

GOD'S GUIDANCE PRECEDES HIS APPOINTMENT

God guides His people to appoint His ministers.

KEY POINTS

- ❖ The call of the Apostle is one of the most consequential calls in the Church. The word 'apostle' has as its original meaning "one who is sent out" or a messenger or envoy. In the Great Commission recorded in Matthew 28:18-20, Jesus "sent out" His Apostles to make disciples of all nations. He appointed them and they and their successors appointed others. This delegation structure must remain functional if we as a church are to remain true to Scripture.

God knows everything.

- ❖ "Then they prayed, 'Lord, you know everyone's heart...'" (Acts 1:24). After Jesus had ascended into heaven, His disciples followed His direction to wait in Jerusalem until they would receive the Holy Spirit (Luke 24:49; Acts 1:4-5). In the meantime, they decided that Judas' vacated position needed to be filled and so set some criteria as they nominated two candidates. Then they prayed.
- ❖ By praying, the disciples did what they knew to do, understanding that their knowledge was incomplete. From their external criteria, they could identify apostolic successors, but what they couldn't see was what lay inside people's hearts.
- ❖ Yet God knows what is in people's hearts (see 1 Samuel 16:7). That is why the disciples prayed. Before making the decision, they wanted God's counsel because He is the Omniscient One—the One who knows everything—and He shares His secrets with His friends (see Psalm 25:14).
- ❖ By praying, we have access to the right information, and because of this, we can go to God for guidance in choosing those who will continue our work.

God guides us in succession appointments.

- ❖ The disciples prayed in Acts 1:24 that God would "show them" which of the two was His choice. They wanted revealed to them the readiness of the men who were to succeed Judas. More than that, they wanted the choice to be God's and not theirs in selecting the right successor for Judas "...to take over this apostolic ministry..." (Acts 1:25).
- ❖ An apostle, as mentioned previously, is "one who is sent out." Jesus had just commissioned the disciples to take the gospel to the whole world. For that to happen, and for the propagation of the gospel to continue, succession was inevitable.
- ❖ "...Which Judas left to go where he belongs" (v. 25). In justifying their actions for filling the vacant position, Peter quoted a prophetic word from the Book of Psalms: "May his place be deserted; let there be no one to dwell in it," and "May another take his place of leadership" (Ps. 69:25; 109:8).
- ❖ Peter's statement concerning Judas leaves no doubt that the disciples did not remove him from the position Jesus had appointed him to, so they were replacing a vacant position and not one they caused to be vacant.
- ❖ God never misses with succession. If we reserve time every day to quietly listen to His guiding voice, we will begin to see doors propped open for us to step through. And if we recognize the image of God in every person—that everyone is made in His image to become the very best that they were created to be—we will find that their becoming their best may be the missing piece of a puzzle in our own lives.

KEY SCRIPTURES: Acts 1:24-25, 9:11

(all scriptures in text are in NIV unless otherwise noted)

- ❖ So, God guides us not only to prompt people forward, but also to initiate them into the pathway of life.
- #### God guides us in initiation appointments.
- ❖ The appointment of the next Apostle, Saul, followed a pattern similar to that of Matthias, Judas' replacement. God came to a disciple in Damascus named Ananias and guided him to go and initiate Saul. Ananias had heard about Saul and the terror he was causing the Church, so he sought understanding. His own knowledge was limited, but God was giving guidance based on His perfect knowledge.
 - ❖ "Go to the house of Judas on Straight Street..." (Acts 9:11). There's a remarkable parallelism here. John 12:6 tells us that the first Judas was crooked. As treasurer of the group, he used to steal money. Now we have the second Judas who lives on a straight street.
 - ❖ Ananias received a word of knowledge when "the Lord told him...[to] 'ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying'" (v. 11).
 - ❖ God knew Ananias would need this instruction, given Saul's reputation and Ananias' natural quest for self-preservation. But the key insight in this line is that Saul was praying. He was tapping into God's knowledge, and God was going to answer him by downloading the knowledge in a servant that He could trust.
 - ❖ Therein lies the power of corporate prayer in the body of Christ and the servants He anoints to help us. God harmonizes our prayer for His purposes in ways we could never imagine. Saul's prayer and Ananias' concurrent vision would pivot into the release of the gospel to the Gentiles and to the very message we share today. Prayer taps into God's knowledge for our guidance. It works!
 - ❖ God has called our church to feed Canada to feed the world. But like Saul (who was renamed Paul), when the time of initiation comes, we each have to be transformed by the renewing of our mind (Romans 12:2). We have to repent and turn away from sin, from our human thinking, and yield to God's way of thinking, by faith.
 - ❖ God guides His people to appoint His ministers. It may seem hard to receive this, but God wants you to be His minister. Will you take Him up on it?

DISCUSSION/REFLECTION TOOLS

1. According to Acts 1:24 and 1 Samuel 16:7, why is God's guidance essential when appointing leaders?
2. What does Saul's and Ananias' experience in Acts 9:10-17 teach us about prayer and God's guidance?
3. Has God ever prompted you in a particular direction, and did you follow that prompting? If so, what happened?
4. What practical steps can we take to become more sensitive to God's guidance? Provide Scripture (e.g., Proverbs 3:5-6).

PRAYER TIME

Heavenly Father, guide our steps, renew our minds, and help us follow Your will. Amen.

WEEK OF SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2026

NOTES

Meditate as you read through/listen to this week's message. If it helps, use symbols for your notes.

✓ (Reminds me/Confirms) 💡 (New idea) 🗨️ (Think about)
! (Do this) ❤️ (Speaks to my heart) ➡️ (Must share)

PRAYER NEEDS/THANKSGIVINGS

Go deeper with your Life Group family.
CONNECT-REFLECT-DISSECT THE
WORD

Start-up: What is the most ridiculous type of guidance you have ever received from someone? (And did you follow it? What happened?)

PRAYER FOCUS: F.S. students and teachers in our schools, colleges, and universities

24-hour Prayer: Daily;

Daily Devotions: Monday - Friday @ 6:30 a.m. & 9:00 p.m.;
Departmental Prayer: Every Thursday (please check schedule)

Corporate Prayer: Every Friday @ 7:00 p.m. (and in person every second Friday @ 9:00 p.m. - 3:00 a.m.).

Zoom ID: 898 3191 5909 **Phone Access:** 647-374-4685

FAITH SANCTUARY DONATIONS

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BEREAN BIBLE STUDY

We look forward to growing in God's Word with you!

Date: Every Monday @ 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

on Zoom and YouTube.

Contact: Pastor Chris Simpson

WEDNESDAY CORPORATE BIBLE STUDY

Date: Every Wednesday @ 7:30 p.m. on Zoom and in person. Contact Pastor Chris Simpson for further information.



"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.

And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Matthew 28:19-20 (NIV)

FAITH SANCTUARY WEEKLY SERVICES

Sunday Bible Study @ 10:00 a.m.

Sunday Worship Service @ 11:00 a.m.
(Listen via phone: 1-844-268-4848)

Monday Berean Bible Study @ 6:30 p.m.
(Zoom, Facebook, YouTube)

Wednesday Bible Study @ 7:30 p.m.
(In person and via Zoom)

Friday Evening Service @ 8:00 p.m.
(In person and via Zoom)

Life Group Meetings – individually scheduled
(see ushers for information)

FAITH FOUNDATIONS

GOD

We believe there is only one God: the eternal, holy, loving, all-knowing, all-powerful, omnipresent Spirit, creator of all (Deuteronomy 6:4; 1 Timothy 1:17; Leviticus 19:2; 1 John 4:8; Hebrews 4:13; Revelation 19:6; Jeremiah 23:24; John 4:24; Isaiah 44:24; Colossians 1:16).

GOD'S WORD

We believe the Holy Scriptures—The Bible—is God's true and complete Word to humanity, verified most notably through fulfilled prophecies concerning Jesus Christ (2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20-21; Isaiah 41:21-23, 42:8-9, 46:9-10; Luke 24:25-27; John 17:17).

GOD'S CREATION

We believe all people were created in the image of God for His pleasure, to be His children, His church and His bride, living in eternal love and fellowship with Him (Revelation 4:1; Genesis 1:27; John 1:12-13; Romans 8:16; Ephesians 5:25-32; Revelation 19:7).

HUMANITY'S FALL

We acknowledge that we have all sinned and failed to fulfill God's plan and purpose for our lives, through willful disobedience to the word of God and our own conscience. All sinful acts lead to separation and alienation from God's pure, holy presence, eventually resulting in both physical and spiritual death (Romans 3:23, 6:23a).

THE GOSPEL

We believe that Jesus Christ is the Almighty God, fully divine and fully human (1 Timothy 3:16). He came to Earth and suffered death by crucifixion, willingly substituting Himself for us in receiving God's judgment against sin (Isaiah 53:5). But God raised Him from death (Acts 5:30), and He now offers eternal life to all who will believe in Him (John 3:14-17, 6:29; 2 Corinthians 5:18-21; Romans 6:23b; Ephesians 2:4-9). Faith is sparked within us when we hear the gospel, the "good news" that Jesus died, was buried and rose from the dead for our benefit (Romans 10:14-17; 1 Corinthians 15:1-4).

OUR FAITH RESPONSE

Hearing the gospel is intended to lead us to repentance, a divinely inspired change of heart that causes us to turn away from our sins and turn to God (2 Corinthians 7:9-10; 2 Timothy 2:24-26). Faith and repentance lead us to obey the scriptural command to be baptized in Jesus' name for the forgiveness of our sins and to receive His gift of the Holy Spirit. His Spirit gives us the power to live a righteous, godly life, joyfully sharing the good news of our new life in Christ with others (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38, 4:12; 1 Peter 1:22-23).

CHRIST'S RETURN

We believe our Lord Jesus Christ will soon return to Earth to receive His people to Himself and establish His righteous, eternal kingdom (John 14:3; Matthew 25:34).

SEPTEMBER 6, 2026



Feed Canada to Feed the World



Pastor:
Rev. Adrian W. Peel

"If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.

James 1:5 (NIV)

1901 Jane St., Toronto, Ontario M9N 3T9

Phone: 416-244-4898

Email: mail@faithsanctuary.com

Website: www.faithsanctuary.com

Livestream: <https://faithsanctuarytoronto.online.church>