

Session 7

How does **God** guide us



‘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)

Why involve God in the decisions we make?

- God promises to guide us
 - (Psalm 32:8)
 - (John 10:3–4,27)

- God has a good plan for our lives
 - (Jeremiah 29:11)
 - (Romans 12:2)
 - (John 10:10,15)

How does God guide us?

1. COMMANDING SCRIPTURE

- 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 become like Jesus

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2. COMPELLING SPIRIT

- God speaks as you pray (Acts 13:1–3)
- Strong desire to do something
 - ‘God works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose’ (Philippians 2:13)
- Sometimes he guides in more unusual ways
 - Prophecy, eg Agabus (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)

3. COUNSEL OF THE SAINTS

- ‘... 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

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

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

JOHN STOTT

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)

