

# How Does God Guide Us?

## Why involve God in the decisions we make?

- God promises to guide us (**Psalm 32:8, John 10:3-4, 27**)
- God has a plan for our lives (**Jeremiah 29:11, Romans 12:2, John 10:10-15**)

## How does God guide us?

### 1. Commanding Scripture (The Bible)

- **General will** - General instruction for marriage, work, money, children, elderly relatives (**2 Timothy 3:16; Psalm 119:105, 130-133**)



- **Primary calling**



To love God



To love others



To be like Jesus

### 2. Compelling Spirit (the Holy Spirit)?

- God speaks as you pray (**Acts 13:1-3**)
- Strong desire to do something
- Sometimes he guides in more unusual ways
  - Prophecy, (**Acts 11:27-28; 21:10-11**)
  - Dreams (**Matthew 1:20**)
  - Visions/pictures (**Acts 16:10**)
  - Angels (**Genesis 18; Matthew 2:19; Acts 12:7**)
  - Audible voice (**1 Samuel 3:4-14**)

*'For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.'*

**Ephesians 2:10, NLT**



*'Don't judge me by my successes judge me by how many times I've fallen down and got back up again.'*

**Nelson Mandela**

*'God works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose'*

**Philippians 2:13**

## SET YOUR QUESTIONS FREE

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### 3. Counsel of the saints (the Church)

- ‘... the wise listen to advice’ (**Proverbs 12:15**)
- ‘Make plans by seeking advice’ (**Proverbs 20:18**)

Need for testing (**1 John 4:1**)

- Is it in line with the Bible?
- Is it loving? (**1 John 4:16**)
- Is it strengthening, encouraging, and comforting? (**1 Corinthians 14:3**)
- Does it bring the peace of God? (**Colossians 3:15**)

Ultimately, we are responsible for our decisions, but it is a blessing to have others to talk to about the decisions we are making.

### 4. Common sense (reason)?

- ‘Reflect on what I am saying, for the Lord will give you insight into all this’ (**2 Timothy 2:7**)

### 5. Circumstantial signs?

- ‘And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.’ (**Romans 8:28**)
- ‘In your heart you plan your course, but the Lord determines your steps’ (**Proverbs 16:9; Psalm 37:5**)
- Sometimes God closes doors (**Acts 16:7**)
- Sometimes God opens doors (**1 Corinthians 16:9**)
- Sometimes we need to persevere despite the circumstances and trust God
  - Be patient
  - We all make mistakes – God forgives (**Joel 2:25**)



*‘God’s promises of guidance were not given to save us the problem of thinking’*

**John Stott**

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