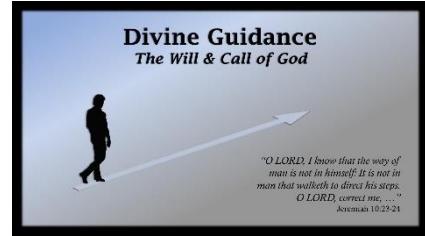


Keystones for Living

Divine Guidance The Will And Call Of God

Lecture 7



Thank you for joining us today on Keystones for Living! Pastor Jerry here! We are delighted to be with you after our celebration of our 25th anniversary for Word of Truth Christian Church. And after our Word of Truth Bible Institute class, which was all last week. So thank you for your patience. Praise God, we're back!

Don't forget, have you completed the test that we just put out a couple weeks ago? Thank you. If you haven't had a chance, there is still time to do it. Contact us to let us know that you completed the test, and let us know at any time. Please just email us to make contact. We love hearing from you!

Back to our lecture #7, Divine Guidance and the Will and call of God. We talked about the agency of Divine guidance and that's where we're going to spend the rest of our time. With regard to the Agency of Divine Guidance, we talked about three things God does.

God guides us by #1 the word of God, #2 the Spirit of God, #3 Providence, or the Providence of God. Now before we get into the first one, which is the word of God, let's give this reminder that God DOES want to guide us. You know we read in Jeremiah, "It's not within man to direct his steps."

Well, it's "within God." God is the one who wants to guide and direct our steps, but always remember that he must be OUR God. There must be a personal relationship with him. In fact, let me read you a verse that lets us know that God is the one who guides us.

Psalm 48 verse 14, let me read it to you. Psalm 48:14. "For this God is our God" Oh did you notice something? Did you notice something in this? God is our God. Personal pronoun, personal experience. You need to be born again. We're looking for divine guidance, but if we don't know God folks, it's going to be difficult.

"This God is our God forever and ever" and look at this, "He will be our guide," see the personal pronoun "our" guide. How long? "even unto death." Hallelujah, I say Hallelujah, isn't that great! So he wants to guide us, but he must be my God. Thank you Jesus, how important is that?

So we started out by saying God wants to guide us, now we'll get back to this. How? Well, by the word of God, Spirit of God, Providence of God. We named those, but today let's just talk about this one for the next couple of lectures - The Word of God. Let's write that on the board. How does he guide us? By the word. Of God. There you go. The word of God. I like that.

Let me show you a verse. Psalm 119:33. Listen to what it says. Order my steps in thy word. Oh that's good! In Jeremiah he says it's "not within man to direct (or order) his steps" Here it says, "Order my steps in thy word and and deliver me." Or in other words, don't allow iniquity to have dominion, don't allow iniquity to have dominion over me.

Ladies and gentlemen, if we will let the word of God guide our steps, then it's going to have an effect on our walk with him. Would you agree? You have to agree, it says it right there. Don't let any iniquity have

dominion over me. If you don't want iniquity to have dominion over you, get back into the Book. Look, let this Book become a part of you, not just a head thing but a heart thing. Having a personal encounter with the God of this Book and the Word of God.

Lord Jesus, would you please come to us? And bring us into a deeper communion and a deeper walk and a deeper love for your Word that is a lamp unto our feet and a light unto our pathway. Amen.

Now turn with me to second Peter. I want to show you something else. Second Peter chapter one, Verse 17. Listen to this. "For he received from God the Father, honor and glory" Who did? Jesus did. What did he receive? Honor and glory from God the Father. "When there came such a voice to him from the excellent glory"

The voice came to Jesus, but who else heard the voice? Peter says, "we heard it." But it goes on. He says, who was the voice? It said "this is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased"

Now notice verse 18 "and this voice, which came from heaven we heard it," wouldn't that be a glorious time? And this voice which came from heaven, we heard it. Peter, James, and John heard it. In fact, it was a tremendous church service. You should have been there. It was wonderful. We heard God speak. We saw Jesus transfigured and we had visitors at our church service, Moses and Elijah. Two great men came to our church service! We experienced the magnificent power of God. What an amazing thing!

Notice He says "this voice, which came from heaven, we heard when we were with him in the holy mount." The Mount of Transfiguration. And then in verse 19 he says, "we have also a **MORE** sure word of prophecy." Stop right there. There he was, saying, what an experience we had on that mountain! It was wonderful. We saw- we heard- we experienced. We had a service, Hallelujah! God came, God literally spoke. You can't have a church service much better, much, much better than that. Can you? No!

See how excited I get? I can tell you what an exciting day that must have been. And then he says this, "we have a more sure word of prophecy" And then he says, "Whereunto ye do well that ye take heed." Word of prophecy? Folks, that's this Book. You can have the experience, you can hear the voice and your hair can stand on end and it can be, you know, just terrific.

But, Heaven and Earth will pass away, but my Word will never pass away. What's he saying? He's saying this is more sure than that. In other words, experiences come and go. The truth in God's Word never changes. You can count on it. That's why it is to be a Light. That's why it's to be a Lamp unto your feet. That's why it is to guide you continually. That's why this Book is so vital and important to your divine guidance and the will and call of God on your life. I'll get to that later on. But let me read it again.

Verse 19. "We have also a more sure word of prophecy" Look at this next line, "whereunto you do well that you take heed." What do you mean "do well"? "As unto a light that shines in a dark place", how many would agree? We're living in a dark world. We live in the midst of a wicked and perverse generation, isn't that what the Bible says? That's exactly what it says. So we're living in dark times. Men love darkness rather than light, but how many know we have a Light? You don't have to worry folks. There's a light in the darkness and it's his Word.

Listen to that! When you are in a dark place, you always need a light. We are living in that kind of a time period. And this Word right here remains the one true light you can look at and gain perspective, leading

and guiding. Are we in it? Are we reading it? Are we meditating in it? Are we spending time in it? Or is it just one of those things we pick up on the run?

Hey, anytime you pick it up is good, but remember folks "In his law does he meditate day and night". Psalm one says, "and he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water." But notice this verse in Peter, where "you do well that you take heed, as unto a light that shines in a dark place". How long do you do this?

How long is this Book to be a light that guides and leads your pathway? How long? Look at this, "until the day dawn and the Daystar (that's Jesus) until the Daystar arises in your hearts" Folks, I don't know about you, but I can't think of anything other than the Coming of the Lord Jesus that he could be referring to.

Folks listen. This Book will guide us. Till we die, his Word will guide us. Oh glory. This Book will never pass away. Keep reading, keep looking. Keep taking it in. Keep absorbing it. Let it shine in your heart.

He says you need to do this "until the day" until Jesus comes back, I'm telling you, we have a tremendous treasure in our hand.

He leads us by the Word of God. Isn't that great? I love that! We must rightly understand this Book.

If we rightly understand it, it's going to be an infallible guide. As it is correctly, rightly divided, or as we say "cut", cut straight. You must cut this Word straight. It's going to be a tremendous resource in your life.

Let me write this on the board. This is the authority of God's word, and we live under the authority of this word. But I want to draw this on the board for you, this is an umbrella. When you go outside and it's raining, now I don't know how much rain you receive where you live, but here sometimes we get a lot of rain. And it's hard to go from the car to the store without getting wet. You need an umbrella. You've seen those. We're going to draw this umbrella. This umbrella, we're going to call it, this represents Authority.

The authority of God's Word, God's word is our rule of faith and conduct. Don't forget that talking about the authority of God's word. What we want to do is stay underneath the umbrella of God's word. Why? Well, if you're under the umbrella, you don't get wet. If you're under the umbrella, you're safe from the pelting rain. OK, the pelting rain that comes down, all right?

You're safe from that. I'm saying that for this reason, if we as pastors and people, if we go out from underneath the umbrella of God's authority, his Word, if we go out from underneath the umbrella of God's word, his authority. What happens? We get rained on? Isn't that right? We get pelted by rain.

And that's what's wrong in the church. We're not staying underneath the authority of God's word. We move out from under the protection of the umbrella and we get rained on by what? What comes and hits your head? I'll write it right here, deception.

Do you know there are voices in this world that want to deceive you and deceive your children? The best thing you can do is keep your children underneath the umbrella of the authority of God's Holy Word. I'm telling you friends that deception is going to have a hard time hitting you on the head if you'll stay underneath the umbrella of his divine Word. Oh I, I want you to see that's been on my mind lately.

Really, there's so much deception out there, people are getting rained on by deception, because they're not staying underneath the umbrella of the authority of God's word. Let me take you to a verse.

Proverbs 29:18. I want you to go there. You know this verse. You probably know it by heart. Proverbs 29: 18. "Where there is no vision, the people perish". Isn't that what it says? Where there is no vision, the people perish.

Now think about that. You've got to understand what this verse is saying. The word VISION is actually the word, WORD. That's the word "vision" and it it's connected to declaration. Where there is no vision. That same word you'll find in first Samuel Chapter 3 where it says "the word of God was rare in those days, there was no open vision"

OK, so what it meant was, or what it actually said was, the word of God was RARE. There was no open word, no open declaration, no open word. Where there is no word from God or word of God, the people perish. Well, yes, Pastor Jerry. Those who are not saved are perishing. No, no, no. He's talking about the people of God will perish where there is no WORD from God. That's what we have here.

Now what does the word "perish" mean? The word PERISH. IT means to throw off. To cast off restraint. So you see that the word of God has a restraining factor in it. Ah, go back. If you're underneath the umbrella of his Word, there is a Restraining factor or even a Constraining factor, OK? All right, think about this now. When you're underneath the umbrella of God's word, there's a restraining force. Here's what he says, where there is no Word from God, the people cast off restraint.

Now let me read to you from the margin of my Bible. Listen to what it says about the word "perish". It means "is made naked". Cast off restraint, cast off the clothes that keep you warm. Cast off the clothes that protect you from the elements. I hope you are hearing me today. Now think about this, when you're uncovered. You get rained on. You get exposed. If you're covered, do you hear me? If you're covered by what? Oh, by my Bishop, by my Pastor, no, no, no, no. I'm not saying leadership is not important or that people aren't important. We do need godly pastors, but those godly pastors must be underneath the umbrella of God's word.

Did you hear that? Yes, we must remain underneath this umbrella, as they also must remain. Hallelujah, this is my covering right here Lord, help me stay underneath your WORD. Help me Lord to allow your Word to restrain me so that I don't get deceived by what's going on out there. I hope that makes sense. What I'm trying to say is this Book is so powerful. We have to understand the authority of this Word will lead us and guide us and keep us.

Remember when Moses went up the mountain to talk to God? Do you remember this? And he received the 10 Commandments. The people were down at the bottom of the mountain, and they were saying to Aaron the high priest, Moses isn't coming back. He's gone. Build us a golden calf. Does anybody remember this? Oh yes, now who was Moses to these people? Well, he was the representative of God to them. They even said this. They said Moses, you go talk to God. And then come back and tell us what God said. Do you remember that?

Well, that's exactly what happened. When Moses is gone, the representative of God's word to them is gone. You see what happens. So now they say, make us a golden calf. Aaron does it. And what happens? Moses and Joshua come down the mountain and Joshua and Moses hear the sound of what they call war, when it really was just a big flesh party. In other words, the people were naked. Oh, do

you see this? Do you see this? They were having a flesh party. You see, when there is no Word from God, (Moses represented that word of God). When there was no Word from God, the people threw it off. They came unglued. They cast off restraint. They were naked, they were open. They were exposed. And that's because, ladies and gentlemen, it's because they went out from underneath the umbrella of the Word of God.

And when we do that we get rained on. I hope you hear what I'm saying. Oh yes, that's how Moses was guided. He was guided by the Word of God, so how does the word of God guide us? That's the next question, so we've seen now that the word of God guides us. We've seen how important it is that we stay and remain under the authority of God's word. Now the next question is how does God's word do such a thing? And the answer is this. Here's the answer. He does guide us by his word by giving us principles, conditions for guidance, principles for guidance. You can even say he'll show you hindrances to guidance. So his word will guide us by showing us the principles or the conditions that need to be met in order for God to guide us. How many get that? How does the Word guide us? Well he guides us by his word in showing us the principles of guidance from his word, the conditions we must meet, or you can negatively state, the hindrances. He will show you what hinders guidance from his Word.

Next time we get together we're going to begin talking about those principles of divine guidance that you will find in God's Word. Join me next time, alright? We'll be here. See you soon.