness, Peace, Gentleness, Long-suffering, Self-Control, Kindness

James 3:17-18 But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere.

5. IF GOD IS SPEAKING/GUIDING ME, WORRY IS REPLACED BY PEACE

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; 7 and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

God's peace will act like a century, the most powerful guard you can imagine over your hearts and minds.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Before we get to heart of our study think about the God we serve. As mentioned in our introduction on page 1, I hope you can appreciate how amazing it is that we have a God who wants to bless, lead and guide us. There is truly no one like him, but you have to believe this. It is the starting point, that he cares for you and wants to guide you in every part of your life. Take a moment to share and discuss where you are currently at with this, don't be fearful to share if you have had/have a confusing or negative experience trying to follow God. Your group is a safe place to share, be cared for and learn how to allow God to lead you!
2. Pastor Keith pointed out that some, especially in Pentecostal circles, constantly look for "burning bush" type experiences as opposed to his word. This is a big issue that will develop as we move through our study, but please discuss this quote: "The vast majority of God's will for our lives is ALREADY REVEALED in the scriptures...read it, memorize it, live it...and you will find yourself in the will of God".
3. Next we were challenged to be in a position to hear and receive from God. Pastor Keith gave us 5 points to better position ourselves to hear and receive from God. Please take a look at all five; if time allows discuss these points.
4. Look at the five points under the "Grid" category, "If God is speaking and guiding..." Along with the accompanying scriptures, please take time to look at all 5 of these important instructions.
5. I know that you being committed to a life group is evidence you know the importance of gathering with God's people. Pastor Keith added some thoughts between point 3 and 4 that I thought was crucial. Please look below and discuss this important area:

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