



Sunday June 02, 2019
Receiving God's Guidance
Part-4 : Godly Counsel And The Renewed Mind

REVIEW

In this series, we are covering:

(1)The Word, (2)The inner witness of His Spirit, (3)The voice of the Holy Spirit, (4)Gifts of the Holy Spirit, (5)Dreams and visions, (6)Prophecies, (7)Angels, **(8)Godly counsel, (9)The renewed mind**, (10)Times and seasons, (11)Circumstances and divine orchestrations.

TODAY

Will continue from where we left:

8) GODLY COUNSEL

One important way that God communicates His guidance to us is through godly counsel. God uses His people to speak into our lives and help guide us along the right path for our lives.

Psalm 73:24

You will guide me with Your counsel, And afterward receive me to glory.

God guides us with His counsel, and this is often brought to us, through people who know the ways of God, understand the heart of God and have the wisdom of God.

Now, in general, most of us avoid asking and seeking for godly counsel. However, we need to change that. We need to maintain a humble heart, a heart that is willing to listen and receive godly counsel. Consider these Scriptures from Proverbs that teach us the value and importance of good counsel.

Proverbs 11:14

Where there is no counsel, the people fall; But in the multitude of counselors there is safety.

Receiving right counsel puts us in a place of safety and strength. We draw from the wisdom, experience and learning of godly people.

Proverbs 15:22

Without counsel, plans go awry, But in the multitude of counselors they are established.



Having a great idea is good. Having the right input from the right kind of people will help see that idea become a reality. Often we need to have input from several people, simply because one person will not have all the information that is required.

Proverbs 19:20

Listen to counsel and receive instruction, That you may be wise in your latter days.

We must develop the ability to listen and to receive. Most of us don't like to listen, especially listen to instruction. We have our preconceived notions or prejudices that keep us back from receiving the instruction that will really help us. We incorrectly think: "I don't like to be told what to do"; "I don't want some else controlling me"; "I can figure this out myself"; "I want to be independent", etc. It takes humility to be willing to listen and receive instruction. If we will humble ourselves and receive instruction, this will prove beneficial in the long run.

Proverbs 20:18

Plans are established by counsel; By wise counsel wage war.

The counsel you receive is like ammunition or weapons that gear you up for battle. Go into the fight armed with counsel from wise people. You can use them at the right time to face challenges, handle difficult situations and press through to victory.

Receiving Right Counsel

It is also very important from whom you receive counsel. In the context of what we are studying - receiving God's guidance - we must receive counsel from people who have a deep, time-tested and proven walk with God, those who will speak based on the authority of God's Word and in submission to the Holy Spirit.

We must be careful not to walk in the counsel of the ungodly.

Psalm 1:1

Blessed is the man Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful;

Of course in other matters of life, we go to experts in those fields (e.g. legal, finance, career, education, professional matters, etc.). You can receive counsel from these experts, provided they are not instructing you to anything that is ungodly (displeasing to God).



Be Willing To Be Corrected

One of the hindrances that keeps us from receiving God's guidance through counsel is that we only receive counsel that affirms what we are inclined to do. If there is counsel that corrects us, we do not receive it.

Consider what the Scriptures teach us:

Proverbs 12:1

Whoever loves instruction loves knowledge, But he who hates correction is stupid.

Proverbs 13:18

Poverty and shame will come to him who disdains correction, But he who regards a rebuke will be honored.

Proverbs 29:1

He who is often rebuked, and hardens his neck, Will suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy.

When asking and seeking godly counsel be teachable, maintain a humble heart and be willing to be corrected. This means that something you have been considering may not be what God would have you do and you must be willing to change and align yourself to the ways of God.

The Counsel Of Godly Parents

Proverbs 13:1

A wise son heeds his father's instruction, But a scoffer does not listen to rebuke.

Proverbs 1:8-9

**8 My son, hear the instruction of your father, And do not forsake the law of your mother;
9 For they will be a graceful ornament on your head, And chains about your neck.**

One of the honorable things we can do is to receive the counsel of our own parents, especially when they are godly parents. Children and young people, according to the Scriptures, hear and receive the counsel and instruction of your parents. They will cause you to walk in honor and esteem among people.

9) THE RENEWED MIND

Another important way we receive God's guidance in our lives, is through the use of our renewed mind.



We have to understand this correctly. We know that the natural mind cannot comprehend the things of God (1 Corinthians 2:14). We also know that the carnal (flesh-ruled) mind is enmity against God (Romans 8:7). We are aware that God's ways and God's thoughts are way higher than ours (Isaiah 55:8-9). So to walk with God, we must not and cannot be ruled by our own minds.

The Scriptures teach us not to lean (rely, depend, support ourselves with) our own understanding. Instead we must follow Him in all our ways.

Proverbs 3:5-6

**5 Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding;
6 In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.**

Yet there is another equally important side that we must be aware of.

God created our mind. God designed and gave us our intellectual abilities. We consecrate these to the Lord. God instructs us to use our mind.

Proverbs 4:26

Ponder the path of your feet, And let all your ways be established.

We are to ponder (weigh, know, make sure, plan carefully, study, watch) the path we are taking so that we can ensure that we are firm, secure, unshakeable and established in what we do.

God has given us our mind and also has instructed us how to use it correctly. The problem with many of us is that we consider our mind as an enemy. If we use our mind the way God teaches us to, then it serves to help us receive God's direction in life situations.

Prove What Is Good

Romans 12:1-2

**1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.
2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.**

The renewed mind is able to prove (Greek 'dokimazo') that is to test, to recognize as genuine after examination, to approve what is the will of God. The picture here is of testing metals, to see if it is genuine or not. So the renewed mind, processes all the available information and recognizes from all of this, what is the genuine - the good, acceptable and perfect - will of God.



As believers we must **not** discard the use of our mind. Instead, we must renew our minds and use it as God intends us to. One of the benefits of a renewed mind is that it is able to recognize what is the will of God in any situation.

We renew and train our mind to think aligned to the ways and thoughts of God. A mind that has been and continues to be aligned to the higher ways and thoughts of God through the Word of God is a renewed mind. We do this with the Word of God.

Trained To Know

Notice what we read in Hebrews 5:14 in relation to the Word of God:

Hebrews 5:14

But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

The solid food refers to the strong meat of the Word. Those who are mature are people who feed on the solid meat of the Word. These people have their senses (organ of perception, judgment) trained to know what is right and wrong.

Consider how other versions render this verse:

(Contemporary English Version)

Solid food is for mature people who have been trained to know right from wrong.

(Easy to Read Version)

But solid food is for people who have grown up. From their experience they have learned to see the difference between good and evil.

(English Standard Version)

But solid food is for the mature, for those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil.

(Good News Bible)

Solid food, on the other hand, is for adults, who through practice are able to distinguish between good and evil.

These indicate that the renewed mind has the ability to distinguish what is right and wrong, thus determining what is God's will and what is not.

Find Out, Understand

We have considered Ephesians 5 in an earlier chapter and will take a look at this passage again:



Ephesians 5:8-10,17

8 For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light

9 (for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth),

10 finding out what is acceptable to the Lord.

17 Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is.

As children of light, we live our lives "**finding out**" (meaning testing, examining, proving, discerning, figure out) what is "acceptable" to the Lord. The process of "finding out" means that we make use of our renewed mind. We examine facts, information, we investigate, we ponder, we reason, we test, validate, question, etc. with a renewed mind, as we determine what is right and wrong, what is well pleasing to the Lord.

The word "**acceptable**" is the Greek ('*euarestos*') meaning what is fully agreeable and well pleasing to the Lord. So as believers we are encouraged to be on this pursuit of discovering God's will, what is fully agreeable and well pleasing to God.

Further on in verse 17, we are instructed not to be "**unwise**". Thayer's Greek Definitions has the following meanings of ('*aphroon*'), the Greek for 'unwise': "without reason, senseless, foolish, stupid, without reflection or intelligence, acting rashly". Instead of being unwise, we must understand what God's will is.

The Greek for "**understanding**" is to put together, to comprehend, to set or join together in the mind, to bring together in a hostile sense, bringing two combatants together, which could imply thinking through seemingly opposing ideas. This verse is teaching us that we do not do away with our mind in understanding God's will and receiving God's guidance.

Thinking Aligned To The Ways And Thoughts Of God

Essentially the renewed mind brings to bear in any situation the ways and thoughts of God. The renewed mind is able to use the knowledge and understanding of the ways of God, the thoughts (Word and revelation) of God and with that process available information, so that we can know what is well pleasing to God in that situation.

God wants us to live with a renewed mind and make decisions with a renewed mind. His guidance to us come to us through the use of our renewed mind.

MINISTRY TIME | SALVATION CALL



LIFE GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Sunday June 02, 2019
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The is a simple guide for use in Life Group discussions. Our objective is to focus on the application of the Sunday sermon - how each one is becoming a doer of the Word and building their life on God's Holy Word. The Life Group meeting would normally last for 2 hours. Each Life Group would have up to 12-15 people.

Preparation

To prepare for the Life Group meeting, you can listen to the Sermon Key Points (sermon summary in five minutes) or the full length Sunday sermon. You can also review the Sunday Sermon notes. All these are available in the "All Peoples Church Bangalore" mobile App or online at apcwo.org/sermons . Pray for the Life Group meeting and invite the work and ministry of the Holy Spirit.

Welcome

The Life Group meeting may commence with a time of prayer, worship and a fun activity.

LISTEN to God's Word

Read the following Scripture passages: *Proverbs 11:14; Proverbs 15:22; Proverbs 19:20; Proverbs 20:18; Romans 12:1-2; Ephesians 5:8-10,17*

INVESTIGATE God's Word Together

Please discuss a few of these together, giving time for people to share their insights. We encourage each one individually to make notes of their personal learning during the Group discussion.

1) In your own life has there been a time when you sought godly counsel? How did you go about doing this? Whom did you approach? What was the outcome?

2) Why do people hesitate asking for godly counsel? How do we overcome these inhibitions?

3) What do you understand by the term the "renewed mind" that Scripture speaks of in Romans 12:2 ?

4) How do we go about renewing our mind?



5) *How does the renewed mind help us in receiving God's guidance in life situations?*

If time permits, each one takes a few (3 minutes max) to share one or two key learning and how they see themselves applying it into their specific life situations. Encourage each one to participate and share.

FELLOWSHIP by sharing your life and spiritual journey

Each one takes a few (3 minutes max) to share anything from their walk with God, something God has been teaching them, a testimony of answered prayer or a specific challenge that they would like prayer for. Encourage each one to participate and share.

ENCOURAGE each other by praying and ministering to one another

Get into small groups of two or three and take turns to thank God and pray for each other in the light of what was learnt today. Listen to the Holy Spirit. Expect the gifts of the Holy Spirit to flow bringing healing, releasing miracles, prophecy, etc.

Regroup and pray together for:

1, families to be protected and strengthened

2, a mighty outpouring of God's Holy Spirit on us as a church and through us to bless many others in our city and nation. Nothing but a mighty work of God's Spirit can change our city and nation.

3, for the BUILD TO IMPACT project - for God's hand to guide us through the land search and acquisition process, and for finances to be more than enough to get this project done.

Close by thanking God together.



USEFUL RESOURCES



Watch our online Sunday Church service live stream every Sunday at 10:30am (Indian Time, GMT+5:30). Spirit filled, anointed worship, Word and ministry for healing, miracles, and deliverance.

YOUTUBE: <https://youtube.com/allpeopleschurchbangalore>

WEBSITE: <https://apcwo.org/live>

Our other websites and free resources:

CHURCH: <https://apcwo.org>

FREE SERMONS: <https://apcwo.org/resources/sermons>

FREE BOOKS: <https://apcwo.org/books/english>

DAILY DEVOTIONALS: <https://apcwo.org/resources/daily-devotional>

JESUS CHRIST: <https://examiningjesus.com>

BIBLE COLLEGE: <https://apcbiblecollege.org>

E-LEARNING: <https://apcbiblecollege.org/elearn>

WEEKEND SCHOOLS: <https://apcwo.org/ministries/weekend-schools>

COUNSELING: <https://chrysalislife.org>

MUSIC: <https://apcmusic.org>

MINISTERS FELLOWSHIP: <https://pamfi.org>

CHURCH APP: <https://apcwo.org/app>

CHURCHES: <https://apcwo.org/ministries/churches>

WORLD MISSIONS: <https://apcworldmissions.org>