

II. Teaching of Scripture on GUIDANCE.

A. God's will is established and certain:

1. Psa. 37:23, 24 - "The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord..."
2. Prov. 16:9 - "A man's heart deviseth his way, but the Lord directeth his steps."
3. Prov. 20:24 - "Man's goings are of the Lord; how can a man then understand his own way?"
4. Jer. 10:23 - "O Lord, I know that the way of man is not in himself; it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps."

B. God has promised to give us guidance:

1. Psa 25:9 - "The meek will he guide in judgment; and the meek will he teach his way."
2. Psa. 32:8, 9 - "I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye..."
3. Prov. 3:6 - "In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths."
4. Prov. 8:20, 21 - "I led in the way of righteousness, in the midst of the paths of judgment."
5. Isa. 30:21 - "And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This is the way, walk

ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left."

6. Isa 40:11 - "He shall feed his flock like a shepherd: he shall gather the lambs with his arm, and carry them in his bosom, and shall gently lead those that are with young."

7. Isa. 49:10 - "They shall not hunger nor thirst; neither shall the heat nor the sun smite them: for he that hath mercy on them shall lead them, even by the springs of water shall he guide them."

8. Isa. 58:11 - "And the Lord shall guide thee continually..."

Note: To these and others could be added the testimonies of Gods people in the Bible, such as David's in Psa.

23:2,3 -

"... he leadeth me beside the still waters. ... he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his names sake."

Therefore, God not only reveals that He has a certain plan for our lives, but His promises guarantee that He will make it known - not all at once, but as we have need to know it.

III. The conditions for knowing the will of God.

Here we must be concerned with three things:

- (1) what we are.
- (2) what we must be.
- (3) what we must do.

I will use one verse for each point, concentrating on one ^{word} ~~verse~~, primarily in each verse.

A. what we are.

Any consideration of the will of God at any time in our lives must not fail to take into consideration God's ultimate purpose in redeeming us.

Eph. 2:10 - "For we are his workmanship..." (ποίημα). This means that we are the direct result of what God has done. (compiled from Prayer under ΠΟΙΕΩ, p. 527)

You may not be all you should be, nor all you would like to be, but all that you are at a child of God at this very moment is a direct result of what God has done in you.

(1) You were born from above, born of God (John 3:3, 7; 1 Jn. 4:7).

(2) 1 Cor. 15:10 - "But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which was bestowed

- upon me was not in vain..."
- (3) Psa. 100:3 - "Know ye that the Lord he is God: it is he that hath made us and not we ourselves..."
- (4) 1 Cor. 3:9 - "... ye are God's ~~work~~, ye are God's building."
- (5) Phil. 1:6 - "Being confident..."
- (6) Phil. 2:10 - "For it is God which worketh in you..."

note: Deut. 32:6; Psa. 138:8; Isa. 29:23; 43:21; 44:21; 60:21; Jn. 3:21; 2 Cor. 5:5, 17; Heb. 13:21.

Therefore, I am the work of God, you are the work of God. God did not save us primarily so that we could do something for Him, but so He could do something in us.

Your work is not the main thing; you are!

Ill. Ralph Odomen.

Any consideration of the will of God must have this foundation:
WE ARE HIS WORKMANSHIP!

~~A~~ ^B What we must be:

"The MEEK will be guide in judgment: and the MEEK will be teach his way" (Psa. 25:9). (The Heb. word is מְלִיץ.)

A meek person here is one who through affliction and oppression comes to realize his lowly condition,

his utter sinfulness - absolutely undeserving of anything that God might do for him. It is humility. He is what the Lord Jesus called "poor in spirit" (Mt. 5: 3). A humble person is humble because he has seen himself as nothing. "I know that in me, that is, in my flesh, dwelleth no good thing" (Rom. 7: 18). Paraphrasing the verse, it would read something like this:

"The humble will He cause to walk in conformity to His will, the humble will He train to walk as He walks."

Is humility what you desire? You see if God puts us in a place which we will use for our own purposes, we will do more harm than good. Being in the will of God is determined first of all by what I am, then where I am.

Ill. Moses - Ex. 3

Andrew Murray says that humility is the grace out of which all other graces grow.

C. What we must do.

"In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and he shall direct thy paths" (Prov. 3: 6).

The promise has a condition attached to it.

Paraphrasing -

In all things that pertain to

to your daily walk, know Him,
(that is notice Him, who He is +
what He is doing), and he shall
give you a straight, level path that
will lead you to your destiny by
walking.

The Bible does not deal with the
will of God as a series of crisis
experiences. It is a walk. And as
I seek to know the Lord, to obey Him
and trust Him, He will see to it that
I am kept in the path of His will.

Here again, what He wants me to
do is to become occupied with Him.

Cf. Phil. 3:10

Ill. Mrs Kuhn on knowing the
voice of the Lord.

Concl: This explains the reason
for so much of our confusion
in knowing God's will. God
waits until we realize that:

- (1) We are His work.
- (2) He wants us to recognize
our lowly place
- (3) The desire to do His will
must first bring us to
a place where we desire Him
above all else.

Ill. Peter in Jn. 21 -
Lovest thou me
Feed my sheep.