

**The Quest for God's Guidance**  
**Psalm 25**  
**Ken Lewis**

**Big Idea: The quest for God's guidance must be a quest for intimacy with God.**

It seems to me that the Bible describes the ordinary guidance of God as the development of spiritual sensitivity. In other words, the prerequisite of divine guidance is not the quest for messages, but the quest for holiness. Guidance is the product not of ecstatic heights but of spiritual depth. **John Piper**

> **Four important truths concerning God's will:**

- (1) Know the difference between His "general" and his "particular" will.
- (2) The basis of our assurance lies in the nature of God (v. 25:8, 12).
- (3) Discerning the will of God is intended to be a refining process.
- (4) Christians consult Christ when making choices.

**Luke 6:46** "Why do you call me 'Lord, Lord,' and not do what I tell you?"

- **Have you ever experienced fear, loneliness, guilt, and confusion?** David was experiencing all of these at once.

(1) Fear (vv. 2, 19)

2 O my God, in you I trust; let me not be put to shame; let not my enemies exult over me.  
19 Consider how many are my foes, and with what violent hatred they hate me.

(2) Loneliness (vv. 16-17)

16 Turn to me and be gracious to me, for I am lonely and afflicted. 17 The troubles of my heart are enlarged; bring me out of my distresses. 18 Consider my affliction and my trouble, and forgive all my sins.

(3) Guilt (vv. 7-8, 11, 18)

11 For your name's sake, O LORD, pardon my guilt, for it is great.

(4) Confusion (vv. 4-5, 8-12)

4 Make me to know your ways, O LORD; teach me your paths. 5 Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all the day long.

- **So what do you do when you are experiencing confusion, guilt, loneliness, and fear?**

**Psalm 62:8** Trust in him at all times, O people; pour out your heart before him; God is a refuge for us.  
Selah

- **When you face a decision, and there is no biblical command relating directly to that specific choice, what should you do?**

**Six spiritual prerequisites for God's guidance:**

- Sinlessness is not a prerequisite to guidance, because God is good (v. 8).

25:8 Good and upright is the Lord; therefore he instructs sinners in the way.

**Psalm 37:23-24**

23 The steps of a man are established by the LORD, when he delights in his way; 24 though he fall, he shall not be cast headlong, for the LORD upholds his hand.

**1. Trust God (25:1-3; 15, 20-21)**

1 To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul. 2 O my God, in you I trust; let me not be put to shame; let not my enemies exult over me. 3 Indeed, none who wait for you shall be put to shame; they shall be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

15 My eyes are ever toward the LORD, for he will pluck my feet out of the net.

20 Oh, guard my soul, and deliver me! Let me not be put to shame, for I take refuge in you. 21 May integrity and uprightness preserve me, for I wait for you.

> The quest for guidance is a quest for faith.

**Psalm 143:8**

8 Let me hear in the morning of your steadfast love, for in you I trust. Make me know the way I should go, for to you I lift up my soul.

> To trust God you must know who He is.

> How can you know the will of God? Trust the Lord!

## 2. Desire God (25:4-5)

4 Make me to know your ways, O LORD; teach me your paths. 5 Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all the day long.

> The quest for guidance is a quest for truth.

Psalm 86:11

11 Teach me your way, O LORD, that I may walk in your truth; unite my heart to fear your name.

God's will is not a road map it's a relationship. Adrian Rogers

> In discerning God's will scripture is supreme.

Psalm 119:105

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

The will of command is revealed in the Bible decisively, authoritatively, infallibly.

If you want to do discern what is the will of God, you start here. John Piper

> The practice of spiritual disciplines is a key factor in discerning the will of God.

> How can you know the will of God? Pursue the Lord!

## 3. Confess Sin (25:6-8, 11, 18) \_

6 Remember your mercy, O LORD, and your steadfast love, for they have been from of old.

7 Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to your steadfast love remember me,

for the sake of your goodness, O LORD!

8 Good and upright is the Lord; therefore he instructs sinners in the way.

11 For your name's sake, O LORD, pardon my guilt, for it is great.

18 Consider my affliction and my trouble, and forgive all my sins.

> The quest for guidance is a quest for holiness.

Psalm 32:5

5 I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover my iniquity; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD," and you forgave the iniquity of my sin. Selah

1 John 2:12

I am writing to you, little children, because your sins are forgiven for his name's sake.

> How can you know the will of God? Confess your sin to the Lord!

## 4. Humble yourself (v. 9)

9 He leads the humble in what is right, and teaches the humble his way.

> The quest for guidance is a quest for humility.

> Those who are humble are teachable.

Psalm 149:4

4 For the LORD takes pleasure in his people; he adorns the humble with salvation.

> The humble seek godly counsel.

Proverbs 11:14

Where there is no guidance, a people falls, but in an abundance of counselors there is safety

> How can you know the will of God? Humble yourself before the Lord!

## 5. Obey God (v. 10)

10 All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and faithfulness, for those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.

> The quest for guidance is a quest for obedience.

> Obey what you already know to be God's will.

> Are you willing to do God's will before you know what it is?

"Nine-tenths of the difficulties are overcome when our hearts are ready to do the Lord's will, whatever it may be. When one is truly in this state, it is usually but a little way to the knowledge of what His will is." George Muller

Psalm 119:33-38

- 33 Teach me, O LORD, the way of your statutes; and I will keep it to the end.
- 34 Give me understanding, that I may keep your law and observe it with my whole heart.
- 35 Lead me in the path of your commandments, for I delight in it.
- 36 Incline my heart to your testimonies, and not to selfish gain!
- 37 Turn my eyes from looking at worthless things; and give me life in your ways.
- 38 Confirm to your servant your promise, that you may be feared.

> How can you know the will of God? Obey the Lord!

#### 6. Fear God (25:12-14)

- 12 Who is the man who fears the LORD? Him will he instruct in the way that he should choose.
  - 13 His soul shall abide in well-being, and his offspring shall inherit the land.
  - 14 The friendship of the LORD is for those who fear him, and he makes known to them his covenant.
- > The quest for guidance is a quest for reverent worship.

> What are the benefits of fearing God?

- (1) "Him will he instruct in the way that he should choose." (v. 12b)
- (2) "His soul shall abide in well-being," (v. 13a)
- (3) "his offspring shall inherit the land." (v. 13)
- (4) "he makes known to them his covenant." (v. 14)

#### Psalm 111:10

10 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding. His praise endures forever!

#### Psalm 128:1-2

1 Blessed is everyone who fears the LORD, who walks in his ways! 2 You shall eat the fruit of the labor of your hands; you shall be blessed, and it shall be well with you.

> How can you know the will of God? Fear the Lord!