

Knowing God 20

I. Guidance? Packer says that many are concerned that guidance has been;

- a. Missed
- b. Not given
- c. Lamp Ps 119:105

II. Divine Guidance presupposes two things

a. God has a plan

- i. Ephesians 1:7-10
- ii. Ephesians 3:10-12

b. God communicates

- 1. Genesis 1:26
- 2. Prophets, Preachers, Teachers
- 3. Isaiah 58:11 Promise of guidance that nourishes
 - a. Exodus 17:6 Christ
 - b. Psalm 1:3 unto kingship
- 4. Glorify and Enjoy p233

III. How we receive guidance

- a. "will-o'-the-wisp" ?
- b. Inward prompting of the Holy Spirit (apart from the word)
- c. **Agonize** over everyday decisions that he has given us reason enough to make
- d. Life is not a field of this or that choices.
 - i. This or that exclusively
 - ii. I have peace about...
- e. Lunacy and foolishness
- f. "What conduct of this sort shows is a failure to grasp that the fundamental mode whereby **our rational Creator guides his rational creatures is by rational understanding and application of His written word.**" P235
- g. "**But the true way to honor the Holy Spirit as our guide is to honor the holy Scriptures through which He guides us.**" P236
- h. **Be transformed (born again)**
- i. **Psalm 119:105**

IV. Six Common Pitfalls

- a. Unwillingness to think
- b. Unwillingness to think ahead
- c. Unwillingness to take advice
- d. Unwilling to suspect oneself
- e. Ask ourselves why we “feel” (want) a particular course.
- f. Unwillingness to discount personal magnetism (**project good will**)

V. No Simple Answers

- a. Does correct or right guidance guarantee ease?
- b. We can often re-evaluate and weigh our first decision
- c. Pual was guided toward persecution
- d. **Isaiah 55:9**

VI. When we miss

- a. Recognize
- b. Repent
- c. Obey
- d. Rejoice!

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Ephesians 1:7-10 7In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, 8which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight 9making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ 10as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

Ephesians 3:10-12 10so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. 11This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, 12in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him.

Isaiah 58:11 11And the Lord will guide you continually and satisfy your desire in scorched places and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters do not fail.

Exodus 17:6 6Behold, I will stand before you there on the rock at Horeb, and you shall strike the rock, and water shall come out of it, and the people will drink." And Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel.

Psalms 1:3 3He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers.

Psalms 119: 105 Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

Isaiah 55:9 8For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord.

9For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts