

Today our subject is **Divine Guidance**.

We will see some very clear truths from Psalm 25 about guidance.

Read Psalms 25:1-22

We see at least 6 points

1. We surrender ourselves totally and completely to the Lord. **To You, O Jehovah, I lift up my soul.** He is drawing near to God with a true heart a sincere heart, a heart full of affection. David declares Oh my God I will trust you I'm fully confident in your leading. I have no confidence in my decisions, no confidence in man. Do not let me be ashamed, Hope that is in God is never ashamed. Romans 5:5 And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.
2. **We clear out and put off all preconceived ideas, wrong desires and wrong motives.** Look how David remembers his weaknesses, being very aware of his past failings, and praying, 'Remember not the sins of my youth,' and, 'Let me not be ashamed' Just like David we too have weaknesses and spiritual enemies within our hearts, foolish desires, foolish ambitions. Sometimes these wants are so strong. How can we truly hear Gods will unless we recognise these desires let them go? We are not going to hear Gods will if we have already made up our minds. George muller in his points on knowing the will of God puts it like this :- **I seek at the beginning to get my heart into such a state that it has no will of its own in regard to a given matter.** Nine-tenths of the trouble with people generally is just here. Nine-tenths of the difficulties are overcome when our hearts are ready to do the Lord's will, whatever that may be. When one is truly in this state, it is usually but a little way to the knowledge of what His will is.
3. **Looking to Scripture is a way we know Gods will.** By consulting the TRUTH. . . We see 3 principles in V 22 23 24

V22 - Do we provoke the Lord to jealousy? — by dividing our fellowship between Him and idols (the World). Many of the Corinthians made light of attending and partaking of the heathen feasts, they thought it would do no harm, but the apostle warns them beware. God cannot endure a rival in matter of worship; nor give his glory, nor suffer it to be given, to another.

Will the direction I want to go cause me to partake of both tables? Will it demand I compromise my Christian belief?

V23- All things are lawful for me, **but all things are not expedient; all things are lawful for me, but all things edify not.**

All things are in my power to do, but not all things are profitable some things lead to slavery. I ask myself is it expedient, (beneficial, appropriate) is it helpful, to the welfare of others, will it cause a weaker brother to stumble. It is a mark of maturity when we balance our freedom with responsibility.

A basic Christian principle is LOVE: Let no one seek his own interest or benefit, but rather that of the other, of his neighbor, of his Christian brother. To make one's own enjoyment, one's own rights, one's own liberty the only consideration, regardless of the good of others, is selfishness, a violation of the great law of love.

We are responsible to build others up in the faith and to seek their advantage. Philippians 2:1-4 gives the same exhortation. While we do have freedom in Christ, we are not free to harm another believer.

24. Let no man seek his own, but every man another's *wealth*. *"Wealth" was not in the original text it was added by the translators. In those days of the translation the word wealth meant the welfare of others.* – let every man put the welfare, the well-being of others first. Romans 14:19 *Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another.* Philippians 2:3 *Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.* 4 *Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others.* It is not just I myself for whom things should be expedient, or should edify, but others also. I must consider the effect of what I do on other people.

4. **Weighing up matters using your understanding.** not only by studying the principles of the Word which apply to our case, but also by being helped to arrive at a sound judgement as they use their minds to weigh the situation. As we pray and ask for Gods wisdom and help, He sharpens our mind and grants greater understanding that we are able to weigh the pros and cons.
5. **Gods overruling.** Think of the Apostle Paul, Trained and studied under the great Gamaliel in all the Jewish Law. Highly qualified to speak to the Jews. But God overruled and sent Him to the gentiles. Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God. Gods will was different to what He may have thought. God often uses overruling's to lead us in ways we would have never considered ourselves. 'What man is he that feareth the Lord? him shall he teach [**point or direct**] in the way that he shall choose.' Here is the intervening direction of the Lord, his overruling, seen so often in the life of David, and also in the life of Paul. We don't just rush to this stage and overlook all the other stages. We are as diligent as possible and if

we are as careful and sincere as we know how. Then if we have made a wrong decision, it's a comfort to know the Lord can overrule.

6. **Peace or unease.** Psalm 25, David says of the person who is taught the way of God's choosing that '**his soul shall dwell at ease.**' For generations God's people have valued an inner peace confirming a right course, or, by contrast, they have been cautioned by a burden of unease and uncertainty as a possible warning against a wrong one.

The Bible teaches that the heart of man is deceitful above all things, that it is desperately wicked. If we rely only upon a feeling of peace to confirm a right decision, then we can be certain the heart will confirm what it wants. **David says my eyes are ever towards the Lord He shall pluck my feet from the net.** Psalm 25:15. If our eyes have honestly been upon the Lord, and I head off on a wrong direction God will rescue us by giving us an inner uneasiness. (no peace). **The secret of the Lord is with those who fear the Lord.** The **secret of the Lord** refers to a closed council where people sit together in discussion. The council given is a special privilege of PEACE and communion, but it is only for those who Truly fear and look to the Lord. Those who want His way and not their own.

There is a great departure from this kind of Guidance and concertation and commitment to God. There are many popular books on the subject yet with a wrong view, basically saying we are free to choose whatever we desire. It's very popular in many churches to have the belief I can do whatever I want to do so long as it is not directly and morally opposed to scripture.

The wrong teaching is this, - so long as your decisions for life are in the light of Biblical and moral principles you are free do whatever you want. They argue that you don't need to ask Gods guidance in every detail of your life, they use examples like, you don't ask God what you should have for breakfast, or what you should wear.

Here they miss the point of what the Bible teaches concerning Guidance. That it is for major decisions concerning **roads and routs of life.** That your way, your route, **the great turning points and forks** in the journey of life, which govern your whole life, like to whom you will marry, what career you will follow, and where you will work, and what city you will live in these major affairs that dominate. These are the kind of thing we ask for guidance, not trivial things like what toothpaste I should use!

The people against the concertation of divine guidance say, no you need to grow up as a Christian. They say God doesn't want you to run to Him all the time like a child asking Daddy can I do this or that. They flatter you by saying God is making an adult out of you, no you are growing up as a Christian and God wants you to make your own decisions instead of running to Him. Surly if I choose whatever I like to have for breakfast then I should be able to choose my own wife, I don't need God to direct me. So, there is no divine guidance taught on the Major decisions of life.

Our example is Christ. We are called to follow HIM. And if the Lord said Father not my will be done but your will. Christ who lived a perfect life on earth. He always submitted to His Father. And we too need to live this kind of life of seeking His will. **John 5:19** Then Jesus answered and said to them, Truly, truly, I say to you, The Son can do nothing of Himself but what He sees the Father do. For whatever things He does, these also the Son does likewise. **John 6:38** For I came down from Heaven, not to do My own will but the will of Him who sent Me. Wouldn't it be foolish to think that I don't need to pray about decisions, especially main life events. Wouldn't it be foolish not to seek the Fathers will.

Let's ask ourselves what is our main goal as a Christian? Surely it is to be more like the Lord, to know Him and know His ways and to walk in step with Him, to be fully pleasing to Him. *Galatians 5:25* If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. If the Spirit of God lives in us, let him govern our actions.

Life in the Spirit, or being led by the spirit is **not an occasional submission** to the Spirit, **but a constant abiding** where we are consciously alive and sensitive to the Spirit.

Being Led by the Spirit begins with Resignation of self to His will.

We are not called to be do as we want to believers. We are to be given wholly to His will. The Apostle prayed that we are to filled with the Knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding. **Colossians 1:9-14**

This was a real burden for Paul. He prays that we may be filled with Gods will that there would be no room for worldly thoughts and ideas. That we would be totally governed by the word of God. Gods will is expressed and unfolded in His word.

A fully surrendered heart to the Lord, understands that one thing is needful, as seen in **Luke 10:42** *But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her.* Mary who sat at the feet of Jesus and heard His Word, Mary learning the Lords secrets, learning His way, learning His will.

Is this our hearts desire?

Do we pray like David did in the psalms? Teach me thy way, O LORD; I will walk in thy truth: unite my heart to fear thy name. Order and guide my steps, Lord. **Psalms 25:4** Make me know Your ways, O Jehovah; teach me Your paths.

There are some believers. Who say 'I have salvation, surely that is all I need. I understand the plan of redemption, I understand about Christ and Calvary, and the atonement, and my need of salvation. I have trusted in Christ and his shed blood for sinners. I have repented of my sin and I have yielded my life to him, and now I believe I am saved and have experienced a change of life and a new nature. Surely, that is everything.

Aren't the basics enough? No God's will for us is to deepen us and develop and equip us. To be led by the Spirit. To be guided by His eye. To walk in His ways.

Psalms 32:8-9 I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye. [9] Be ye not as the horse, or as the mule, which have no understanding: whose mouth must be held in with bit and bridle, lest they come near unto thee.

He knows the path; I will teach thee in the way which you shall go. And we can say that God has a way for each of us the way which we shall go. Now, we don't know that way. But God does, the Lord has already got the plan and the path for us. **Job 31:4** Does He not see my ways, and count all my steps? The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord, He delights in them. In His way we wont slip, and when my steps are ordered according to Gods word iniquity shall not rule over me, He keeps the feet of His saints. A mans heart may plan the way but the Lord guides His steps. **The Bible teaches us** Proverbs 3:6 In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.

Note that Proverbs 10:29 The way of Jehovah is strength to the upright; but ruin is to the workers of iniquity. The upright in heart who walk in His way are a blessing to the Lord, the way of workers of iniquity is hateful to the Lord. They harbour hatred toward God in their hearts, their hearts are false towards God. May it not be me who harbours hatred, whose heart is false, as for me I desire to know and walk in His ways. *I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.* 3 John 1:4

I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go. We should note that the scripture doesn't say, I will teach the way which thou shalt go, Rather it says I will instruct you in the way which you go.

When God gives us light, we must walk in that revealed light. - An example, When Scripture teaches Believe in the Lord, and you shall be saved. We don't wait until we fully understand all the deep things of God. It would be foolish to say first I must understand every detail and then I'll believe. As we believe then as we are **in the way** He will teach us and instruct us and show us more.

It's the same with guidance. We don't wait for guidance and the whole plan to be revealed, we begin with that which is clear and in harmony with scripture and obvious.

The servant tells us how he had found Rebekah at the well, and how he knew her to be the destined bride of his master's servant. The whole account is in Gen 24:27.

The first truth we can learn is Jehovah led Abraham's servant, **I *being in the way to the house of my master's brothers.***

Now many of the modern translations loose the original meaning of the text. They say the Lord let me right to my master's relatives. The original expression of the truth that it is, when we are '**in the way**' that God will certainly lead us. How can we expect any guidance from the Lord if we are not willing to even put our feet upon the revealed path?

It was a very long journey from Canaan through the desert, the servant didn't know all the details, but he began the journey. He had clearly heard his commission; He obeyed and did what he was told. As he was in the way the Lord led Him. Faith was required to start. Matthew Henry a reliable commentator says, where the finger of God points the way, the hand of God makes the path.

Some think that there will be flashes of light, warm feelings, shivers down the spine, glory clouds showing the way. Some sort of miracle. Some feeling or some sign.

Guidance involves the understanding. Beware about acting on signs and as a result of warm feelings, or beware of acting on fears,

The Lord doesn't bypass, the mind and the understanding. But it is also true that He leads us in ways that challenge our understanding.

Ephesians 5:17 Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is.

LET us not therefore be surprised if sometimes we find Gods ways, greater than our understanding, We shouldn't be surprised we will have to exercise great confidence in Gods Ways, and be compelled to trust him even when it seems impossible. We shouldn't think that everything which he is doing in the church and in the world, in families and to individuals, should be on our level and our capacity?

We are now "**walking by faith, and not by sight;**" We must remember His ways are Higher than our ways. John 20:29 *Jesus said to him, Thomas, because you have seen Me you have believed. Blessed are they who have not seen and have believed.*

Supposing you are applying for a new Job.

Someone may think, if I get it, it must be Gods will. But we need to use our understanding and weigh up natural things. Suppose the new Job requires you to move. You would need to know is there a church where you are going. You should ask yourself; Will the new Job consume all of my time making it very hard to fellowship to attend church. I need to use my understanding to weigh up the situation.

Is it in agreement with Scripture. It wouldn't be right to take a new Job in some field that was morally questionable and wrong. Will it glorify God? Or is it shameful? While we will not find an exact bible verse about our new job, we look at principles of God which can be applied to our situation. 1 Corinthians 10:23 *All things are lawful to me, but not all things profit. All things are lawful to me, but not all things build up*

I consider Scriptural principles when making decisions asking for guidance, ask the Lord to reveal to you guiding principles if you don't have a scripture that fits your situation exactly.

Prayer and submission. We pray about it asking if it is indeed Gods will. There is a genuine desire to know. The prayer is not just a token. For some they have already made up their mind to take the new Job, Yes they pray but they don't really want to hear any answer that not is what they want. There is no surrender No saying not my will but your will be done.

We keep looking to the Lord for guidance all the days of our life. Psalms 48:14 For this God is our God forever and ever; He will be our guide even to death.

The Lord will guide not just for a moment but ALWAYS. Isaiah 58:11 And Jehovah shall always guide you and satisfy your soul in dry places, and make your bones fat; and you shall be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water whose waters fail not.

He led them through the wilderness faithfully to Canaan, He didn't leave them or forsake them he led them Always.

The proud man says why should I let the Lord order my steps. But the one who truly knows the Lord, knows His paths are life and peace. All the paths of the Lord are mercy and Truth. Gods plans our ways in wisdom, ways of pleasantness, and all her paths *are* peace.