

Wisdom

Wisdom is knowing God's ways and truth, and acting in the light of what God has said to be true.

In the Bible, wisdom is linked closely to God's will (Eph. 5:15-17)

We must pursue wisdom (Proverbs 2)

- ¹ My son, if you receive my words
and treasure up my commandments with you,
 - ² making your ear attentive to wisdom
and inclining your heart to understanding;
 - ³ yes, if you call out for insight
and raise your voice for understanding,
 - ⁴ if you seek it like silver
and search for it as for hidden treasures,
 - ⁵ then you will understand the fear of the Lord
and find the knowledge of God.
- ⁹ Then you will understand righteousness and justice
and equity, every good path;

How do we pursue it?

- 1) Fear God (Proverbs 9:10)
- 2) Use the means of grace
- 3) Obey (Job 28:28)

Core Seminars—Guidance Class 6: Tools of the Trade Part 2



Introduction

What goes wrong when we assume that God normally guides in mystical ways?

Using Circumstances to Guide Us

Wrong Ways to “Read” Circumstances

- “Open” and “Shut” Doors
- Bad results mean I missed God's will
- Giving into impossible circumstances = weak faith

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Right Ways to Use Circumstances

We can trust God's good plan

- Circumstances tell you what's possible
- Circumstances tell you about yourself

Whatever God ordains is right

Does this lead to laziness or complacency?

- Paul saw slavery as evil (1 Tim. 1:10)
- 1 Corinthians 7:21 and Paul's advice to slaves

Using Feelings to Make Decisions

<http://t4g.org/2008/02/the-bondage-of-guidance/>

Wrong Ways to Use Feelings

- 1) Assume that an inner prompting is definitely from the Spirit
- 2) Don't act until you have an inner "peace"

Right Ways to Use Feelings

- 1) Intuition
- 2) Leadings prompted by the Spirit (with appropriate skepticism as to the accuracy of our subjective sense)
- 3) Desires (Psalm 37:4)
 - God gives us great freedom within what is right
 - We can often serve him better doing what we want
 - Desires reveal idolatry
 - God can sanctify our desires so they guide us well

How to use your feelings when making a decision

- 1) Recognize your feelings can be wrong
- 2) Discuss your motives with those who know you well
- 3) Use appropriate vocabulary to describe your feelings
- 4) Correct for your natural biases