

## Genesis, part 58 – The Leading of God, part 2 – How to Discern God's Will

"As followers of Christ, does God get **involved** in the **everyday details** of our **everyday lives**?"

God is a **personal God** . . . Who is **personally involved** . . . in the **personal details** . . . of your **personal lives**!

**INDICATOR #1** – The written Word of God (the Bible)

"Your **WORD** is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." Psalm 119:105

"Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every **WORD** that proceeds out of the mouth of God."  
Matthew 4:4

[David] "Direct my steps **according to Your WORD**." Psalm 119:133a

The **most important indicator** of God's will is the **Word of God**.  
God **NEVER** leads people contrary to His Word.

"Flee sexual immorality." 1 Corinthians 6:18

"Do not be yoked together with unbelievers." 2 Corinthians 6:14

"You shall not steal." Exodus 20:15

"Never take your own revenge." Romans 12:19

"You shall not commit adultery." Exodus 20:14

**INDICATOR #2** – The inner witness/confirmation of the Holy Spirit

[When you go to the Lord for guidance] "You will hear a voice behind you saying, 'This is the way, walk ye in it.'" Isaiah 30:21  
This is the voice of the indwelling Holy Spirit Himself.

"The Spirit of God bears witness with our spirit that we are the children of God." Romans 8:16  
But He also "bears witness with our spirit" about what God's will is in the details of life!

Hudson Taylor – Pioneer Missionary, 1832-1905

"I pleaded with the Holy Spirit to give me some work to do for Him . . ."

"I put myself, my life, my all upon the altar . . . The presence of God became so real, and I remember stretching myself on the ground and lying there before Him."

"Never shall I forget the feeling that came over me: 'Your prayer is answered; your conditions are accepted.' And from that time, the conviction has never left me that I was called to China."

This is the Holy Spirit "**bearing witness**" to a heart – but this only happens when we are **seeking God in earnest** [like Taylor was].

"There Elijah went into a cave and spent the night . . ." 1 Kings 19:9a

“Then the LORD said to him, ‘Go out and stand on the mountain, for the LORD is about to pass by.’ Then a great and powerful **wind** tore the mountain apart . . . But the LORD was not in the wind. And after the wind, there was an **earthquake**, but the LORD was not in the earthquake.” 1 Kings 19:11

“After the earthquake came a **fire**, but the LORD was not in the fire. And after the fire came a **still, small voice** [NIV – ‘gentle whisper’] and when Elijah heard it, he covered his face with his robe . . .” 1 Kings 19:12

“**Seeking the Lord**” is all about seeking to hear that “**still, small voice**” of the Holy Spirit.

**This can only happen:**

- **Immersing ourselves in the Word of God** every day.
- **On our face before God in serious prayer** every day
- **Seeking hard after God in prayer and fasting regularly**

We must not delude ourselves into thinking that we are any busier **today** than God’s people have been in the past.

“Satan will always find something for us to do instead of seeking God, even if it’s just arranging the window blinds.” Hudson Taylor

If we want the Holy Spirit to **lead and guide us to God’s will** for the details of our life [“This is the way, walk ye in it.”] – **seeking God like this is mandatory!**

**INDICATOR #3** – Circumstances

“God is a God of circumstances.”

“I have placed before you an open door that no man can shut.” Revelation 3:8

**Not only** does God open doors no man can shut – He also **shuts doors** no man can open.

As followers of Christ, God **uses** this control over circumstances **to lead and guide us**.



“During the night, Paul had a vision of a Macedonian man standing and begging him, ‘Come to Macedonia and help us.’” Acts 16:9

“And after Paul had seen the vision **immediately** we got ready to leave for Macedonia, **concluding** that God had called us to preach the Gospel to them.” Acts 16:10

“How did Paul **conclude** that going to Macedonia was God’s will?”

When he looked at how God had been working in his circumstances – **there was no other conclusion to draw!**

For us as followers of Christ – no “circumstance” is **random**.

God has His hand **in every one of them** and **uses them** to show us His will.

“Sir – if I get 75% - it will be such a miracle – that all I will need is 75.1%.”

Like Paul, I looked at all these circumstances and [Acts 16:10] **concluded** that God had **called me** to preach the Gospel at McLean Bible Church.

### **Three Major Indicators**

- The **written Word of God**
- The **inner witness and confirmation of the Holy Spirit** as we diligently seek Him
- The **circumstances God sends** into our life

### **The Advice of Godly People**

“Make plans by seeking advice; ask others for guidance.” Proverbs 20:18

“In a multitude of counselors there is wisdom.” Proverbs 11:14

As good as godly advice is, it must always be tempered by these three major “**indicators**.”

### **A Sense of Peace**

It is dangerous to make this the primary indicator of God’s will – because it’s far too easy to “**conjure up**” a “**sense of peace**” about something if I want it badly enough.

“How do I tell the difference between my own fleshly sense of peace – and the Holy Spirit’s witness and confirmation to my heart?”

By spending time with God often enough . . . and getting to know God well enough . . . that you develop the spiritual discernment to know the difference!