

Occasional Update 16

23 August 2023

PRAYER and FINDING GOD'S WILL (Part 3)

(Parts 1 & 2 were Updates 10 & 14)

For **all** Updates, see <https://www.pray-for-the-nation.org/occasional-updates.php>

Have you ever wondered what God wants you to do? I'm sure every Christian has ... many times! Here are some of the things which I have found to be very helpful ...

COMMITTING OUR WAY TO THE LORD

"Trust in the LORD, and do good; so you will live in the land, and enjoy security. Take delight in the LORD, and He will give you the desires of your heart.

Commit your way to the LORD, trust in Him, and He will act." (Psalm 37:3-5)

"The plans of the mind belong to people, but the answer of the tongue is from the LORD. All our ways may be pure in our own eyes, but the LORD weighs the spirit.

Commit your work to the LORD, and your plans will be established." (Proverbs 16:1-3).

Committing our way to the Lord is very important. Sometimes we try to do things by ourselves; or we may have already chosen what we want to do, and "hope" He agrees.

Then ...

"Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight [or understanding]. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make straight your paths." (Proverbs 3:5-6)

"For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God." (Romans 8:14)

Commit your way [and day] to Lord. Desire God's will and His way; after all, He knows what is best, He wants to give us the best, and He is able to! Then we must be willing to **obey**, even if it is not quite "what we would like." We don't always understand God's ways, but we still need to trust Him! Often, sometimes years later, we see why God led us in the ways He did.

OPEN AND CLOSED DOORS

"These are the words of the holy one, the true one, who has the key of David, who opens and no one will shut, who shuts and no one opens:

"I know your works. Look, I have set before you **an open door**, which no one is able to shut. I know that you have but little power, and yet you have kept My word and have not denied My name." ... "Behold, I stand at the door and knock." (Revelation 3:7-8, 20)

So I say to you, "Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened." (Luke 11:9-10)

Pray, and Listen! "When you turn to the right or when you turn to the left, your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, "This is the way; walk in it." (Isaiah 30:21)

God's times may be different from what we would like, even when we think we need the answer "urgently". Again, God knows best!

PEACE

A deep sense of God's peace may also come before or when we begin to walk in God's ways; when we know what He wants us to do. Think about some of Jesus' words to people who needed His help, or needed to overcome fear and have peace:

"Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid" (John 14:27)

In a time of turmoil, Jesus "... rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Peace. Be still!" Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm." (Mark 4:39)

"Be still and know that I am God! I am exalted among the nations; I am exalted in the earth." (Psalm 46:10)

GOD'S WORD AND HIS SPIRIT

The Gospels record about 18 different occasions in which Jesus said, "**Follow Me**". Why? Because He is the Way, and He *wants* to guide us and show us the way we should take.

With regard to a shepherd and his sheep, Jesus said, "The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers." (John 10:2-5)

Psalm 23 also shares, in a beautiful way, the assurance we can have because the LORD is my Shepherd. What does the good shepherd do? He leads his sheep! He guides, provides, and protects His sheep. For us, He also gives us a future with hope!

To Israel, God said, "For surely I know the plans I have for you", says the LORD, "plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. Then when you call upon Me and come and pray to Me, I will hear you. When you search for Me, you will find Me; if you seek Me with all your heart, I will let you find Me", says the LORD ... (Jeremiah 29:11-14)

God guides us through **His Word and His Spirit**, speaking to us directly to our heart and mind – a strong sense of what we believe He is saying to us. Jesus is our Guide; we need to seek His will, His way, and His time. Wait, Go, Do!

To those whose lives are in God's hands, "It is the LORD who goes before you. He will be with you; He will not fail you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed." (Deut. 31:8)

We need a 'right heart' – willing to prayerfully ask, with the faith to accept God's will; patience, and obedience.

For free, online studies about 'Finding God's will' (which can be downloaded) see "**[SPEAK, LORD](https://www.pray-for-the-nation.org/bible-study-books.php)**" book: <https://www.pray-for-the-nation.org/bible-study-books.php>

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