

# The Potter's Christian Life Center

SERMON NOTES  
with Pastor Greg Formey



## Silent Guidance

Exodus 13:21-22

February 22, 2026

Many believers say they want God to guide them. What they often mean is that they want God to give them a clear sign. They want something visible, immediate, and unmistakable. A door swings open. A voice speaks. A situation changes overnight. When these things do not happen, people may feel unsure, anxious, or even abandoned.

Scripture shows us that God has, at times, used visible signs. Yet the larger pattern of the Bible teaches that He guides His people mainly through His Word and His character, not through constant seeable proof. Mature faith learns to walk steadily when the signs are absent, trusting that God is still present and still leading.

### STEADY, NOT SPECTACULAR

Exodus 13:21-22

**21 The Lord went ahead of them. He guided them during the day with a pillar of cloud, and he provided light at night with a pillar of fire. This allowed them to travel by day or by night.**  
**22 And the Lord did not remove the pillar of cloud or pillar of fire from its place in front of the people.** NLT

He led them through the wilderness by neutralizing the extreme brightness of the desert sun and the intense heat, while at night lightening the darkness and warming them in the coldness. Notice that the verse says HE was in the cloud and the fire.

Even with visible signs, Israel still faced uncertain times. The pillar of cloud and fire marked a unique moment in the history of Israel. Even with all this, Israel struggled. When God's actions slowed or were not clear, their trust weakened. This proved that visible acts of God do not produce lasting faith. We get used to them.

The generation at Kadesh-barnea refused to enter the land even after God's promises.

**Numbers 14:2**

**Would that we had died in the land of Egypt.”** ESV

Fear and unbelief overrode their trust when no new spectacular sign appeared.

When obedience feels ordinary and unrewarded, do you still trust that God is guiding you?

## **DISCERNMENT THROUGH HIS WORD AND HIS WAYS**

### **Proverbs 3:5-6**

**Trust in the LORD with all your heart... In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.”** ESV

God wants us to get to know Him relationally. This is far more valuable than visible direction.

In the ancient Near East, guidance often came through omens and rituals. Israel was commanded to reject these things and to listen instead to His instruction.

### **Deuteronomy 30:11**

**This command I am giving you today is not too difficult for you, and it is not beyond your reach.** NLT

Positive examples:

Jehoiada the priest, though largely hidden, guided Judah faithfully during a dark period.

**2 Kings 12:2 says, “Joash did what was right all his days because Jehoiada the priest instructed him.** ESV

He was, as it were, a “hidden figure in Israel's history”, much like Gladys Brown West. “Gladys Brown West” you say? An African American credited with being the mother of GPS. The news basically consigned her to little more than a footnote in history.

Are you measuring God's guidance by faithfulness to His Word, or by how dramatic the experience feels?

## **Conclusion**

God has never promised constant signs, but steady guidance through His Word and His character. Scripture teaches that mature faith is formed in obedience that continues when God seems hidden. Trusting God without signs is not weakness. It is the quiet strength of faith that endures.