

Guided Unto Glory #1

Ps. 73:24 – “Thou shalt guide me with thy counsel, and afterward receive me to glory.”

How does God guide us with his counsel?

To be guided by his counsel, you must want to be guided by his counsel. Most do not, no matter what they say. They want his will, blessings, and direction, but not enough to seek it. They are satisfied with their experience.

First, by known and conscious means

1. **By the Bible** as the express revelation of all that is necessary for us to know about God, his will, and his purpose for us.

Ps. 119:104-105 – “Through thy precepts I get understanding: therefore I hate every false way. Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.” (also 130)

2 Tim. 3:16-17 – “All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.”

2. **By the teachings of godly men**, either in the present or in the past – pastors, teachers, authors, etc.

Ac. 20:20, 27 – “And how I kept back nothing that was profitable unto you, but have shewed you, and have taught you publickly, and from house to house, ... For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God.”

2 Tim. 3:14 – “But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them”

I read a lot of older writings, like Charles Spurgeon and the Puritans, because they were so diligent in trying to understand, teach, and live according to the Word. There are many good authors and teachers today also, and we can learn a great deal from them, even with some disagreements.

But guard against blind acceptance of what you see in print or video. It is like a library – it contains a lot of the good and great, but also a lot of lies, filth, delusion, and unbelief. In short, there are teachings and influences both true and good, and false and evil - judge everything by the Bible.

3. **By the counsel of those who love us** and have a concern for our well-being – parents, teachers, friends, etc.

2 Tim. 3:15 and 1:5 – Timothy had known the scriptures from his youth, by mother and grandmother.

Prov. 12:15 – “The way of a fool is right in his own eyes: but he that hearkeneth unto counsel is wise.”

Not all parents are good counsellors, nor all pastors, or friends, so what we mean is to listen to godly counsel. Be willing to listen and know when those who love you are giving you sound advice or warning. This is not easy because it is often not what we want to hear.

4. **By an enlightened and free conscience**

Ac. 24:16 – “And herein do I exercise myself, to have always a conscience void of offense toward God, and toward men.”

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.”

5. **Through prayer**

- a. **For a heart inclined to his Word, to be taught by God, and to fear him**

Ps. 143:10 – “Teach me to do thy will; for thou art my God: ...”

Ps. 24:4-5 – “Shew me thy ways, O LORD; teach me thy paths. Lead me in thy truth, and teach me; for thou art the God of my salvation; on thee do I wait all the day.”

Ps. 86:11 – “Teach me thy way, O LORD; I will walk in thy truth: unite my heart to fear thy name.”

Ps. 119:36 – “Incline my heart unto thy testimonies ...”

Ps. 119:66 – “Teach me good judgment and knowledge ...”

b. To understand his ways and laws and scriptures

Ps. 119:73 – “... give me understanding, that I may learn thy commandments.” (also 119:144 and 169)

Ps. 119:27 – “Make me to understand the way of thy precepts: so shall I talk of thy wondrous works.”

Ps. 119:33-34 – “Teach me, O LORD, the way of thy statutes: and I shall keep it unto the end. Give me understanding, and I shall keep thy law; yea, I shall observe it with my whole heart.”

c. For guidance in the way you are to live, and what you are to do

Ps. 143:8 – “Cause me to hear thy lovingkindness in the morning; for in thee do I trust: cause me to know the way wherein I should walk; for I lift up my soul unto thee.”

6. By meditating on God’s ways and on the Scriptures

Ps. 119:15-16 – “I will meditate in thy precepts, and have respect unto thy ways. I will delight myself in thy statutes: I will not forget thy word.”

Josh. 1:8 – “This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth, but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.”

7. By dreams

God has often used dreams to guide people – Jacob, Joseph, Solomon, Nebuchadnezzar, Mary, Joseph, the wise men, etc. These have usually been concerning very great things, either to show the future or to give warning. God has surely given other, less portentous dreams, not important enough to make it into the Bible, but serving the same purposes of guidance or warning.

Joel 2:28-29 – “And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions; And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my spirit.”

8. By the leading of the Holy Spirit

Jn. 14:26 – “But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.”

Jn. 16:13 – “Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth is come, he will guide you into all truth; for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.”

Secondly, by unknown and unconscious means

1. By unremembered dreams or other workings of the night

Job 33:14-17 – “For God speaketh once, yea twice, yet man perceiveth it not. In a dream, in a vision of the night, when deep sleep falleth upon men, in slumberings upon the bed; Then he openeth the ears of men, and sealeth their instruction, That he may withdraw man from his purpose, and hide pride from man.”

2. By his providential direction of our lives

God is constantly working in his creation, and in the events of your life to bring his will to pass. Most of the time we do not recognize this until later (if ever), but we can “look in the rearview mirror” and see God has been acting all along. e.g., Joseph being sold into Egypt, the story of Esther, etc. Prov. 16:9

Phl. 2:13 – “For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.”