



WELCOME TO
"STARTING POINT"

Laying The Foundation For Growing In Christ

SESSION SIX: DISCOVERING GUIDANCE FOR ADVENTUROUS LIVING

*"I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you and watch over you."
Psalms 32:8*

QUESTIONS:

Where do I go for guidance? How do I know what decision to make?

INTRODUCTION:

God has a **specific plan** for my life. But how am I to figure this out? My future seems filled with uncertainties that demand decisions today. How does my new life in Christ work out in all of this?

Where do I go for guidance?

There are two main sources for guidance:

1. Guidance comes from _____.

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not to your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him and He will make your paths straight." Proverbs 3:5,6.

2. Guidance comes from the _____.

"All scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, reproofing, correcting and training in righteousness." 2 Timothy 3:16.

_____ : Shows you the path to walk on.

_____ : Shows you where you've gotten off the path.

_____ : Shows you how to get back on the path.

_____ : Shows you how to stay on the path.



3. Guidance comes from _____ God for it.
"If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him." James 1:5

God has already provided much guidance through the Bible. When there is a clear statement from the Bible on a subject then we don't have to be confused about what to do. For example: "Love one another" provides a lot of guidance for interpersonal relationships.

But... What about more specific guidance where the Bible does not speak to the issues directly? For example: Should I take this job transfer or not?

How do I know what decision to make?

Let's look at Acts 16:6-10 for some principles.

"Paul and his companions traveled throughout the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been kept by the Holy Spirit from preaching the word in the province of Asia. When they came to the border of Mysia, they tried to enter Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus would not allow them. So they passed by Mysia and went down to Troas. During the night Paul had a vision of a man of Macedonia standing and begging him, 'Come over to Macedonia and help us.' After Paul had seen the vision, we got ready at once to leave for Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them. Acts 16:6-10

There are three principles to observe:

1. Guidance is not _____ only, but also _____
"...they tried to enter Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus would not allow them." v.7
"... come over to Macedonia and help us." v.8
2. Guidance is not _____ only, but also _____.
"...concluding that God has called us :" v. 10
3. Guidance is not _____ only, but also _____,
"after Paul had seen the vision, we got ready concluding...." v. 10

Apply these principles:

- 1 . Describe a situation where you need God's guidance.



2. List steps you can take to receive greater guidance. Check the appropriate steps below:

- Trust God
- Read His word
- Ask for wisdom
- See the positive
- Understand the negative
- Think about the situation
- Seek Godly counsel

STARTING POINT
GROWING IN CHRIST STUDY
SESSION #6

CASE STUDY:

I've been dating different people over the last couple of years. But, have been frustrated because I have not found anyone that I really feel comfortable with until I met Bill. I have been praying about a partner for sometime now. We met recently through a mutual friend and we clicked.

He is a Christian and he demonstrates some Christian traits such as kindness and tenderness. On occasion, he has angry outbursts with his father over how much he drinks around the house, but he is trying to change.

I talked with my parents about the seriousness of the relationship and they have counseled me to cool it. They cited our differences such as I'm a leader and he's not. I have a college degree and he doesn't. He works as an artist at the Underground in downtown Atlanta. I work as an investment banker. I come from a stable nurturing home, but his has been disruptive.

I'm not sure whether I should move forward with this relationship. Can you help me?

Case Questions:



1. Should this person marry Bill? Why or Why not?

2. How can the principles from this session provide guidance in this courtship?
