



**Sunday June 16, 2019**  
**Receiving God's Guidance**  
**Part-6 : Summing Things Up**

This is the last message in this series on "Receiving God's Guidance".

**REVIEW**

In this series, we have covered 11 ways by which we can receive God's guidance in our lives:

(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**

In this final chapter we "tie everything together" and share some practical insights that will be helpful as we seek to order our lives with guidance and direction from God.

We must walk humbly before God, always seeking, listening to His direction and obeying Him in what He instructs us to do.

**More Ways Than One**

**Job 33:14-16**

**14 For God may speak in one way, or in another, Yet man does not perceive it.**

**15 In a dream, in a vision of the night, When deep sleep falls upon men, While slumbering on their beds,**

**16 Then He opens the ears of men, And seals their instruction.**

Often, when God speaks, He does so to us in a multiplicity of ways. This means that He is speaking to us in any combination of the eleven ways we have described. It is our responsibility to "perceive" (Hebrew '*shoor*' meaning to go round in inspection, to survey, look) what God is speaking through different ways, recognize these and put them all together to receive His guidance and direction for our lives.



## Testing And Validating Your Leading

We have considered eleven ways through which we can receive God's guidance and direction for our lives: (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. We are definitely not limiting or restricting God to speak His guidance to us with just these ways. Rather, these are what we are accustomed to. God can speak and move in fresh new ways.

However, we consider the first three: (1)The Word, (2)The inner witness of His Spirit, and (3)The voice of the Holy Spirit, as the primary ways to receive God's guidance. We refer to these as 'primary' because they are reliable. The remaining eight, are what we refer to as secondary, and have to be verified, tested and validated with the Word of God and the inner witness of the Holy Spirit.

When you receive guidance through any of the secondary ways (the last eight ways), always make it a point to test it. Do not rush off and do something without testing or validating it with the Word of God and with the inner witness of the Holy Spirit.

Ask yourself two simple questions:

1) Is what I feel led to do aligned and in harmony with the Word of God? If there is no specific Scripture on the matter, you can check if what you feel led to do is aligned to the nature and character of God.

2) What is the Holy Spirit witnessing (speaking) in my spirit about this? Do I sense His peace and His approval on this matter?

## Two Or Three Witnesses

### 2 Corinthians 13:1

**This will be the third time I am coming to you. "BY THE MOUTH OF TWO OR THREE WITNESSES EVERY WORD SHALL BE ESTABLISHED."**

The apostle Paul is quoting from the Old Testament (Deuteronomy 19:15) as he addresses matters at the local church at Corinth. This is a truth that we can apply to validating and testing guidance from God, if we receive it through any of the secondary (the last eight) ways we have mentioned above. We ensure that there are two or three witnesses confirming the guidance we have received.



For example, if your decision is based on a specific instruction in the Word of God, then you can step out on it with confidence. In other situations you may have a quickened Word as well as the inner witness of the Spirit. Once again, in such a situation, you can proceed with confidence in doing what you have been directed to do by the Lord.

Consider a situation where someone gave you a word of prophecy that was directive in nature. Perhaps telling you to move to a certain city and start a specific business. Your response must be to thank the Lord for the prophecy, make a note of it, and then proceed to test if this is of the Lord. Do not immediately pack up and relocate to that city. No. Do not do that. The prophecy must be tested (1 Thessalonians 5:20-21) and you also need to know the timing for its execution, as well as do the necessary preparation, before you take the step. In testing the prophecy you would want to see what the Holy Spirit is bearing witness (speaking) to you in your spirit. You may also desire to get godly counsel about the prophecy. You would expect God to speak to you through the quickened Word. You would be open to see if God speaks about this same thing through other means, e.g. through dreams, visions, prophecy through another person who does not know about this already, angels, etc. Once you are assured that this is what God wants you to do, you will then seek God's timing on it. You also begin the process of preparing yourself for it. You will observe what God is orchestrating in your situations and seize opportunities He is bringing your way. So as we put all this together we can walk with strength and confidence into the plans and purposes of God for our lives.

### **We Are All Learning, So We Will Make Mistakes**

**John 10:4-5,27**

**4 And when he brings out his own sheep, he goes before them; and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice.**

**5 Yet they will by no means follow a stranger, but will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers."**

**27 My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.**

My journey in learning to receive God's guidance has not been perfect. I have made mistakes. But every mistake is an opportunity to learn. We can gain something good out of the mistakes made in hearing God.

Our challenge is to discern the voice of our Shepherd from the voice of our own souls (self, desires), the voice of the world and from voice of the stranger, which is the devil. The devil is crafty. He makes his voice sound as close to the voice of the Lord Himself, in order to divert us. But as God's sheep, we must learn to "know His voice" so that we can distinguish it from the voice of the enemy, or the voice of our self and the voice of the



world around us. When we "know" His voice, we can also "hear" His voice and we can "follow" Him.

This is a learning process. And we will make mistakes along the way. But remember, God is with us and will restore us and get us back on track. Often, the enemy attacks us on our "blind side", when we cannot see our own mistakes. That is why we need each other, to look out for each other, so we can help each other stay on track. We must acknowledge our mistakes and get back on course.

### **Getting Back On Course**

#### **Psalm 18:36**

**You enlarged my path under me, So my feet did not slip.**

It is possible to walk with God in such a manner where we experience God clearing the path for every step we take (enlarging my path under me), so that we walk without stumbling. We know that David who spoke these words (Psalm 18) was a man who inquired of God constantly. He honored God in his choices. He walked with wisdom.

However, David also made mistakes through wrong choices, selfish desires and experienced trouble.

Consider what David said:

In Psalm 25, while David prayed for God to teach him and guide him, he also affirmed that if and when David found his feet trapped in "the net" (any tight situation, any snare of man), David would keep his eyes on the Lord, knowing that God would bring Him out.

#### **Psalm 25:4,15**

**4 Show me Your ways, O LORD; Teach me Your paths.**

**15 My eyes are ever toward the LORD, For He shall pluck my feet out of the net.**

In our journey through life, all of us will make mistakes. We are still learning how to resist temptations of the enemy and crucify our fleshly desires. We are learning how to listen to God and receive His guidance in our lives. So along the way, even if we make wrong choices, wrong decisions, we keep our eyes fixed on the Lord. He is bigger than our mistakes. He is bigger than the detours we have taken. He is bigger than the messes we have created. He will work out His plans and purposes as long as we get back to Him, let Him re-align us and work in us and through us. No plan of His can be defeated. He restores time. He restores all that may have been wasted away. He is the great Redeemer.



We present here, in the rest of this chapter, practical instructions for us, so that we can order and live our lives in such a way that we receive His guidance correctly and accurately.

## **Staying On The Side Of Caution And Taking Risks In Faith**

### **Romans 11:33-34**

**33 Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out!**

**34 "FOR WHO HAS KNOWN THE MIND OF THE LORD? OR WHO HAS BECOME HIS COUNSELOR?"**

The wisdom, knowledge, decisions and ways of God are beyond comprehension. We are constantly learning and learning a little bit more of His wisdom, knowledge, decisions and ways. We cannot put God in a box. He is infinite. What we have now, is just a very finite, miniscule understanding of His ways. God can and will guide and lead us in unusual ways, in ways we have never imagined. We must stay open, receptive and obedient.

There will be times when like Abraham we step out with God, knowing that God has spoken, knowing that He is guiding and yet not knowing where we are going. We just follow, a step at a time, moment by moment. We take risks by faith.

### **Hebrews 11:8**

**By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going.**

And then there are certain decisions when we will stay on the side of caution. We only step out when we know we have sufficient details and are absolutely sure that God is guiding us and leading us.

As we journey through life we must learn to walk with God both ways - times when we stay on the side of caution, and then times when we take risks in faith. There is no one uniform, standard, way in which we will make all decisions. We must know when to do what. When to move cautiously and when to take risks.

The beautiful thing is that as we make decisions and step out with God, He will make things clearer and brighter. We will discover that with His help, the decisions we made were right and He is continuing to lead and guide us, His sons and daughters.

### **Proverbs 4:18**

**But the path of the just is like the shining sun, That shines ever brighter unto the perfect day.**



## **Staying With His Last Instruction**

Another thing we must learn in journeying with God is that there will be seasons when God is not speaking or leading us to do anything new or different. You are in a certain season of life, things are in place and going well. And you don't seem to be hearing anything new from God about changing what you are doing or stepping into anything different.

When it seems like you have been "put on hold" or if you are not hearing anything "new" or "different", then it is important to stay with His last instruction. Keep doing what He has told you to do, faithfully, consistently, with excellence and for His glory. You can continue to grow, increase, expand, move to new levels in the last thing He assigned you to.

### **1 Corinthians 4:1-2**

**1 Let a man so consider us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God.**

**2 Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found faithful.**

We are stewards of all that God has entrusted to us. What God expects of us as stewards is that we remain faithful. To be faithful is to be trustworthy, dependable, someone who can be counted upon. Someone who will be at their post, doing what they have been assigned to do, no matter what. Stay faithful with what God has assigned to you and keep growing in it, until He tells you to do something new or different.

## **Avoid Being Self-Driven And Stubborn**

### **Proverbs 14:12**

**There is a way that seems right to a man, But its end is the way of death.**

One of biggest challenges to receiving God's guidance and direction for our lives is that we may be pursuing things (goals, dreams) that are motivated and driven of self. Sometimes the "what" may be good and noble. However, the "why" may be the impure and wicked self. We get so focused on doing something in order to satisfy our selfish interests, that we are unable to listen to what God is speaking to us. The way may seem right to us, but if it is motivated by self, the outcome is not going to be pleasant or God-glorifying.



Closely connected to being self-driven is being stubborn. When we are stubborn, we have an attitude that insists on having our way and no other way. Stubbornness is a wrong heart attitude, often birthed out of spiritual pride. We are unwilling to learn from others, unwilling to receive godly counsel, not teachable, claiming superiority of revelation or spiritual experience, etc. (Note: there is a good sense in which we need to be "stubborn", that is absolute resolute in our decision. We are referring to the bad kind of stubbornness, here).

### **Avoid Being Aimless**

Now when we talk about surrender and yielding, some people swing to the other extreme where they fail to take on responsibility and therefore live aimless and purposeless lives. They have the wrong notion that planning, strategizing and preparing are expressions of self and hence do not make any plans or preparations.

Our approach must be to seek God's guidance and direction for our lives and then work hard, plan, strategize and prepare ourselves to see His purposes fulfilled.

Even after we plan, we commit our works to the Lord and depend on Him establishing what we do. We plan according to the guidance He has given us, and we know that as we work out the plan, God will direct our steps.

**Proverbs 16:3,9**

**3 Commit your works to the LORD, And your thoughts will be established.**

**9 A man's heart plans his way, But the LORD directs his steps.**

Just because God has led and directed us to do something does not mean the road is always going to be easy. We exercise patience, diligence and endurance as we work out a plan that God is based on the guidance we have received from God.

### **Avoid Distractions**

We must learn to stay focused on what God has assigned or directed us to do. Distractions come our way to break our focus. When our focus is broken, we tend to waste time, energy and resources on things we were not supposed to be doing.

When you have received God's direction follow it through. Don't try to add things to it, that God never intended for you. Don't copy from other people. Lay aside all the additional weights and sins that easily distract us and slow us down. Run the race with focus.



## **The Lord Led Me As I Was On The Way**

### **Genesis 24:27**

**And he said, "Blessed be the LORD God of my master Abraham, who has not forsaken His mercy and His truth toward my master. As for me, being on the way, the LORD led me to the house of my master's brethren."**

Steering a parked vehicle really makes no sense. We do not do it. But once the vehicle starts moving, then it needs to be steered and doing so is useful and necessary.

Sometimes our inaction and indecision actually prevent us from receiving God's direction for our lives. Any instruction, guidance or direction that God may be speaking to us makes no sense to us because we are "parked". The ignition is off. The handbrake is on. And we complain, God is not steering (leading, guiding) me. Well, in order to receive His guidance and direction, we need to turn on the ignition, put the vehicle into drive and step on the accelerator. Then His guidance and direction will steer us taking us into His purposes.

Think about Abraham's servant who was commissioned with the task of finding a bride for Isaac (Genesis 24). He didn't just pray and do nothing. He set out on his mission and prayed for God to grant him success. His testimony was that as I was on my way the Lord lead me to the right person, Rebekah and her household. So also, we must be in a place of ready obedience, ready to act and do what He says, if we desire to receive His guidance and direction in our lives.

We are all called to wait on God. But waiting on God is not inaction. Waiting on God is not being in a state of passivity. Waiting on God is an active stance. We are before Him for Him, to do His bidding. We are not before Him with the attitude, "*God I am here, just to be with you, so don't tell me to do anything*". We are before Him, spending time with Him, waiting on Him, with the attitude, "*God I am here, just to be with you and I am ready to do anything you tell me to do. Here I am, send me*". When we are in this posture of waiting, God speaks His guidance and directives.

## **Avoid Dwelling In The Past, Look Ahead**

### **Philippians 3:13-14**

**13 Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead,**

**14 I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.**





A final word and closing thought as we journey through life doing our utmost to walk in obedience to His leading, guidance and direction over our lives. We will go through some great mountain top experiences. We will also have to walk through some challenging seasons of life. But as the apostle Paul said, we must learn to "forget" things of the past and keep reaching forward to what is ahead. We cannot live in the glories of the past. Neither should we be trapped in the failures, disappointments, hurts or tragedies of the past. The finish line is ahead of us, not behind us. We must put all we've got to move toward the goal ahead of us to finish the course set before us. We cannot drive a vehicle looking always in the rear-view mirror. An occasional glance is fine. But the majority of the time we are looking ahead.

Release the past. Start afresh. God can make all things new. Receive His guidance. Move ahead. The future is far greater than you've imagined. Let the Lord lead you into His highest and best for you.

MINISTRY TIME | SALVATION CALL



LIFE GROUP STUDY GUIDE

**Sunday June 16, 2019**  
**Receiving God's Guidance**  
**Part-6 : Summing Things Up**

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](http://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: *John 10:4-5,27; Psalm 25:4,15; Hebrews 11:8; Proverbs 16:3,9; Genesis 24:27*

**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) *Why is it important to test and validate what we have received as God's guidance, before we step out on it?*
- 2) *How would we know when we stay on the side of caution and when we take a risk of faith, as we follow His guidance in our lives?*
- 3) *What does it mean to stay with His last instruction?*
- 4) *If God reveals His guidance and direction for our lives, why do we still need to plan, strategize and prepare to carry it out? Won't it just happen, since He gave us guidance?*



5) *Can you think of one or more situations where you "missed it" when receiving God's guidance, and God brought you back on track in your life? Share one such situation.*

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>