

Title: **"Let the Will of the Lord Be Done": Seeking God's Guidance in Our Lives Today**

Text: **Acts 21:1-14**

Find the sermon manuscript to follow along with online at mercyhillchurch.org.



Big Idea

God wants to be involved in the day-to-day details of your life. He cares about the big and little decisions that lay before you. He wants to help. We can and should seek him for guidance in these things.

1. The Possibility of Personal Guidance

In Acts 21, it is clear that Paul has some sense of the Spirit's leading of him personally (vv. 13-14). And there are others, if you noticed, who are given a sense of this for him as well (cf. vv. 4, 11). But the question before us now is: Does God do this for us still today? Should we even look for such a thing? Was this just for the early church, for the time when Scripture was being inspired and recorded, and now we don't really need it? Has this time passed?

God nowhere says in Scripture that what he began there with the early church at Pentecost in Acts 2—with the outpouring of the Spirit, the power, the sense of God's presence and personal guidance—would serve its purpose and then be done soon thereafter. If anything, he seems to explicitly say we should expect this kind of thing to continue on to the end (cf. Acts 2:14-18; 1 Cor. 1:4-8; 13:10).

2. The Risk of Mixed Signals

Back in Acts 20:22-23, the Holy Spirit had two parts to his message to Paul: (1) you're going to Jerusalem; and (2) it's going to hurt. These folks in Tyre and Caesarea seem to only get the second part "through the Spirit" and they miss the first. They hear rightly that it's going to hurt, but assume wrongly that means he mustn't go! Their application is off. They get the right impression, in one sense, but they come to the wrong conclusion. They mix the signals.

We've got to be careful when it comes to trying to seek God's guidance, whether for others or for ourselves. Our desires can get in the

way of our discernment. Our hearts can get in the way of our ears. What we want can influence what we hear and how we hear it. We can pick up a little bit of God and a little bit of us. Again, we can mix the signals.

"I shall never forget the cry of anguish wrung from that mother's heart as she felt that I was gone. It went through me like a knife. I never knew so fully, until then, what 'God so loved the world' meant." - Hudson Taylor

3. The Way Forward

Step #1: Surrender (to his heart)

We will not hear rightly if we are not surrendered completely. We'll twist and turn what he might be trying to tell us to get it to be what we want it to be. You have to know that what he says—whatever he says—is going to be for your good, no matter how hard it may seem in the moment.

Step #2: Soak (in his Word)

"All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work." - 2 Tim. 3:16-17

As you open the Book, God opens his mouth.

Step #3: Seek (out his guidance)

I think God does want us talking with him, asking him for guidance in our everyday decisions, however big or small. And I think God does sometimes lay things on our hearts. I think he can speak. But there's a reason this is step #3 and not step #1. It comes last. It's the least reliable. And it needs to be weighed and tested and subjected to what God has already revealed to us in Scripture (1 Cor. 14:29, 36-38; 1 Thess. 5:19-21).



Reflection Questions

- Do you believe God can and still does guide us in personal and particular ways? Why or why not?
- Which of the three steps listed under the third point above do you most need to grow in would you say and why?

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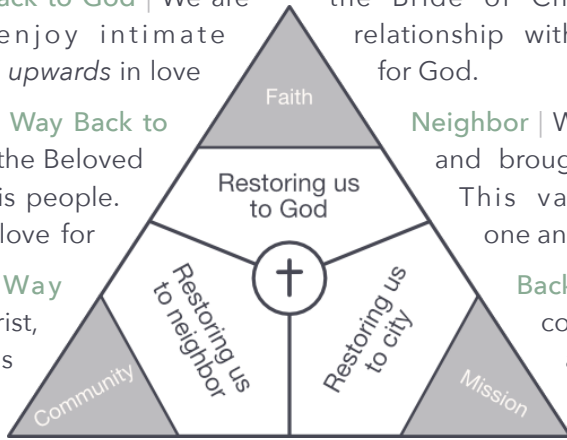
Our Mission & Values

Mercy Hill Church exists to help restore us to God, neighbor, and city through the good news of Jesus Christ.

FAITH: The Way Back to God | We are redeemed to enjoy intimate relationship with God. This value presses our church *upwards* in love for God.

COMMUNITY: The Way Back to Christ, adopted in the Beloved relationship with his people. This value presses our church *inwards* in love for Neighbor | We are the Family of and brought into covenantal relationship with his people. This value presses our one another.

MISSION: The Way the Embassy of Christ, Savior to be his ambassadors. This value presses our church *outwards* in love for the Back to City | We are commissioned by the unbelieving. This church *outwards* unbelieving.



Your Next Steps

When approaching the Christian faith and life, it can be confusing to know where to even begin. Come find us at the Next Steps Table after the service—it would be our joy to help you along in the journey! And if you're a visitor, we have a special gift bag for you. Don't miss it!



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Welcome to Mercy Hill Church.
We are so glad you've joined us today!

Announcement Spotlight

All Church Campout - Open Registration!

We are excited to announce that we will again be hosting our All Church Campout at Mount Madonna County Park over the weekend of June 26-28! We have a huge group campsite all to ourselves and lots of options in the park for having fun together. Whether you love to camp or you'd rather still sleep in your own bed, we have something for everyone. Because the park is only a 45 minute drive from south San Jose, people can feel free to come and go as it works with their schedule and preference.

- **Option #1: Day-Use:** For those not wanting to camp but still wanting to participate, the Day-Use option is best. You can come in for the day, enjoy activities, meals, etc., and then head home to your warm bed while the rest of us "rough" it :).
- **Option #2: Camp:** This option is for those who want the full camping experience. We have the site for Friday and Saturday nights. You can choose to camp for one or both of these depending upon your availability and desire.

Scan the QR code below for more info and to find a link to sign up!

If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to us at info@mercyhillchurch.org.

Women's Panel & Brunch - Save the Date (5/2)

Volunteer Gardening at Steinbeck - April 18th!

Scan the QR code below for more info and clickable content!

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