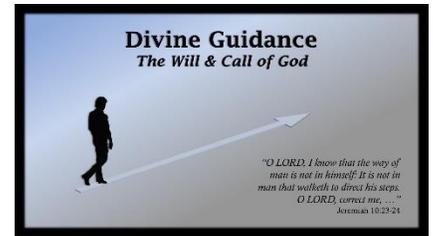


# Keystones for Living

## Divine Guidance The Will And Call Of God

### Lecture 6



And it's lecture #6! Welcome to Keystones for Living, Pastor Jerry here, discussing Divine Guidance and the Will and Call of God.

Today we want to talk about the Agency of Divine Guidance.

3 ways that God will use to guide us.

We can say the word, HELPS.

You can say the word aids. Three things that he will use. Instruments if you will, and they help serve to interpret things correctly for us so that we don't mess up this divine guidance.

Let's look at three things God will use to guide us.

Number one, we're going to write this on the board.

The word of God.

How many can agree that the word of God guides us?

Yes, absolutely.

Also the Spirit of God.

We're going to write that here.

The spirit of God. He uses the spirit of God to guide us, that's true, but also

#3 the Providence of God.

Now when we look at the first one, the word of God, let me just ask you a question.

Can you find, and this is a good assignment for you, find in the word of God, look in the scriptures and find places where God has LED people by his word.

OK, you'll find principles in God's word that will also lead and guide. So, take a look and see what you can find. Areas of guidance from the word of God where God LED people. Find scriptures that speak to the divine guidance of God by his word.

Now this book right here. (The Bible) This moral will of God, you could also call this the revealed will of God.

Remember the other day we talked about the sovereign will of God, the moral will of God, the individual will of God.

Do you remember that?

Well, yes, this is the revealed or moral revealed will of God.

This book is our guide, no question about it.

And he will guide us with principles from his word in every area of our life.

What does the Bible say? Here it is.

What does the Bible say in the word of God about divine guidance?

What does it say? Let's take a look at a verse. Go with me to Psalm 119.

A very familiar verse.

And you're going to read what David the Psalmist says.

In Psalm 119, I'm going to read to you verse 105. Listen to what it says.

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.

How many see that it's a lamp unto my feet.

So, He's telling us that His Word is going to lead us and guide us.

Let me just say this.

Can you find other places where David shows us his great love for this Word?

You can see it in the Bible. I want to instill in us that David loved the Word.

And we must love the Word, if that word is going to be a lamp unto our feet and a light unto our pathway.

So you can see that David had a great admiration for God's law.

Let's see it. Alright, let's see it. Psalm 119, go with me to verse 14.

I want to read you this.

Here's what it says. "I have rejoiced in the way of thy testimonies."

Do you see his love for the word?

He rejoices in it.

Alright, look.

In verse 15 he says, "I will meditate in thy precepts and have respect unto thy ways."

Do you see that he rejoices? Do you see that he meditates?

If you rejoice in it, if you love it, you will meditate in it.

And then he says, I have respect unto thy ways.

Speaking of his ways. I have respect unto your ways.

Notice verse 16.

“I will delight myself in thy statutes”.

Well, there it is.

But notice he goes on. “I will not forget thy word.” I think that speaks to his love. I think all of these things speak to his love for God's word.

I know this is a little bit different, but this is important.

Let me just reiterate them to you again.

He says, I have rejoiced.

#2, he says, I will meditate

#3 I have respect

#4 I will delight myself in thy statutes.

#5 I will not forget thy word.

If you read Psalm 119, you'll find so much about his word.

Look with me at another verse. Go to verse 35 of Psalm 119. This speaks to the delight that David has in the word. And I love this word “delight.”

Look at verse 35, Psalm 119:35, he says. “Make me to go in the path of thy commandments.”

How many see guidance?

Do you see that there?

OK, but let's keep going, “for therein do I delight”

I want to show you his word is a lamp unto our feet and a light unto our path.

We must love it, we must desire it. We must respect it. We must delight in it. We must meditate in it.

Oh glory to God, we must not forget it.

Can you see this?

We must delight in it. Delight. Do you delight in the law of the Lord?

Now this word “delight,” in the English, you will find it in several places in the Book of Psalms.

Delight yourself in the Lord and he will give you the desires of your heart.

In his law does he meditate day and night.

He delights in it, Psalm one says.

This word "delight" is a very unique word.

Well, let me give you the meaning of this word, "delight", in Psalm 119:35,

to give us a little understanding of how important it is to love his law, to delight in it.

I just chose this word "delight," because I think it's so special, at least to me personally.

So when you look at verse 35 of Psalm 119, he says again, "for therein do I delight". Now that's important. What does this word delight mean here?

Here's what it means. It means to bend, lean, bend, bend.

Do I bend?

Look at that.

Let, me just go a little further. It means to bend, to lean.

It means, and I wrote it down: to incline towards.

So therefore you could say, do I incline towards?

Let me ask you, do you bend towards his word?

You say, Pastor Jerry, we are talking about divine guidance.

We're talking about the agent. I know the agency of Divine Guidance is God.

I know, and what we're talking about here is David loves his law and he delights in it.

Here, it says he bends to it.

I bend to your commandments, is what he's saying. I bend to your word.

This word "bend" means this.

It means to will anything or to purpose, listen to it.

To will anything, or to purpose, that in the doing of that thing, you or I shall find pleasure or delight.

So the word "delight" means to bend, to bend in such a way that my will is actually bending to his will.

You see that?

And therefore, when I bend to his law, which is his will, when I bend to his word and do the thing that his word is telling me to do, in doing that I find pleasure.

Does that make sense to you?

Pleasure, pleasure.

Hey, that's a great word. How many can see the word "please" in the word pleasure?

Do you see that?

One of the original meanings of the word please is this:

It meant originally to prefer someone else's will over their own.

Let's say that again, it's to prefer someone else's will over your own. That's great.

One of those meanings of the word "please" being to prefer someone else's will over your own.

Whose will would we be talking about?

Well, we're talking about his law, his word, his will.

So to delight to bend to God's commandments or his will, is to please him.

Oh, it's to please him. Do you see that?

It's to prefer his will over your own above all else.

But also in the DOING of that will that you prefer above your own.

In the doing of it, you yourself will find delight and pleasure.

But God also delights in you delighting in his will.

He will incline towards you.

Oh, oh, Lord hear my prayer.

"He inclined unto me, and he delivered me."

I want you to know he wants us to delight in his commands.

To bend towards those commandments.

So that in the DOING of those commandments we ourselves find delight or pleasure,

and are pleasing unto God, because we preferred his will over our own.

Can you see we are missing out on pleasing him and delighting in his law?

We are missing out on a wonderful, pleasurable experience, and that is to delight in his law.

Bend towards it and folks, I'm telling you, this to me is so powerful in my own life.

I find pleasure or delight in doing his will. Would you look at another verse? Go to Psalm 119 and I want to read to you verse 97. Alright, Psalm 119:97. Here's what it says.

Just another verse to help us to see how David loved his law, therefore, how much he could say

the word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.

How can that be? Because he loved his law.

You need to know this. Your people need to see that.

I need to see this.

So in Psalm 119:97, he says.

Oh, how I love thy law.

Do you see that? It is my meditation all the day.

How many see meditation coming in again?

So, he says. Oh, how love thy law, do you?

Psalm 119:103 alright, go to verse 103. It's right down the list. Verse 103 says, "How sweet." Do you see that? How sweet, are thy words unto my taste.

Well, if they're sweet unto his taste, would he not have to eat them?

Come on. Let me read it again.

How sweet are thy words unto my taste.

The Hebrew word there could be "palate"

Oh, is it not important for us to develop in our children a taste for the things of God, the word of God, the spirit of God?

Is it not important for us to develop, I'll say it again, in our children and ourselves, a taste, a palate for the word of God.

That's right.

If we never read it, if we never eat it, how can we develop a taste for it?

I have to say, folks, when you look at the word meditation.

Go back up to verse 97.

Oh, how love thy law, it is my meditation all the day. Verse 103 again, says,

How sweet are thy words unto my taste.

What do you mean?

Well, I'm telling you this.

You see, in order to meditate on his word.

You have to eat the word.

And the word "meditate" means to ruminate.

It really is a word used for when cows eat grass or straw, they meditate.

We should say that they chew the cud.

You've heard that phrase.

Chew the cud.

That means they swallow it and then they regurgitate it.

And then they chew it more and they swallow it and they bring it back up and do this process again and again and again.

And they get out of that food every nourishment they can, out of that grass, out of that straw.

They get everything they can.

And that's what we must do. We must meditate, we must ruminate, we must continue to chew the spiritual cud, so to speak, and get out of that word every bit of nourishment and nutriment that we can.

That will feed our soul and help us to incline or bend to the will of almighty God.

For in doing so we will find delight, and that word that is such a delight to you will be a lamp unto your feet and a light unto your path.

And he will divinely guide you by his word.

I hope you see it, I know this is teaching, this is a class, but there is a presence of God also, and I think that's what many Bible colleges and Bible Institutes are missing in their class time.

They're missing that manifest presence of God that comes down every once in a while to stir your soul, not just to receive information, but to receive truth that can change you and set you free.

Hey, man, well, that's where we are.

We're talking about the word of God. He leads us by the word of God.

So we see David's love for the word, and so he says thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light and to my pathway.

Now I want to caution us here in just the few moments that we have remaining, I want to caution us here when we're talking about divine guidance and the will and call of God in our life, we need to be aware of some things.

When it comes to divine guidance by his word or any of the other two, we must beware of just blindly opening this book.

Kind of like this. Oh Lord, I need something. Boom, open the book.

And your finger lands on the first Scripture and you read it and you say that's what God wants me to do.

He's leading me.

No, no, no, that's not it.

That's important to be careful of.

You might open the Bible randomly and you'll find a place where it says go dip in the Jordan 7 times.

Well, you live in America, or you live in Africa or you live in the Philippines. So, you can't do that!

Folks, let me just say. I thank God for his word, but you don't blindly open it.

Now in a moment of distress, in a moment of grief or sorrow, that might happen, God is gracious isn't he?

He will do that sometimes to be gracious to us.

But that is not to become a system.

Listen to me. That is not to become a system for divine guidance.

But there's another caution here.

And that's what we term here in the United States. Maybe you have it where you are.

A promise box mentality. You can buy this in a store.

A box that has Bible promises printed on small cards and you pick one out and read it. My mother had one and you can open it and pick a promise out and read it and put it back.

Pick another one, read it, put it back.

And that's OK, because you can open the box, pull out a promise, and remind yourself of the promises of God.

Now that's alright in order to remind us of the promises of God, however,

we are not to just pull out a promise blindly and read it and say, oh, that's God's will for me today.

Now again, in a moment of distress or sorrow or need, God might use something like that to encourage us. But that is not to become a system for divine guidance.

It can lead itself into superstition and not divine guidance.

I say that because if you look at the Promise box you will never find any negative promises in there, only positive ones.

OK, now that's important.

For instance, a negative promise might be something like this, "if any man defile the Temple of God, him shall God destroy".

Well, that's a promise, but it's not in the promise box. Well, why?

Because you couldn't sell very many promise boxes with those kinds of promises in them.

I'm only using that to let you know, be careful, be careful of our approach to the word of God when we are looking for divine guidance.

There is no doubt, there is no doubt whatsoever, that in times of great need, God can do that for us.

We might open up our Bible.

I've done this, been in a time of great distress, and I've just said, Lord, I just need you.

I don't know what to do. I don't know which way to go, Lord just lead me.

And I'll just open the word and I'll come across something that God will use in my life.

Yes, he can do that.

How many know he can do that?

I needed help at that moment, but we do not, I'll say it again, do not make that a system of finding the will of God for your life.

And also keep this in mind, this is important, I wrote this down.

The spirit of the living God will never lead us and guide us contrary to this book, he will never lead us and guide us, He will never communicate anything to us that is in opposition to this book, or that takes away from this book. Or that adds to this book.

Or that waters down this book or modifies it in any way.

He will not do that.

The word of God and the spirit of God complement one another.

Experiences also are something to be concerned about.

In God, we have wonderful experiences.

Have you ever had an encounter with God? Have you ever had an experience with God?

I remember an old preacher friend of mine when he gave his heart to Jesus Christ.

He knew nothing of the Bible, he hadn't yet read the Bible.

He just knew he got saved and loved the Lord.

One day at a meeting he went to an altar to pray.

As I said, he knew nothing of what was in the Bible, he was a new believer.

And as he was worshipping God and praising him, all of a sudden, he told me this, he said.

All of a sudden, the power of God, it hit me and he said, I began to speak in an unknown tongue!

And he said, it just shook me and I began to pray in an unknown tongue, he called it a language.

Well, we all know that was the Baptism in the Holy Spirit, correct?

Yes, he was speaking in a heavenly language, yes, absolutely.

But he didn't know anything about it.

And you know what he said to himself?

He said I've never heard of this before.

He said, I've not read it in the Bible.

Well, he had not read much of the Bible anyway.

But he said, I am not going to tell anyone that this happened to me, he said.

I'm not going to tell anyone that this happened to me unless I can find it in the word of God.

And do you know that as he began to read the New Testament, he found it in the word?

And you know what he did?

He told everyone because he found it in the word.

Please hear me, your experience that you have had,

I do not want to take away from whatever experience you have had.

However, however, always remember if you can't find your experience in the Bible, backing it up, if you can't find it in the word,

I'm not saying you did not have an experience,

but what I'm saying is, if you can't back it up with the word, just keep it to yourself.

Keep that in mind. These are important things when we're talking about the word of God.

In fact, the Bible says in Galatians one verse eight,

"But though we or an angel from heaven preaches any other gospel than the one we're preaching to you now, let him be accursed."

Anything you can't find in this book, if it's not the gospel in this book, it's another gospel.

We must preach the gospel, but not only is it the word of God that God will use to lead us, but the Spirit of God is another way He leads us.

Know that God uses the Spirit of God.

Let me read a verse in John, Chapter 16, verse 13.

You're familiar with it.

So, he uses the word of God. Number one.

And he uses the Spirit of God.

Look at this verse John 16 verse 13 says

"Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth is come"

Look at this, look at this.

He will what? He will guide you into SOME truth.

No, no, no, no.

He will guide you into ALL truth. Look at this.

“For he will not speak of himself, but whatsoever he shall”

(This could be on a test.) “whatever, he shall hear, he shall speak”

And look at this, “and he will show you things to come.”

Look at what the Spirit of God does.

Well, the first thing he says is this: “When he the spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you.”

Well, is that not going along with what our lesson is, about our class, our course, Divine guidance, and the Will and Call of God? Well, sure.

The Spirit of God or truth will guide you into all truth.

How many see He is the guide?

So we see the Spirit of God guides.

The spirit of God hears.

Whatever he shall hear that shall he speak.

So we see that the spirit of God guides, the spirit of God hears, and the spirit of God speaks.

But one more thing.

He will show you things to come.

I love this.

So the spirit of God will guide, he hears, he speaks, he shows.

Does that not all fit into guidance?

The spirit of God speaks to us.

The spirit of God hears and he says what he hears, and he will show you things to come.

And he is our guide.

I hope you see that today.

But he not only guides., He not only hears and speaks and shows, but look at this in Romans, Chapter 8, verse 16,

The spirit of God also witnesses.

OK, so let's take a look at John 16.

You don't have to turn there again, but in John 16 he says, he guides, he hears, he speaks, he shows.

Romans 8.:16, listen to what it says,

“The spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are a son, or a child, daughter of God”

How many see “we are”

The Holy Spirit witnesses, we won't spend time on that necessarily, but let's just mention it.

The Holy Spirit of God will bear witness with your spirit.

In other words, you'll be able to say I know that, I know that, I know that I am a child of God!

And that goes along with the call of God to you.

Do you know that the spirit of God will witness to you, young man, young lady?

He will witness in your spirit that you are called of God.

Someone might say, how do you know you're called of God to be a preacher?

Well, my pastor told me so.

My mother said so.

Well, it just seemed to be the right thing to do because things weren't working out at my job.

No, it's God who calls.

And your response?

It can be I know that I know that I know He's called me.

Because his spirit bears witness with my spirit that I am not only a child of God, but that he has called me. And I can tell you that's true for me.

I know that I know, and God used his word to confirm it.

How many see that the spirit will bear witness and the word can confirm it?

But not only that. Gifts of the Spirit can also confirm. Amen?

Well, that's another thing, but let's continue on.

So the spirit of God, he guides, he hears, he speaks, he shows, he witnesses.

But look at something else He does.

Acts chapter 16.

I'm going to read to you verse 6.

Alright, verse six, “now when they had gone throughout Phrygia and the region of Galatia.”

Yes, “and were forbidden.”

Do you see that?

Who forbade them?

Then the “Holy Ghost forbid them to preach the word in Asia.”

Do you see that?

So, the Holy Ghost forbids?

He'll keep you FROM doing something.

Paul found out where God wanted him to go by finding out where the Holy Ghost did NOT want him to go.

So you see that he guides. He leads, #1 by the word of God,

#2, by the spirit of God and

#3 by the Providence of God.

Now, let me just close today by giving you this. What is the Providence of God?

I'm thankful for a pastor who taught me, who invested in me.

Who actually taught in Bible colleges, not as a full time Professor, but from time to time he would be a guest lecturer.

And he told me one day, he said, Jerry, the Providence of God

(get this, it might be on a test as well)

the Providence of God is that act of God, whereby he (God) works all events, all events, good or bad, whatever they might be, He works ALL events to fulfill His purpose in your life.

Now think about this.

God, in his over-ruling Practical Providence, will work all things together for good to them who are called of or who love God and are called according to his purpose.

Let's go back.

The Providence of God is that act of God whereby he works,

(maybe does not cause, but he works)

all events to fulfill his purpose, will, guidance.

Anybody see that will, and purpose in your life?

And he went on to say this. He said Jerry,

Whoever makes God His Providence

will never be a victim of circumstances.

We'll talk more about this later.

We want to give you an example of this from the word of God,

but at the moment, I just want to let you know God will use the circumstances of life to help guide us, to help cement that leading in our hearts, to make it more concrete, more certain, more clear.

OK, let me just say it another way.

He will use the circumstances of life.

And those circumstances will complement, commend themselves.

We'll say it a different way. Again, back to the word complement.

He will use the circumstances of life.

The Providence of God will complement the word of God and the spirit of God.

So that when all three, when all three are present,  
when all three fall into place, you have a green light.

We call that here, the green light means go, you have a green light to follow on, to move towards, to take the next step.

So let's remind ourselves here right now as we close this off and say this,

God will lead us and guide us by his word.

By his Spirit, and by his Providence.

Let us everyone get back to loving him.

Let's love his book. Let's love his law.

It starts there.

I know these are not in any particular order, but I do want to put them in this order.

Let's love his word.

Let's saturate ourselves.

Would you agree with that?

Do you think preachers and pastors need to saturate themselves with this Book?

Every Christian does.

And let's so live our lives according to this, let's so live our lives,

so that we can say this,

"I, being in the way," (Genesis 24).

That's a good verse to look up when you get a chance. "I being in the way, the Lord led me."

Wow. Live according to God's way. Walk in the Spirit, walk in his way.

And what will happen?

“I being in the way the Lord led me”, and what will help keep you in the way?

Right here.

Right here, I being in the way the Lord led me.

And then you can say, you can say, you can say, you can say, all things will work together for good to those who love God and are called according to his purpose.

The agency of Divine Guidance is God.

He will use means. He will use aids and helps to lead us and guide us.

Maybe there are many more, but we've chosen the word of God, the spirit of God, and the Providence of God.

Keep in mind, keep in mind,

He loves you.

Keep in mind he wants to lead us.

Keep in mind he doesn't play hide and seek.

It's a game we used to play when we were children.

We would hide, and then someone would seek to find us.

God doesn't play hide and seek.

He wants you to find him. He wants you to know his will.

Maybe we need to spend more time in the word.

Maybe we need to get more into the Holy Spirit of God,

recognizing that that same spirit that dwells in Christ or dwelled in him dwells in us.

And that if the Spirit led him, he can lead us.

But also, never forget, God will use any and every circumstance of your life, every one, to fulfill his purpose in your life, if you'll let him.

So I think it starts this way.

Get back to the book.

Next time we'll go deeper into the word of God, being divinely led by the word, the revealed will of Almighty God.

Join us next time. See you then.