

Divine Guidance

One of the greatest fears of man is that of being cast out into the “outer darkness,” there to be left absolutely alone. For most of us, to be dropped into a wilderness and left with no guide, or no map would plunge us into a panic. Especially at nightfall. Alone.

Civilization, as you know, is not all that civil; and each person knows that awful sense of being unsure, directionless, lost, confused, disoriented, and oh so vulnerable.

We need a guide, a protector, a way-maker. We need a Shepherd just as much as any sheep, for we are as defenseless and helpless as any sheep, in spite of our intelligence.

Long before David wrote our favorite Psalm, Jacob made this statement at the close of his life, “The God who has been my Shepherd all my life to this day...” - Genesis 48:15. Will this be your story? I believe it is the cry of your heart to know that you are personally shepherded through life by the One who is truly in charge, truly in power, and fully committed to your ultimate well being.

When we read the words of Jesus, “I am the good Shepherd, and I know My own and My own know Me, ...and I lay down My life for the sheep,” something in us responds with the greatest sigh, “I’m found. I’m safe at last. I have God as my personal Shepherd!” And as your Shepherd, He further says, “My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father’s hand.” So rest, little one, for you are safe in His hands. (John 10:14-15, 29)

Divine Guidance is the natural consequence of being with the one whose invitation is: “Follow Me, and I shall make you fishers of men” - Matthew 4:19. We do need to follow; but we don’t have to persuade God to lead us, for it is His nature to do just that. Being your personal Shepherd is entirely His idea. Remember, sheep don’t have an instinct to look for shepherds; it’s quite the other way around.

So, let’s think together for a month about Divine Guidance and you, for it comes down to this: “Is He shepherding me? Can I count on Him? How do I follow Him?” The answers are (1) “Yes, He is shepherding you now.” (2) “Yes, you can count on Him.” (3) “Well, this is what we’ll explore during the month of August.”

Lesson 1

Eve forsook her Guidance when she began to doubt the goodness of God. From that point on she began the process of withdrawing her trust in Him and, instead, she began to rely upon her own instincts for decision making. Even Christians sometimes follow this line of thinking, and the results are costly.

Do you believe that God is good? This is a question which you answer every day as you make choices; and your choices affect the direction of your life.

When you begin to doubt that God is good as it relates to your personal situation, then you will begin to draw into your own self or cast about for someone else to trust. The resulting doubt and fear are silent accusations against the goodness of God; and from these flow your confusion and loss of peace.

Scripture Study: Let's examine some of the twenty-four times the Psalmist declares that God is good, for the truth is that only God is good! This truth is your north star. *(10 minutes)*
Read Psalm 25:8-9. What does God say about Himself here?

What confidence comes to David because he has this revelation?

Read Psalm 34:8. What does God want to happen to you?

Read Psalm 34:10. What does God want to do in you as a result of this verse?

Read Psalm 86:5. The word "lovingkindness" is better translated as "covenant-love."
Read Psalm 73:1. Better translated, "Yea, only good, nothing but good is God to Israel."
Write this out with your name inserted:

Scripture Study: Because God is good there are many consequences in your life. *(5 minutes)*
Read Psalm 16:2. When you say this in your difficult situations, you are speaking the faith that causes you to experience God's guidance.
Read Psalm 27:13. What happens to you when you do not believe that you will see the goodness of God in the land of the living?

Prayer Time: *(15 – 30 minutes)*

Begin to thank and praise God for His being only Good to you!

If you have nurtured thoughts that God isn't being good to you, then bring these tormenting thoughts to Him and ask for His forgiveness.

Come to the Cross of Jesus Christ and identify with Him who died in your place so that you might share in the acceptance He has with the Father.

Pray for the decisions in which you need His guidance with confidence in His goodness to you.

Lesson 2

Some of God's image remains with us, so we retain some ability to appreciate moral qualities such as love, goodness, justice, etc. However, when we insist upon defining these words ourselves and interpreting life by our definitions, we assume a place that belongs to God alone; and we frustrate His plans to take us into His "good."

Here is an example: "He disciplines us for our good, so that we may share His holiness" - Hebrews 12:10. Obviously God is hereby defining "good" as becoming like Himself; and those who agree with Him will not resist His guidance when it includes some difficult thing! Those who insist that "good" is that which feels good to them find Divine Guidance a perplexing mystery.

Our society rejects God's right to make the definitions; and for this reason, people live in an elusive search for that which is good. Those who wish to experience the confidence that comes from His guidance must know that God's will is the definition of "good."

Scripture Study: As you think through Romans 8:28-29, look for God's definition of the word, "good." As always, it is the context that determines the content of a word. *(10 minutes)*
Read Romans 8:28. This verse tells you who can be certain of receiving "good" in his life.
Read Romans 8:29. What God means by "good" is defined in this verse; so, what is God's definition of "good"?

Scripture Study: Read Hebrews 12:10-11. *(5 minutes)*
What is God's definition of "good" in both these verses? (1)

(2)

Reflection: "Good" is what glorifies God. You were created to be like Him and to reflect His glory. His "good" also brings you into His destiny. When you live for the Glory of God, you will discover that His Guidance is your daily experience!

Prayer Time: *(15 – 30 minutes)*

Bow before the Lord Almighty, the Maker of Heaven and earth; and surrender to Him your so-called right to define "good" apart from Him.

Tell your heavenly Father that His will is your food!

Draw near to Him through Jesus and feast upon Him!

He loves you, so let Him nourish your soul this morning.

Lesson 3

In order to experience the joy of being led by God as your very own Shepherd, you need the clarity of knowing that He has specific plans for your life. He doesn't just give you principles and say, "You take it from here. Just stay inside the guidelines, and then it's up to you." No way!

God has plans, appointments, timing, and finally a destination for your life, all of which He determined long before He created the world. His will for you is the working out of your Destiny and the purpose for which you were uniquely designed. And in all this He is certainly not a passive Father, but rather One who is very involved with His children.

You have a vital part to play in this thing called Guidance, but God is always the Initiator. He is always the Leader, and you the follower. With such a Shepherd-Leader in charge of your life, you can go with Him into ventures that would otherwise shut you down.

Scripture Study: Let's examine four Scriptures that reveal various aspects of God's clear, specific plans for your life. *(10 minutes)*

Read Ephesians 2:10. When did God plan your "good works"?

_____ Reference Ephesians 1: 4.

Read John 15:16. What do you think Jesus means by "appointed you"?

Read Hebrews 9:27. You have an appointment with _____, which means what to you? _____

Read John 7:6, 8. How does Jesus' view of time differ from that of His natural brothers?

Journal: How does this affect your understanding of how God guides your life?

Prayer Time: *(15 – 30 minutes)*

Trade your will for God's.

Place your life and decisions into your heavenly Father's hands.

Believe that He is working out His plan in your life now.

Now, by faith, enter into the Rest that His Son has earned for you.

Lesson 4

One of the greatest things about how God guides His child is that He is so relational. He is the pattern Father who loves to be with His child. Jesus was designated, “Emmanuel, God with us,” because it is the heart of God to be with you as He guides you.

His guidance isn’t mechanical. It isn’t about pure technique or just information. He wants to be with you in your life; and He wants you to want to be with Him. Therefore, we rightly speak of walking with God, because this is exactly His intention. Guidance is about being with Him.

Jesus’ relationship with His Father illustrated His pleasure in being with Him. It was about “koinonia,” which can be translated “fellowship,” but it means to touch or share the same thing.

Scripture Study: With this relational basis for Guidance in mind, let’s examine some verses. *(15 minutes)*

Read John 5:19-20. There are several things relating to Guidance in these two verses. What things do you see?

Read John 5:30. For the words, “judge” or “judgment,” think “decision,” and you will immediately see how it relates to Guidance. What do you see that helps you to understand how your Father wants to lead you?

Read Matthew 11:28-30. How is the Lord being personal with you?

What do you see here that relates to Guidance? _____

Prayer Time: *(15 – 30 minutes)*

Come to Jesus this morning.

Be with Him. Give Him your attention.

By faith take up His yoke, which links you to Him, and learn from Him.

Submit your decisions to Him.

Lesson 6

Divine Guidance is inherent in being a Christian, though perhaps you may not have thought about it from this standpoint. What is the definition of a Christian? An excellent Biblical definition is, “one who follows Jesus Christ.”

Jesus’ first invitation was, “Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.” Those who took Him at His word became His followers or His Disciples (the Learners). Today, we believe the doctrines concerning Who He is and what He did, but the result of such belief is our awareness of our union with Him, and thus our ability to truly follow Him in person.

God’s Guidance is always Christ-centered. There are principles that we shall examine, but Guidance in its simplest form is the consequence of staying with the Person of Christ. He is always tending you, and He is always taking you into the Father’s will.

Scripture Study: Read Matthew 4:19. (*5 minutes*)

Jesus said He would make them fishers of men. How might you apply “the fishers of men” part to your own life? What is Jesus promising that He will do with your life?

Now rewrite Jesus’ invitation/promise in your own words, but make it personal for your own life. Start your sentence with your own name. “_____,”

_____.”

Scripture Memory: Read Psalm 23 and then try saying it softly out loud to yourself. Just keep saying it until you make some progress, as this process drives God’s thoughts deep into your soul. (*10 minutes*)

Prayer Time: (*15 – 30 minutes*)

Bring your guidance issues to Jesus Christ this morning.

Wait upon Him.

What do you “hear/sense” Him “saying”?

Finish by reading Psalm 23 as your confession over your day.

Lesson 7

Ships avoid reefs and sandbars as they enter the proper channels by lining up the harbor lights and keeping them in line.

There are Five Harbor Lights that need to line up in order to bring safety when your guidance involves life-changing decisions. (1) The Word of God. (2) The Witness of the Spirit. (3) Your Spiritual Authority. (4) The Open Door. (5) The Backing of your Church.

Jesus leads you 24/7, and He does this as you live within the boundaries of the Bible and follow the Holy Spirit's leading within. This much is fundamental to all guidance, but in matters such as who you marry, where to locate, which job to take, etc., you must consider all Five of the Harbor Lights.

Scripture Study: It is critical that you trust in the Goodness of God, because those who are still knee-jerking against all authority and all boundaries will constantly fight against God's attempts to love them into His best!

(5 minutes)

Read Psalm 16:6. The "lines" David refers to are boundaries, the limits God Himself sets upon our lives. How does this verse figure into your receiving God's Guidance?

Read Psalm 23:3. What are the guidelines within which God guides you?

If you rely entirely upon yourself to judge what is the right decision, you must know that all humans have a history of deceiving themselves. *(10 minutes)*

Read Proverbs 4:19. When a man isn't willing to do it God's way, then he "stumbles." Why do you think this is?

Read Proverbs 16:25. Can you think of any place where you have personally experienced the truth expressed here?

Read Matthew 6:21-24. When some good thing assumes an importance greater than God Himself, what happens to your ability to correctly assess the situation?

Prayer Time: *(15 – 30 minutes)*

Can you rejoice in the limitations God has placed upon your life?

Worship Him. Praise Him for His sovereign wisdom in ordering your life and giving you His boundary lines.

Now give Him the worship of being still before Him.

Release to Him every aspect of your approaching day!

Lesson 8

Will you trust your God to lead you? The reason this is always the question is that Unbelief always produces Disobedience; and without Obedience there can be no Divine Guidance.

The Bible is the collection of how God has chosen to reveal Himself: His thoughts, His ways, His wise and loving commands. Although He used many people to express His thoughts, He Himself was the One inspiring every word. The result is that it is the infallible guide to knowing His nature and will.

The issue is never, “Do you understand why God says a certain thing?” The issue at stake is simply: “Who is to be the Supreme One in your life, God or you? Who will you trust more, God or you?”

Scripture Study: When you have a decision to make, the first question you must answer is, “Whose will do I really want?” (*5 minutes*)

Read John 5:30. Here are a number of secrets to the way in which Jesus experienced guidance, made plain here. How many can you find and name?

Read John 7:17. If you want to know God’s will just to evaluate it, then you can’t be certain that He will reveal it; but if you intend to “_____” His will, then

Scripture Study: Because God’s commands come out of His love, when you obey Him, you experience His wisdom and love. (*10 minutes*)

Read John 10:9-10. How do you view God’s commands?

Read one of Jesus’ great secrets to success found in Luke 8:5-15. The secret you want is found in Luke 8:15. What is it, and how does this affect your ability to experience Divine Guidance?

Prayer Time: (*15 – 30 minutes*)

The safest place for your will is in the hands of your Shepherd. Give it to Him this morning. Rest in Him this morning.

Trust Him with your decisions.

Pray His will into all the tension points in your life.

Lesson 9

As you read the Gospels, you notice that Jesus seems to always have a Scripture verse in His mind that relates to what He is doing at that moment. The Holy Spirit's anointing was upon Him in the fullest possible way, and the Spirit gave Him the intimacy with and sensitivity to the Father; yet somehow Scripture was always involved in how He was led.

In addition, Jesus never violated the intentions of God expressed in Scripture; and He gave warnings to those who thought that perhaps He was going to replace the written Word of God. Therefore, it is impossible to follow Jesus and disobey Scripture.

Making room inside your mind and heart for God's Word is fundamental to experiencing the joy and excitement of being led by the Holy Spirit. For the Spirit uses the Words of God to enlighten, to quicken, to prompt, to spark, to confirm, and to focus your faith in Him toward a particular direction.

Scripture Memory: 2 Timothy 3:16-17 says, "All Scripture is inspired by God," but you may already know that the Greek word translated as "inspired" is a compound word, "God-breathed." Say this scripture over and over to yourself, allowing it to be imprinted upon your mind. *(5 minutes)*

Scripture Study: Now examine 2 Timothy 3:16-17 from the standpoint of God's Guidance in your life.

(10 minutes)

How does teaching relate to Guidance in your life?

If "reproof" refers to rebuking those in sin, then how does this relate to Guidance?

If "correction" refers to helping those in some error of thinking or acting, then how does this relate to Guidance?

How does "training in righteousness" relate to Divine Guidance?

What is Scripture to accomplish in your life?

Prayer Time: *(15 – 30 minutes)*

Thank your Father for giving you His life-changing words!

Put yourself "under" His Word in order to benefit from His teaching, His reproof, His correction, and His training in righteousness.

Look to the Lord this morning and expect Him to use His words to make you fully adequate for the good works He has for your life.

Now, pray His Kingdom purposes into the situations that surround your life.

Lesson 10

Today, you will hear questions like this: “Should I do what is expected, or should I follow my heart?” “What is expected” often means, “that which is morally right,” and some people tend to place “follow my heart” on a higher level than obeying the principles of God.

Christians, too, can be influenced by this cultural climate that elevates “what one feels”: i.e. one’s heart about Scripture, and this is a recipe for inviting the devil into your life decisions.

Remember that your seeking Divine Guidance is a direct threat to Satan’s realm, for you are putting God first and seeking His glory in the affairs of your life! You will need the backing of God’s word and the confidence to use it in order to stand firm against the various thoughts and feelings which may try to “reason” you into making some other decision.

Scripture Study: “It is written” occurs twenty-four times in the Gospel accounts, and usually you hear it from the lips of Jesus. Watch Him fight both the devil and probably His own feelings by using the written Words of God. *(10 minutes)*

Read Matthew 4:4. How might you apply this to Guidance issues in your own life?

How do you think Jesus prepared Himself for resisting Satan?

Study Deuteronomy 8:2-3. What do you learn about God’s Guidance from this passage?

Scripture Meditation: Let your eyes move slowly over Deuteronomy 8:2-3, allowing God’s very Words to come into your inner being. Just let them come inside and live there. *(5 minutes)*

Prayer Time: *(15 – 30 minutes)*

Read-pray Deuteronomy 8:2-3 to the Lord, putting your own life experiences into the prayer.

Then be quiet before Him for a few minutes and listen.

By faith receive Christ as your righteousness this morning. Remember, you are only adequate “in Christ.”

Now, submit yourself and your day to Him in faith that He will lead and guide you into His day.

Lesson 11

Can you be persuaded to disobey Scripture? Many life situations come that test your integrity at this point. Will you “fall in love” with a non-Christian and marry anyway? Will you be silent and allow someone to think the wrong thing when it brings a financial benefit to you? Will you allow yourself to go to sleep at night with anger and a broken relationship? Will you worship God knowing that someone is very offended with you?

Satan believed that Job could be “bought” when the price was right, but he was wrong. Can you be “bought”? Is there a price high enough that would prompt you to disregard what Scripture teaches in favor of what is more convenient, comfortable, or profitable?

Your answer to this question is never theoretical, for real life situations will confront you; and you will make decisions that reveal your answer.

Scripture Memory: Read Psalm 119:11. Let God write this verse upon your soul by saying it over and over again until you can look away and say it aloud to yourself. *(5 minutes)*

Scripture Study: Examine Psalm 119:11. *(5 minutes)*

Various translations render the verb as, “treasured,” “hid,” “hidden,” “laid up,” etc. What does this mean to you?

How does this relate to Divine Guidance?

Scripture Meditation: Read slowly and digest Matthew 4:4 which you studied yesterday. Let the Holy Spirit minister these God-Words to you. *(5 minutes)*

Prayer Time: *(15 – 30 minutes)*

Spend a minute actually treasuring God’s Word inside your heart.

Tell the Lord how much you love His Word, for this is a form of worship.

Be still before the Lord and listen quietly.

Pray what the Holy Spirit quickens in your inner ear.

Lesson 12

The most important Harbor Light for Divine Guidance is The Word of God. When you fall in love with God's Words, you are not only glorifying the Lord; you are also doing yourself the greatest favor! You are setting yourself up for a lifetime of blessings.

Your feelings can and will on occasion be all over the place, so you need a road map, a guard rail, a highway for your soul; and God has given you this great gift. We hardly appreciate why so many saints before us have gladly given their lives in order for us to have this Bible. God will walk with the one who wishes to go His way.

The first question ever recorded was, "Hath God said?" It was a direct challenge to what God had spoken. Satan still does this, and your society hurls this thought at you. Worst of all, your own flesh is quite susceptible to these thoughts. A slogan of the Reformation was: "Only Scripture!"

Scripture Study: In Romans 12:1-2, Paul takes us from our fresh experiences of God's love and mercies into a self-surrendering that awakens our minds and makes us want to demonstrate the beauty of life lived God's way. *(10 minutes)*

What mercies of God are you experiencing?

What do you think experiencing God's mercies has to do with Divine Guidance?

Why do you think Paul specifically mentioned not being conformed to this world?

Why would the desire to "prove what the will of God is" lead you into Divine Guidance?

Scripture Reflection: Read Psalm 105:19. *(5 minutes)*

Joseph waited on "his word" for many years. He was in Egypt for thirteen years away from his family, and he suffered during much of this time.

How might you relate to this in your own life?

Prayer Time: *(15 – 30 minutes)*

Draw near to God in your Savior, Jesus Christ, this morning and freshly receive His love and mercy into your soul.

Lift your hands to the Lord as self-surrender and worship!

Love Him back!

Ask Him to lead you into all righteousness.
Declare into the heavenlies the rightness of His ways!

Lesson 13

The second Harbor Light is The Witness of the Spirit. The Bible cannot tell you by name the person you should marry, which house to buy, who to hire, etc. The Holy Spirit Himself must be the One who “speaks” to your inner spirit man in order to give you that keen sense of knowing God’s specific will, His timing, etc. This inner register of peace, which comes deep inside the Believer, is called The Witness of the Spirit.

God “wires” His children with an inner ability to sense His pleasure, His grief, His peace, His presence, etc. It is the great joy of the new Christian to discover that he has an inner confirmation that God really is his Father! This is the Witness of the Spirit.

Jesus promises that His sheep “hear His voice,” and He is referring to this same Witness of the Spirit. He also says that His sheep know the difference between “His voice” and other voices; thus you are equipped to receive Divine Guidance.

Scripture Study: Learn from Jesus how He received Guidance from His Father. *(10 minutes)*
Read John 5:19-20. In these two verses, Jesus refers to spiritual eyesight: “sees” and “shows.” How are you experiencing what Jesus describes?

Read John 5:30. In this verse Jesus refers to spiritual hearing: “As I hear.” How are you experiencing The Witness of the Spirit as it relates to “hearing”?

Do you have a question about how this works? _____ If so, who might you ask to get a reliable answer?

Scripture Study: Ponder Romans 8:16, for this verse spells out the role of the Holy Spirit in conveying to you your sense of identity with God as your Father. *(5 minutes)*

The Living Bible says, “For His Holy Spirit speaks to us deep in our hearts and tells us that we really are God’s children.”

Take your translation and use your own words to describe how the Holy Spirit causes you to bear witness or testify to what God is saying to you and about you.

Prayer Time: *(15 – 30 minutes)*

Ask Jesus for another “drink” of the Holy Spirit, and actively receive by using your faith. Ask the Holy Spirit, to teach you more about listening and discerning His witness to your inner man.

Thank God for giving you the Holy Spirit to communicate His thoughts to you.

By the help of the Spirit, offer significant praise to God for Who He is!

Lesson 14

The role of the Holy Spirit in the Godhead is often slighted; yet He, the Holy Spirit, is the Person in the Trinity who is sent by the Father and the Son to equip the child of God to walk with God and to further the Kingdom in ways similar to Him who was anointed without measure!

Jesus planned to leave His Disciples and send the Holy Spirit to “take His place” as the One who would be with each Disciple as the Comforter, the Helper, the Teacher, the Discipler, and the Counselor. Therefore, what Jesus did for us is applied to the Believer by the Holy Spirit. He lives in us to do for us all that Jesus did for His original Disciples.

While we live and have our very existence through our union with Christ, we rely upon the Holy Spirit to Guide us, lead us, teach us, convict us, comfort us, etc. And while we seldom pray directly to the Holy Spirit, He is fully God and readily receives us as God.

Scriptural Study of the Holy Spirit: Begin by carefully examining Jesus’ words about the Holy Spirit to His faithful followers. *(10 minutes)*

Read John 14:16-20. What was Jesus requesting of the Father?

What is the Holy Spirit called? _____ Why?

How will the Holy Spirit relate to you?

What happens when Jesus sends the Holy Spirit?

More Scripture Study: Read John 14:25-26. *(5 minutes)*

What does Jesus call His “replacement”?

What will the Holy Spirit do for you?

Prayer Time: *(15 – 30 minutes)*

Ask the Holy Spirit to be your personal Helper/Comforter/Counselor.

Ask the Holy Spirit to let you “hear” your Savior speak to you.

Trust the Lord Jesus Christ who sent the Holy Spirit to you to lead you into His very will.

Lesson 15

Jesus told us that the purpose of the Bible is to enable us to come to Him. (John 5:39-40) It is the Holy Spirit, however, dwelling in the Believer who enables this fellowship, this communication, and thus, His witness.

You can either treat this as very good, true information, or you can really count on the Holy Spirit living in you to cause you to “see,” “hear,” sense, perceive, realize, and know what your Savior is saying and doing. This is The Witness of the Spirit, and it is the way God gives Divine Guidance. Are you counting on the Holy Spirit?

When Jesus told us that it was better that He leave in order to send the Holy Spirit to us, He was taking the next step in His plan to equip us to operate in Divine Guidance just as He had by The Witness of the Spirit.

Scripture Study: Dig into this rich passage in which Jesus explained the work of the Holy Spirit to His Disciples. Read John 16:7-15. *(15 minutes)*
What three things will the Holy Spirit do for the world?

Reading John 16:12, when do you think Jesus reveals more to us?

List the four or five things that the Holy Spirit does for you.

When you count on the Holy Spirit to do these things in your life, you are operating in faith. Therefore, you can increase your sense of being led by the Holy Spirit by

Prayer Time: *(15 – 30 minutes)*

Come to Jesus Christ this morning and ask for a fresh filling of the Holy Spirit, for Jesus promised that when you were thirsty, you could drink of the Spirit from Him. (John 7:37)
Wait upon the Lord.

Enjoy Him this morning and let Him enjoy you.

Thank Him for His will and His faithfulness to guide you today.

Lesson 16

To be led by God you must be using The Word of God, and you must be attentive to The Witness of the Spirit. For this reason, you will not want to offend or grieve the Spirit by complaining, or expressing Unbelief, or harboring anger, unforgiveness, resentment, etc.

The Holy Spirit loves you and lives in you in order to have unbroken fellowship with you. Divine Guidance is the result of this intimacy. Because He loves you, He is continually leading you to experience Christ and His Cross where your flesh is put to death. When you refuse to follow Him to the Cross, you will begin to experience a subtle hardness and distance from the Lord's presence.

God always walks in the Light, and He is always drawing you into the Light so that you can walk with Him. Divine Guidance, as in knowing God's will for your life decisions, can only come as you walk in the Light.

Scripture Study: Your flesh opposes The Witness of the Spirit. Your own independent, stubborn, and self-will (the flesh) is impulsive, demanding, fearful, and prideful. Here is why you struggle to experience the Divine Guidance that you so desire. *(10 minutes)*

Read Romans 8:12. What do you owe to your flesh?

On the other hand, what do you owe to your inner spirit man?

What does Paul want you to conclude from asking yourself these questions?

Read Romans 8:13. Finish this sentence: "To experience life, I must _____"

Read Romans 8:14. In this context, being "led by the Spirit" means

Scripture Study: Read Hebrews 3:12-13. *(5 minutes)*

When you stay in a sin, what begins to happen to your heart?

What does this passage tell you that you need in order to avoid this hardness?

Prayer Time: *(15 – 30 minutes)*

Ask the Holy Spirit to walk you into the Light.

By faith, see that He died for you, and you died with Him so that you can now receive His purity and life.

Tell the Lord that you want His Divine Guidance, which involves agreeing with Him that your flesh is dead.

Now, let Him minister to you as He ministers to His own Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, for you are “in Him.”

Lesson 17

The highest and most enjoyable way a parent leads a child is by his eye; and God makes it clear in Psalm 32:8, especially in the KJV, where He says, “I will guide you with My eye.”

Jesus was easy for the Father to lead; and no doubt, the Father could always guide Him with His eye. What a joy to both Father and Son!

Jesus was meek. This word is not adequately translated as “gentle,” for Moses was the meekest man on the face of the earth, and he was a great warrior-leader! Meekness refers to being teachable and leadable. A powerful stallion that is broken to his master’s will is a great picture of meekness; and such a horse is easy to lead. Are you easy to lead, or are you fearful and pulling away from looking into Father’s eye?

Scripture Meditation: Chew on Matthew 5:5, using “meek” instead of “gentle.” The way you meditate is to slowly read the words over and over, allowing them to sink into your soul. God’s power is in His word, so just let His Word find room inside you. *(5 minutes)*

Scripture Study: Read Matthew 5:5. *(10 minutes)*

Jesus is saying that to be easy for God to lead is associated with being blessed and being happy.

When you are meek and experience Divine Guidance, you position yourself for further blessings. He describes it as, “they shall inherit the earth.” Now, this blessing isn’t just for some end-time event.

What does “inherit the earth” mean in your life?

Prayer Time: *(15 – 30 minutes)*

Submit your will to the One Who loves you!

Tell Him that you are applying for meekness.

Give Him your blanket O.K. to His Guidance in matters small or large.

Delight in His will, for it will bring you into His inheritance for you.

Lesson 18

Why do you want Divine Guidance? This is, of course, a soul-searching question that is not always easy to answer. Our motives may sometimes be a bit mixed: partly pure, partly not so pure; but it does us good to at least think and talk about this issue.

We all want to succeed in life, so it is tempting to want His Guidance as an insurance policy for success. In this sense, who doesn't want God Himself taking him by the hand past all the dangers and into brilliant decision-making?

Seeking our own glory is the very cause of the Curse, and our old human nature still defaults to that; yet when that is the motivating force behind our desire to know God's Guidance, we often become paralyzed in the area of our faith. The opposite effect occurs when we seek His glory: faith comes.

Scripture Study: Consider the reason we do or do not come to Jesus for His help as it relates to what is motivating us. Read John 5:40-44. *(10 minutes)*

Looking at John 5:40-41, why do you think Jesus coupled these two thoughts together: coming to Him and receiving glory from men?

In John 5:43, when Jesus says that He comes in His Father's name, what do you think He means by this?

In John 5:44, what is Jesus saying about faith here as it relates to seeking Divine Guidance?

Scripture Study: As you continue to think about whose glory really matters to you and how that relates to faith, read Romans 4:20. *(5 minutes)*

What lesson do you receive here that will help you receive God's Guidance?

Prayer Time: *(15 – 30 minutes)*

Ask God for forgiveness for making yourself the Center of things.

What a great relief this is, to be free of trying to bring about your own honor!

Thank Him! Praise Him! Worship Him!

Pray His glory into the situations that are confronting your life!

Lesson 19

There is a misconception that haunts Christians. It is the belief that if you are receiving Divine Guidance, then everything will go smoothly; everything will fall into place in incredible ways! And sometimes this is exactly what does happen; but God's Will can also take us into very difficult, and very challenging times.

Are you in touch with your own assumptions on this issue? It's important to know what your "gut-theology" is on this point, because there are many times when God's Guidance includes your having to fight some terrific battles of faith. Things don't just fall into place: instead things go strangely awry, and still God has clearly directed you!

Moses was given the assignment of leading Israel out of Egypt; yet he met crisis after crisis. In fact, he lost the support he initially received from his brethren based upon the opposition; yet it was God's will, and God eventually vindicated him.

Scripture Reflections: *(10 minutes)*

What happened to Joseph before he saw his circumstances work out?

What difficulties did David face before he ruled?

Jesus experienced perfect Guidance. What were some of the not-so-easy things He faced as He followed the Father's will into completion?

Journaling: What is your own experience with having things be difficult when you knew for sure that you were following God's will for your life? *(5 minutes)*

Prayer Time: *(15 – 30 minutes)*

Confess that Jesus Christ is The Good Shepherd of your life!

Thank Him that He has convinced you that all these various things will work for good in your life!

Rejoice that God has loved you, chosen you, and appointed you to bear much fruit!
Commit yourself and your decisions into His hands!

Lesson 20

Harbor Light # 3 is a difficult one for Americans, for it is: Your Spiritual Authority.

Common American reactions range from puzzled dismay to open disdain: “Your spiritual authority; what is that?!”

Adam rejected God’s authority, and since then human experience with authority has been a curious mixture of good and evil. His rebellion installed Satan in his authority, and many have abused God’s intentions for the proper use of this power/responsibility.

Nevertheless, it was Jesus’ submission to God’s authority that caused Him to move in such unprecedented authority; and the Kingdom of God is the realm in which we freely submit to God’s uses of authority. Properly relating to authority figures is critical to walking in the blessings of God.

Scripture Study: Consider how Jesus submitted Himself to His parents even as a teen. (5 minutes)

Read Luke 2:42-52.

Look at Luke 2:52. Jesus understood more about God and the Kingdom than did His parents, yet He obeyed them. How do you think this figured into His ability to move in spiritual authority?

Scripture Study: Go to school on this Roman Centurion in Matthew 8:5-13. (10 minutes)
What did this Centurion do that so pleased Jesus?

What enabled the Centurion to respond to Jesus in a way in which others did not?

What do you think Jesus is saying to you about authority?

Prayer Time: (15 – 30 minutes)

Ask Jesus to forgive you for your wrong reactions to authority.

Thank God for the times when He has used an authority figure to guide your life and benefit you, even

when you did not recognize it.

Ask the Holy Spirit to teach you about God’s wisdom in creating authority figures.

By faith submit yourself to the authority figures God has placed over your life.

Read James 4:7 before the Lord.

Lesson 21

The book of Proverbs distinguishes between the wise person and the fool on the basis of being willing to gladly receive correction. One appreciates that someone else might know more or have a better understanding than himself, while the fool believes that he is best capable of judging all his own actions and choices and needs no help.

While there are limits God places upon authority figures, you cannot learn how any principle works by starting with the exceptions. First, you apply yourself to understand the rule. Then, and then only, can you go on to understand when there are legitimate exceptions based upon an authority figure exceeding his authority.

There are five levels of authority figures God uses to restrain lawlessness upon the earth; and since the world rebelled against Him, these sources of order serve a most valuable purpose in maintaining a sense of order. The government, parents, husbands, Pastor-leaders, and bosses form layers of authority used by God to bless a fallen earth.

Scripture Study: The typical American disdain for government has a hard time coming to grips with Romans

13:1-7. Read this passage in a serious way, thinking about how this affects your own attitudes. (*10 minutes*)

What do you think God's purpose is in establishing human, fallible authority figures?

In Romans 13:5, God states two reasons for obedience. What are they?

Can you discern any limits expressed here by God which He places upon authority figures?

If so, what are they?

Occasionally there are Christians who refuse to pay taxes based upon the charge that some of the money that the government uses is for unrighteous purposes. Is this justified?

Why do you say this?

Scripture Study: There are parents who abuse their authority, but today there are probably more parents who fail to use the authority for which they will be accountable than those who wrongly use it. Read Ephesians 6:1-4.

(*5 minutes*)

What is the implied promise if a child does not obey his parents?

Why do you think God has this command?

What limits do you see God placing on fathers?

What do you think God will say to fathers who fail to bring their children into “the discipline and instruction of the Lord”?

Prayer Time: *(15 – 30 minutes)*

If you recognize any area where you have failed to render the proper respect to an authority figure, change your mind and ask for forgiveness.

If you see an area in which you have failed to use your God-given authority to properly teach, train, discipline, or protect those under your care, change your mind and ask for forgiveness.

Ask the Holy Spirit to lead you into receiving God’s authority into your life and into using your own authority in ways to be a blessing to others.

Lesson 22

In major life decisions, you want to line up Harbor Lights: The Word of God, The Witness of the Spirit, and the Authority Figures which God has placed over your life in some fashion.

Obviously, you will not be led by God to do something that is illegal unless the authority figure is requiring you to disobey God. A child must not obey the parents who demand that he renounce his faith, or steal, or lie, etc. A wife must not obey her husband who demands that she commit an immoral act.

There will be times when you will be inside Biblical guidelines and have an inner witness of the Spirit only to discover that your parent, husband, Pastor-leader, or boss (each in his or her own area of authority) disagrees with your intended decision. This is a signal to wait upon the Lord. God may wish to alter your method, your timing, or some other aspect of your intended decision.

Scripture Study: Read Ephesians 5:24-33 carefully, looking for how this authority is supposed to work.

(10 minutes)

Who does God hold responsible for what happens in a marriage and family?

How did Adam fail God and thus Eve in this regard?

What are the attitudes and motives which God expects to guide a husband in the exercise of his authority?

What is the attitude that God commands a married woman to have toward her husband?

Scripture Study: You get to choose your authority figure in the case of whom a woman marries, whom you work for, and whom you have as your Spiritual Authority, so choose well. But, having made the choice, you must reckon with God as you relate to your authority. *(5 minutes)*

Study Hebrews 13:7, 17. What qualities do you want to look for when you pick an authority to serve under?

What do you think God's motive is in placing you under a spiritual authority?

Prayer Time: *(15 – 30 minutes)*

If you are married, read Ephesians 5:24-33 before the Lord and respond to Him according to what you sense the Spirit saying to you.

Read Hebrews 13:17 before the Lord and respond to Him according to what you sense the Spirit saying to you.

Ask the Holy Spirit, who is the Spirit of Obedience, to work in you to both will and do God's good pleasure.

Lesson 23

Why is authority such a big issue? Because the clash between the two Kingdoms is about this very thing: whose authority will you be under? To call Jesus, “Lord,” is to acknowledge Him as your authority; and when you do this, you also are placing yourself under His protection. You have to be born from above (or “again”) in order to “see” the Kingdom; and this is because you cannot recognize the Realm of God’s active authority (The Kingdom of Heaven) until the Spirit regenerates your spirit and enables you to “see.” His Kingdom operates where men submit to His Will, His Direction, and His Timing. Satan tries to twist authority figures so that you will distrust and despise all authority. The man who mocks or ignores the authority that God has placed over his life places himself squarely under the authority and control of the one who hates the authority of God!

Scripture Study: Read the words of Jesus, but think them through with respect to experiencing His Guidance - Luke 6:46-49. (*10 minutes*)
In Luke 6:46, what do you think Jesus is looking for?

Many more people claim to be Christians than experience Divine Guidance. What is one reason this may happen?

Jesus then uses a wonderful word picture in which He compares your life to building a house. Use your own words to apply His meaning of Guidance from God in how you make decisions in your life.

Scripture Study: What happens when one of your authority figures requires you to disobey God? Read Acts 4:18-20. (*5 minutes*)
What does this example teach you about Divine Guidance?

Notice that they did not adopt a rebellious belligerent attitude. They stood up for what was right in God’s sight, but they had a submissive attitude and were willing to accept whatever the cost might have been in order to be faithful to God’s authority.

Prayer Time: (*15 – 30 minutes*)

If you find a rebellious attitude within your own heart, bring it before the Lord and receive His grace to change your mind so as to agree with Him.

If you have been disrespectful toward an authority figure with whom you disagree, then repent of this and receive God’s heart attitude.

Remember that it is His Righteousness and His grace that transform your soul, so rejoice in His provision to you right at these points.

Ask Jesus to become your Wisdom in all these things.

Lesson 24

You do not get to choose your Government or your parents; but in most cases you do get to choose your husband, your Pastor-leaders, and your boss. Therefore you should be responsible to examine these authority figures to see if they are Biblically qualified to have this position in your life. Many Christians fail to look for godly character in choosing an authority to be “under,” and they set themselves up for a bad experience.

When you search for a dentist or a lawyer, you are probably very interested to know about his skill and reliability before becoming his patient or client. A woman should select her husband based upon his proven, godly character; and a family should select Pastoral leaders who fear God and walk in obedience to Scripture.

God intends to give you the joy of Divine Guidance through His Word and His Spirit; but He wants to confirm you or adjust you by using Your Spiritual Authority. Choose wisely and then stick with it.

Scripture Study: In thinking about the qualities of someone who is to become your Spiritual Authority, consider the qualifications listed in Scripture. *(15 minutes)*

Read Hebrews 13:7. You certainly don't want to choose someone who lacks deep, Biblical _____, because

Read Hebrews 13:17. The Spiritual Authority you choose to be your Pastor-leaders must be ones who are excellent at

_____, because they are supposed to be profitable for you.

Read 1 Timothy 3:2-7. The Pastors and Leaders in the Church who fulfill this role of Spiritual Authority as your Harbor Light # 3 must have the following qualifications:

Prayer Time: *(15 – 30 minutes)*

If you are serving someone as a Spiritual Authority, ask God for His Wisdom to truly watch over this soul so that he will greatly benefit.

Thank the Father God for putting His checks and balances into your life so that you will receive the very best Guidance.

Submit yourself to God afresh, and then use your spiritual authority in prayer to pray God's will into situations which need this help.

Ask God to protect those who have spiritual oversight of your life.

Lesson 25

Harbor Light # 4 is The Open Door, which refers to the opportunity God opens up for you. Revelations 3:8 says, “Behold, I have put before you an open door which no one can shut.” Ultimately, it is God who opens or shuts doors.

It is common for God to give you an assignment that necessitates that you go through an opening that seems impossible. He frequently requires you to “inherit His promises through faith and patience”; but your part is not to crash the door down yourself. That is His part, though He will want to use you to pray, to believe, and to knock on the “impossible” door. Your part may require courage and endurance; but you must observe His timetable and wait on Him.

There are definitely times when you will have three Harbor Lights lined up: The Word of God, The Witness of the Spirit, and Your Spiritual Authority, only to find that The Open Door is still shut; and then you watch and pray for God to do His part.

Scripture Study: Watch Paul feel strongly that he should go a particular direction only to have the Lord check him and make him wait for further Guidance. (*10 minutes*)
Read Acts 16:6-10. How do you think the Holy Spirit might “forbid you to speak the word” in a certain area or to a certain group?

Paul was clearly on solid Biblical ground when he was trying to go into one region, but here you see a combination of The Witness of the Spirit and The Open Door to change the Guidance he received.

What does this say to you about God’s Guidance in your life?

Scripture Study: Jesus left Judea due to God closing a door, and this involved natural circumstances. Then He decided to return to Judea when the circumstances of danger remained unchanged. Read John 11:7-10.

(*5 minutes*)

Finish this sentence: “Sometimes God uses natural circumstances to provide Guidance; and then sometimes He

_____.”
What does this say about your experiencing Divine Guidance?

Prayer Time: (*15 – 30 minutes*)

Submit yourself afresh to the Guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Embrace patience and tell the Lord that you love His timing and want it in your life.

Pray for His Divine Guidance for your Church.

Ask the Holy Spirit to anoint your whole Church to advance the Kingdom of God in powerful ways!

Lesson 26

Not all Guidance seems to be supernatural. Some clearly is. Some will violate human reason, while other Guidance will come into your life through natural occurrences.

God uses wars, famine, the death of someone, the transfer of someone, an inheritance, or the shifting of economic or political conditions to motivate people into certain courses of action. Theologically, these fall into the category of The Providences of God.

God is sovereign, and He ultimately controls the weather, floods, hurricanes, droughts, natural disasters, and the affairs of the nations. God sets the stage, and we act in His production! Just know that He loves you and carefully watches you with His eye.

Scripture Study: Read Jesus' instructions about fleeing in Matthew 10:23. (*5 minutes*)
What is Jesus' general rule when there is persecution?

Does He ever give one of His servants orders to stay? _____ If you were living where there was persecution, what would you do?

Scripture Study: Read how God led some to flee and others to stay when persecution broke out in Jerusalem - Acts 8:1-16. (*5 minutes*)

How did God use the persecution to advance His Kingdom?

Who stayed in Jerusalem?

Scripture Study: Here's another example in Acts 18:1-2. (*5 minutes*)

How did God use a very painful, disturbing thing to bring Aquila and Priscilla into their Kingdom functions?

How have you experienced Divine Guidance in this fashion?

Prayer Time: (*15 – 30 minutes*)

Thank God for His sovereign hand upon your life.

Raise your hands toward the Lord and do what is commanded in the Psalm: "Bless the Lord."
"I will bless the Lord who has counseled me" - Psalm 16:7.

Extol your God! Declare. Shout. Sing. (These are all in the Psalms)

Now wait quietly upon Him who loves you.

Lesson 27

Harbor Light # 5 cuts across the American tradition of individualism and independence while it reveals the beauty of God's wisdom in team play and community life. This last Harbor Light is The Backing of Your Church. (For this to work, you have to be a vital part of a Church that is experiencing the true Headship of Jesus Christ.)

God doesn't sponsor spiritual Rambos, which we so esteem in movies and books. Armies don't fight as individuals but in Units. The Church is called an Army, a Bride, a Body, a Temple, a Warrior, and a House; but "She" is always a people who are intended to function as a coordinated whole rather than as a collection of individuals who do their own thing.

God is the author of Divine Synergy. He is glorified when we work in a similar coordination to what is observed in the Holy Trinity.

Scripture Study: Jesus personally commissioned Paul into his ministry, but watch what happens before Paul goes deeply into his calling. Read Acts 13:1-4. (*5 minutes*)
What are the various types of team play which you observe in this passage?

Who was ultimately sending this team?

But who else was sending this team?

There may be a pattern here, for the Lord sends them in Acts 13:2, the brethren in Acts 13:3; and then who is mentioned in Acts 13:4 as sending them?

Scripture Study: An Old Testament examples of this principle is observed in Exodus 4:18. (*5 minutes*)

Moses had received direct orders from the Lord Himself.
But what does he want before he launches forth?

Scripture Study: 1 Corinthians 12:14-22. (*5 minutes*)

How might this apply to Guidance in your life?

Prayer Time: (*15 – 30 minutes*)

Acknowledge the wisdom of God in placing your life into relationship with your brothers and sisters.

Ask the Lord to link your life and ministry with others for His purposes.

Pray for spiritual growth in your brothers and sisters.

Pray for the Lord's plans to prosper in your Team (Church).

Lesson 28

What about human thinking? Are you supposed to throw your brains out the window? Not according to Jesus or the rest of Scripture.

In decision-making, it is good to consider all the possibilities. Writing down all the pros and cons is an excellent exercise. Sharing your list with others so that you can receive the benefit of the wisdom and insights of other wise people is simply being responsible. Obviously, this list is to be surrendered along with your will to the Lord Jesus Christ for His Decision-Making.

While it's true that your human reasoning can lead you astray, God wants to redeem your mind and train you to think along with Him. This is why Romans 12 links your experiences with the mercies of God to the process whereby He transforms your mind.

Scripture Study: Examine the examples Jesus used in Luke 14:28-32. (*5 minutes*)
What is Jesus' point?

How might you apply His point to your seeking Divine Guidance?

Scripture Study: Examine Romans 12:1-3 for what insights you might gain in using your mind and thinking.

(*10 minutes*)

Look at Romans 12:1 - What does God do in you that prepares your mind to be used by Him?

In what way does God intend to transform your mind?

How does God do this in you in order to help you come into "sound judgment" (this Greek word is speaking of a saved mind)?

Prayer Time: (*15 – 30 minutes*)

Review before the Lord some of His mercies that He has poured out upon you.

Now offer Him your entire being as a sacrifice so that you might live upon His altar!

Worship Him by surrendering yourself!

Ask the Spirit of God to anoint you and teach you God's ways so that your life may be living proof of His Divine Wisdom.

Lesson 29

What about the “Gideon thing” of putting a “fleece” out before the Lord? First, it is helpful to get Gideon’s fleece into Biblical perspective, for his was not an act of faith but of Unbelief. He already had a very clear word from the Lord, and it was very much in line with the written Word of God. He was fearful and timid and wanted more and more assurance, which was understandable when you look at the giant, daunting task to which he was called. Still, the fleece method was no more normative for Guidance than the casting of lots in Acts 1.

What about Bible flopping (the opening of the Bible at random and reading the first verse you come to, thinking that this will be God speaking)? Well, the interesting thing is that most of us have had God speak to us with this method; but it is probably something He reserves for new Christians. Certainly this is not a mature approach to hearing the voice of God. In fact, in extreme cases, it can be turned into a form of magic. However, this is not the same as having a verse “quickened” by the Spirit; for this is a way greatly used by the Lord.

Scripture Study: Jesus tells us that His sheep know His voice just as ordinary sheep easily recognize the voice of their shepherd. Activate your faith for hearing His voice by studying His Words on this subject. *(10 minutes)*

Read John 10:4-5. If you became a Christian as an adult, you can verify this in your own experience.

What are some of the ways you hear His voice?

Read John 10:27 over and over slowly, allowing it to sink deeply into your inner man, for it will grow in you as you hold it closely to yourself.

Scripture Study: There are Christians who neglect their Bibles and, as a result, become dull in their sensitivity to the voice of the Lord. Sometimes they look for a shortcut to Divine Guidance, which is a bad idea, because God wants your intimate fellowship. *(5 minutes)*

Read Hebrews 5:11-14.

In this context, “milk” refers to the solid food of God’s words digested by someone else and fed to you the way a mother eats food and produces milk for her babes.

What is God “saying” to you as you read this passage?

Prayer Time: *(15 – 30 minutes)*

If you have used wrong ways to obtain God’s Guidance, ask for His forgiveness.

If you have neglected the study of Scripture so as to heed the Lord’s voice, then ask for His forgiveness.

Read John 10:27 before the Lord this morning and accept it deep within.

Wait quietly upon the Lord. Relax. Don’t strain to hear His voice: just be with Him and let Him minister His peace to you.

Lesson 30

We can be strangely paranoid in that we want Divine Guidance, but at the same time we might discover that we are also afraid of hearing the Lord. Many live in the spiritual swamplands by thinking that God is mostly mad and mostly sad when He thinks about them! Can you recognize that this is a veiled accusation against the Lord? It is a common but damaging lie sponsored by Satan himself; for he hates the thought of God loving you and speaking to you!

Your ability to trust Him and to live in a quiet confidence that He is guiding you comes from believing about the Father what Jesus believed. That is why, "Whatever is not of faith is sin" - Romans 14:23.

God isn't good to you based upon your performance. God is good to you based upon His character; and His Goodness is not subject to ups and downs. This is why David wrote Psalms calling God his Rock! You can build your days upon His faithfulness!

Scripture Study: Read David's Psalm 25 and make it a text for Guidance. *(15 minutes)*
Read Psalm 25:1-3. What here applies to Divine Guidance?

Read Psalm 25:4-5. What do you discover here that teaches you or encourages you in seeking the Guidance of the Lord?

Read Psalm 25:6-7. What do you find here that changes any wrong ideas you may have about God's willingness to Guide you?

Read Psalm 25:8-11. What a treasure chest! What do you find here that speaks to you about receiving God's Guidance?

Read Psalm 25:12-13. What does the Lord promise you here?

Read Psalm 25:14-15. Do you fear God? _____ What are the confidences which belong to you based upon the fact that you do fear God?

Prayer Time: *(15 – 30 minutes)*

If you recognize that you have wrongly feared God, repent and ask Him for the profound respect that quickly believes what He says about you!

Cast off any unbelief and put all your trust in Him who loves you!

Ask Jesus to Shepherd you today by His Holy Spirit and believe it!

Look over Psalm 25 and pray, as you feel prompted, for He will take you into His prayer life!

Lesson 31

While the Father certainly sees you as an individual, He also sees you as part of your local Church. In fact, He sets you into the context of His larger purpose by placing you in a Church that is stewarding His Vision. Therefore, your life-purpose is linked to the Vision given to the Group. You are part of the team; your gifts and callings are designed to supply and mesh with others in such a way that everyone's life-purpose is fulfilled. It is part of God's genius to weave together His will for your life into the fabric of His will for the lives around you.

For this reason, Divine Guidance is not something that works very well for the spiritual Lone Ranger.

God is always speaking to a local Church in unique ways; and what He says is part of His Guidance for you. Listen well. Think like a team player, and you will be surprised at how much more Guidance you experience.

Scripture Study: Paul speaks of the administration of the mystery of God's grace in Ephesians 3:2-9; but in Ephesians 3:10 he brings us to one of those special secrets which give us insight into why God works with us in a collective way. *(10 minutes)*

Read Ephesians 3:10. The phrase, "manifold wisdom," can be translated, "multi-faceted wisdom," and it can be pictured as a cut diamond which has many cuts or facets which reflect the light and cause the stone to sparkle.

How do you think God displays to the demon world His different types of wisdom through the Church?

How might this display of His manifold wisdom relate to your receiving Divine Guidance?

Scripture Study: Read this familiar passage quickly in 1 Corinthians 12:12-26, and then apply Paul's thought to your need for Divine Guidance. *(5 minutes)*

Prayer Time: *(15 – 30 minutes)*

Humble yourself before the Lord to receive help from your brothers and sisters.

Ask God for His grace so that you also may contribute to the needs of your brothers and sisters so that you are both receiving and giving.

Ask God to display His Wisdom and Glory to the demon world through your Church!

Pray His Will into the situations that face your Church: finances, youth, missionaries, boldness for every Christian to witness, etc.

I purpose to meet with God tomorrow morning at _____ a.m.