

SUPERNATURAL GUIDANCE??? ACTS 16:4-15

How does God lead us? Impressions? Visions? Dream? God speaks to me?

These are important – even vital questions!

I. Scriptural indicators

Acts 16:4-5 And as they went through the cities, they delivered them the decrees for to keep, that were ordained of the apostles and elders which were at Jerusalem. And so were the churches established in the faith, and increased in number daily.

Acts 15:22 Then pleased it the apostles and elders, with the whole church, to send chosen men of their own company to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas; *namely*, Judas surnamed Barsabas, and Silas, chief men among the brethren:

Acts 16:6 Now when they had gone throughout Phrygia and the region of Galatia, and were forbidden of the Holy Ghost to preach the word in Asia,

It is well-known that Americans believe strongly in some kind of internal guidance. When a person gets saved the name of the voice changes from hunches, feelings, gut feelings, follow your heart etc., to the Holy Spirit.

However, the game remains the same!

On any trip a map & the final destination are the most important indicators!

Psalm 43:3 O send out thy light and thy truth: let them lead me; let them bring me unto thy holy hill, and to thy tabernacles.

Psalm 119:105 Thy word *is* a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.

Psalm 119:130 The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple.

Proverbs 6:23 For the commandment *is* a lamp; and the law *is* light; and reproofs of instruction *are* the way of life:

Isaiah 8:20 To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, *it is* because *there is* no light in them.

Matthew 12:3 But he said unto them, **Have ye not read** what David did, when he was an hungred, and they that were with him;

Matthew 19:4 And he answered and said unto them, **Have ye not read**, that he which made *them* at the beginning made them male and female,

Matthew 21:16 And said unto him, Hearest thou what these say? And Jesus saith unto them, Yea; **have ye never read**, Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings thou hast perfected praise?

Matthew 22:31 But as touching the resurrection of the dead, **have ye not read** that which was spoken unto you by God, saying,

Romans 4:3 **For what saith the scripture?** Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness.

Romans 9:17 **For the scripture saith** unto Pharaoh, Even for this same purpose have I raised thee up, that I might shew my power in thee, and that my name might be declared throughout all the earth.

Romans 10:11 **For the scripture saith**, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.

Romans 11:2 God hath not cast away his people which he foreknew. **Wot ye not what the scripture saith** of Elias? how he maketh intercession to God against Israel, saying,

Thoughts concerning the Scripture:

- **Scripture must be first**
- **Scripture must be foundational**
- **Scripture must be final**

II. Personal indicators

Acts 16:6 Now when they had gone throughout Phrygia and the region of Galatia, **and were forbidden of the Holy Ghost** to preach the word in Asia,

Acts 16:7 After they were come to Mysia, they assayed to go into Bithynia: **but the Spirit suffered them not.**

Thoughts about personal indicators:

- Always secondary
- Usually negative

The Holy Spirit is saying “Please hear what I am not saying!”

- Only confirmatory

Only after searching the Scripture, weighing the evidence, counseling and prayer → then maybe!

III. Social indicators

Acts 16:9-10 And a vision appeared to Paul in the night; There stood a man of Macedonia, and prayed him, saying, Come over into Macedonia, and help us. And **after he** had seen the vision, **immediately we** endeavoured to go into Macedonia, assuredly gathering that the Lord had called **us** for to preach the gospel unto them.

Acts 16:11 Therefore loosing from Troas, **we** came with a straight course to Samothracia, and the next *day* to Neapolis;

Acts 16:12 And from thence to Philippi, which is the chief city of that part of Macedonia, *and* a colony: and **we** were in that city abiding certain days.

Acts 16:13 And on the sabbath **we** went out of the city by a river side, where prayer was wont to be made; and **we** sat down, **and** spake unto the women which resorted *thither*.

1 Peter 2:5 Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, **an holy priesthood**, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.

1 Peter 2:9-10 But ye *are* a chosen generation, a **royal priesthood**, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light: Which in time past *were* not a people, but *are* now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy.

Revelation 1:6 And hath made us kings **and priests** unto God and his Father; to him *be* glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

Revelation 5:10 And hast made us unto our God kings and **priests**: and we shall reign on the earth.

Revelation 20:6 Blessed and holy *is* he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be **priests** of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.

Thoughts:

- Often spontaneous
- Often prior
- Basically confirmatory
- Local church oriented

“It seems odd that certain men who talk so much of what the Holy Spirit reveals to themselves, should think so little of what He has revealed to others.” CHS

Proverbs 11:14 Where no counsel *is*, the people fall: but in the multitude of counsellors *there is* safety.

Proverbs 12:15 The way of a fool *is* right in his own eyes: but he that hearkeneth unto counsel *is* wise.

Proverbs 19:20 Hear counsel, and receive instruction, that thou mayest be wise in thy latter end.

Proverbs 20:5 Counsel in the heart of man *is like* deep water; but a man of understanding will draw it out.

Proverbs 20:18 *Every* purpose is established by counsel: and with good advice make war.

Proverbs 25:22 For thou shalt heap coals of fire upon his head, and the LORD shall reward thee.

Proverbs 24:6 For by wise counsel thou shalt make thy war: and in multitude of counsellors *there is* safety.

IV. Providential indicators

1 Corinthians 16:9 For a great door and effectual is opened unto me, and *there are* many adversaries.

Revelation 3:7 And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write; These things saith he that is holy, he that is true, he that hath the key of David, he that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth;