

A Fresh Start with God ~ *beginning again, moving forward*

Week 4 – How do I discover, understand & follow God’s specific plan for MY life?

October 29, 2006

God promises customized guidance.

The LORD says, "I will guide you along the best pathway for your life. I will advise you and watch over you. Psalm chapter 32, verse 8 (427)

God’s guidance is not a mystery.

Trust in the LORD with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and he will direct your paths. Proverbs chapter 3, verses 5-6 (482)

Four elements to discovering and following God’s plan for my life:

1. “Trust in the Lord with all your heart,”

"but the righteous will live by his faith"--Habakkuk chapter 2, verse 4 (173)

- ✓ Faith is a requirement for everything in the Christian life.
- ✓ Faith is my cooperation in God’s plan.
- ✓ My faith must go beyond my sight.
- ✓ I can fully trust God because His track record is flawless.

2. “do not depend on your own understanding”

- Do you realize the limits of human understanding & wisdom?
- I am not able to make godly, wise decisions independent of God.
- Dependence upon God is my faith in action.

Guidance comes from God’s Word.

Your word is a lamp for my feet and a light for my path.

Psalm chapter 119, verse 105 (470)

The Bible is our authority & is reliable.

- ✓ The Bible claims to be the Word of God more than 2000 times.
- ✓ The Bible has 66 books written by about 40 authors over 1500 years.
- ✓ The authority of scripture is always better than the authority of people or tradition.

(If you would like more detailed information on the authority of the Bible check out Christian History magazine issue 43 entitled *How We got Our Bible*)

All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It straightens us out and teaches us to do what is right.

2 Timothy chapter 3, verse 16 (915)

We should always be asking, “what does the bible say about that?”

The Bible is effective in my life... if I use it.

For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. Hebrews chapter 4, verse 12 (922)

Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.

James chapter 1 verse 22 (930)

Guidance comes from God's Spirit.

When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth.

John chapter 16, verse 13 (824)

*The Holy Spirit comes into your life the moment you trust Christ as your savior and will never leave you.

But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. John chapter 14, verse 26 (823)

- ❖ God cares about the details of your life.
- ❖ God's will is specific.
- ❖ So be specific when seeking God's guidance- Ask for specifics.
- ❖ Confess your sin regularly and live obediently otherwise we "quench" the work of the Spirit.

3. Seek his will in all you do",

I will climb up to my watchtower and stand at my guardpost. There I will wait to see what the Lord says and how he will answer my complaint. Habakkuk chapter 2, verses 1-2 (713)

- Get alone with God & his word.
- Wait, (be still) and watch for God.
- As you wait realize God is merciful and he is committed to you despite your wrong turns in the past.

How do I know if this is a prompting of the Holy Spirit?

1. Is it consistent with the Bible?
2. Does it make me more like Jesus?
3. Is it consistent with how God shaped me?
4. Do I sense God's peace about it?

4. "and he will direct your paths"

- God will not keep his direction from you.
- At the right time he will accomplish his plan.
- The path may not be easy but you won't be alone.

Then you will gain renewed health and vitality.

Proverbs chapter 3, verses 8

This study is based on the "Fresh Start" curriculum from Saddleback Church in California where Rick Warren is the lead pastor. Rick is the best-selling author of The Purpose Driven Life & Saddleback is a dynamic church that God is working thru to change tens of thousands of lives around the world.

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