

Prestonwood Connection

Living In The Shadow Of The Almighty #2

Guidance

Psalm 32

Wednesday, August 27, 2003 • Dr. David McKinley

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Let's pray together one more time.

Lord, tonight I pray that we would be led in the study of Your Word. I pray Lord, that as a result of being here tonight that we would be led according to Your will in each of our lives. I pray Father, right now, for the movement of the Holy Spirit in the hearts and the lives of the people who are here and I thank You Lord for leading us in this time of worship, of praise, of testimony, of thanksgiving and a celebration of new life in Christ. For all these things we give You thanks in Jesus name. Amen. Amen.

It's great to see you tonight. So glad you're here and making the connection here, mid-week with us at Prestonwood and a..., trust that you had the opportunity, many of you, to get here early enough to enjoy a wonderful meal at Main Street. How many of you were able to take part in dinner tonight? I wanna see...yeah great, that's a lot of us and that is a fabulous thing and I'm just thrilled that you are here and a..., able to do it and I trust you're beginning to learn your way around these new parts of the a..., campus here at Prestonwood. There's a lot to a..., see, a lot to do, a lot to learn and a..., hope that you're being able to do that in these days. You know, if you've ever had to a..., stop in your life and to ask for directions, you know that it can be a rather confusing experience.

A few days ago I was reading a story about a man who had spend some time, just really, a year in fact, traveling all around the United States and a..., he was relating some of the experiences that he had in the process of doing that and he told one story, one experience in particular that I thought that was a..., interesting. Apparently he was trying to find a bank, he needed some money and so he stopped along a roadside stop and he asked someone how he could get to the bank and the man said, "You just simply keep goin right down the road that you're on, you go 5 miles to the Stop And Go and you take a left and a..., you'll find that the bank is right there." Well, the guy got in his car and he started driving and he drove 5 miles down the road and then he went 6 and 7 and 8 and 9. You've probably been there before and he just realized he wasn't finding a..., this turn or this bank and so he pulled off on the other side now and said, "Listen I'm trying to find a bank." And they said, "No problem, you just turn right

around on this road you're just on and go right back the opposite direction, you go about 5 miles back up the road and go to the Stop And Go and you'll turn right and you'll go to the bank." Well, he drove back up that road, he went 5 miles, 6 miles, 7 miles, then he was back where he started the first time. Well, you can imagine he was frustrated just like you would be, I would be. He went back in the store and said, "Hey, I've been tryin to find this bank." And the guy said, "Well, it's right down the street, you just go down to the Stop And Go." He said, "Listen, can you tell me what the Stop And Go looks like?" The guy looked at him sort of strangely, he said, "Well, it's a pole and there's a red light on top and a green light on the bottom." [pause for congregation laughter] Well, we don't all think alike when we hear the same phrases when we're getting directions and a..., if you've ever had to try to get directions in life, you know that that can be a..., a confusing experience. Now, for some of us we just choose to never ask for directions. We just go with our own sort of internal gyro a..., many of the men in this room are guilty of that experience I'm sure, simply saying, "Honey, just trust me, leave it to me, I know where I'm going." And you keep trying to feel your way and yet a..., if you've ever felt your way about 30 miles in the wrong direction you know what a frustrating thing that can be to wake up and realize that just trying to feel your way sent you the exact opposite of the direction that you needed to go a..., in life. And so, just as you can get a..., mixed up and confused and can make mistakes while you are driving a..., in your car, it's easy to loose your sense of direction in life. And it's simply my observation that many people go through life misguided and misdirected, misguided and misdirected. The fact of the matter is, tonight, that the decisions we make in life make us. I wanna say that one more time. The decisions we make in life make us and so much of what happens to us in life and so much of what unfolds around us in life is nothing more and nothing less than the result of choices and the consequences of those choices in life. Therefore what we're saying is that the decisions we make in life make us. And so is we're going to avoid living lives that are misguided and lives that are misdirected then we need some wisdom, we need some guidance to really help us to make this journey of life and to make it successfully and effectively. Now I'm thrilled to tell you tonight that God's Word, the Bible has a lot to say about guidance and one of the greatest promises and one of the greatest truths in all of the Word of God is the truth and the promise that God will lead and will guide His people. And it is an active and an effective work that God wants to do in you and in me. And so tonight if you have a Bible I want you to open it to Psalm 32 because we've been singing about and thinking about God's leadership in life and tonight I want us to look at a Psalm that focuses on this subject of guidance and I'm gonna take time here at the outset to read the entire Psalm, Psalm 32, it's just 11 verses but I hope that you'll read along with me. Psalm 32 verse 1 says:

¹*Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, Whose sin is covered.*

²*Blessed is the man to whom the LORD does not impute (or that is charge) iniquity, And in whose spirit there is no guile. ³When I kept silent, my bones grew old Through my groaning all the day long. ⁴For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me; My vitality was turned into the drought of*

summer. Selah

That's a sigh, as though it were.

⁵*I acknowledge my sin to You, And my iniquity I have not hidden. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord," And You forgave the iniquity of my sin. Selah* ⁶*For this cause everyone who is godly shall pray to You In a time when You may be found; Surely in a flood of great waters They shall not come near him. ⁷You are my hiding place; You shall preserve me from trouble; You shall surround me with songs of deliverance. Selah*

And then look at verse 8:

⁸*I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will guide you with My eye. ⁹Do not be like the horse of like the mule, Which have no understanding, Which must be harnessed with bit and bridle, Else they will not come near you. ¹⁰Many sorrows shall be to the wicked; But he who trusts in the LORD, mercy shall surround him. ¹¹Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, you righteous; And shout for joy, all of you who are upright in heart!*

But go back to that verse, verse 8:

I will instruct you and teach you in the way you will go; I will guide you with My eye.

Now before we ever get to verse 8, the first 7 verses of this Psalm seem as though they are nothing more than just a **CONFESSION**. In fact it's a man opening his heart and pouring out his life and confessing that he has been living a misguided and a misdirected life and in fact I really believe that in the opening 7 verses of this Psalm we really learned the secret to beginning to experience God's guidance in life and the 1st step and the secret is simply that we must confess the misguided steps of a self-directed life, the misguided steps of a self-directed life. The problem with this man is the problem that each one of us has in this room tonight and that is that we wanna do it our way. We wanna ~~go on~~...go it on our own. We want to find our way and we wanna have a sense of self directedness and what you find here in Psalm 32 is a man who in seeking God's guidance had to come face to face with the reality that the biggest problem to experiencing God's guidance in his life was his own obstinance, his sense of wanting to do it himself, to do it my way, to follow my own instincts.

Now in reality this Psalm is one of 7 Psalms in the Bible that are called Penitential Psalms. That word penitential is kinda a big word but it's simply the idea of repentance. Psalms of confession, Psalms that are used to express what it means when someone realizes that they've been going to opposite of God's way and decide to turn and make a choice and to get right with God. The most famous of all of the Penitential Psalms is Psalm 51 and we'll be studying that in just a few weeks together. But this Psalm is so filled with confession and contrition and brokenness that frankly as you begin to read this Psalm it would be easy to go no further than to just say, hey we just need to stop and confess. Because he's talking about

the need to get right with God and yet he describes this misguided, this misdirected life, the self-driven life in some very significant words in these opening verses. He says here in Psalm 32:

Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven,...

TRANSGRESSION, the word transgression in the Bible is simply the idea of someone who crosses over the line, someone who goes out of bounds, someone who ~~leads~~...leaves the road and goes off on their own. And so the idea here is someone who is transgressed, who has chosen to cut across the boundaries and has made a decision to do what they wanna do without thinking about what God has said or what God would want them to do. That's how most people live their lives, they live their lives in transgression against the law of God, the Word of God and the will of God. They simply live according to their own instincts.

But not only has he confessed this misguided self-directed life in the word transgression there in verse 1, he goes on to say:

Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven,...

And then he says:

...Whose sin is covered.

The word **SIN** that is found there is one of the most common words for sin in the Bible and it simply means to miss the mark. And so the result of transgression, crossing over out of the boundaries is that now we have actually missed the mark and we've gone to a different destination. We ended up somewhere we didn't intend to be and this is when God gets a lot of our attention, is when we are going through life, we're havin a great time, makin our own decisions, breaking out of the barriers, getting off road, having it our way and then suddenly we get to a destination and we realize we've missed a mark in life. We realize that we've made a massive mistake in life and suddenly we realize that we've gotten to a destination we never intended to find ourselves in.

But then he goes on to say one more thing, he says:

Blessed is the man...

In verse 2:

...to whom the Lord does not impute iniquity.

INIQUITY, that's the 3rd word that he uses to describe the self-directed life. Not only the issue of transgression, going out of the boundaries, and not only the idea of sin, missing the mark. But now he's talking about iniquity and iniquity means to be twisted or to be crooked. It's the idea of deceitfulness and the ultimate result of a self-directed life is to realize that you have been self-deceived and self-deluded to believe that

you could somehow fulfill your life apart from the God who made you. That is where so many people are living with absence and emptiness in their lives, is that they are able to go their own way, they're able to set their own goals. They do a variety of things but ultimately when they get to the end of it all they realize that they have made a massive ~~de~~mistake and they have been deceived and caught in their own sin and nobody knew this better than David. Nobody knew this better than David! Think about David. What do you know about him? Who do you associate David with? Well do you know what? It'd be nice if all we all we ever thought about was David and Goliath, David and Goliath. But you...that wasn't what you were thinkin about was it? Huh? Because the reality is, we don't think about David and Goliath today, we think about David and Bathsheba, David and Bathsheba. The day that David, the man who supposedly was a man who was after God's own heart, but who one day with lust in his eyes looked at another man's wife and who committed adultery that ultimately led to the sin and the crisis of murder. He...David did unthinkable, unspeakable things, things he would have never considered possible, but it was because he was a man who was caught in the cords of his own sin, a man who transgressed, a man who missed God's mark and standard in his life and the result was that David came to the place that he had to confess the misguided steps of a self-directed life. And I just wanna be really clear tonight; you will never know the will of God for your life, you will never experience God's guidance until you confess ~~the misdirected steps, a~~the misguided steps of a self-directed life. Until you come to the place that you realize you can't just do it your way. The Bible says in Proverbs 14 in verse 12:

There a way that seems right to man, and the end there off are the ways of death.

And so many people go the way that seems right in their own eyes. Now think about all the decisions that you have to make in life, the decisions I have to make. We all have decisions that are made on a regular basis, decisions that touch the areas of our finances and, and of our time management; decisions about our moral standards in life, decisions about priorities and about our families, decisions about how we will handle the responsibilities of life, how we will raise our children, decisions about employment and career development in life, decisions about church and service and involvement and the commitment that's involved in, in truly being a follower of Jesus Christ and we think about all the choices and all the decisions that are there and yet in so many of those things we are prone within ourselves to say, no I'm going to do it my way. And yet David is a living picture of how easy it is to get life off track when you live it with independence and reluctance to hear and to heed God's way.

The Bible's pretty clear about the nature that we all have in this manner. In Isaiah 53, verse 6 it just says it:

All we like sheep have gone astray; We turned, every one, to his own way; But the Lord laid on Him (that is on Jesus) the iniquity of us all.

All of the deceitfulness, all of the ugliness of sin was put on Jesus so that you and I could come clean with God and admit that, yes, there is a tendency in me to say I'm gonna do it my way, I'm gonna live a self directed life. And yet to avoid the consequence and the destruction that that will bring Jesus has come to intervene and to offer you God's guidance, to be the Shepherd that will lead you all the way in life. Because God's ~~guid~~...desire and God's will is that He would lead you and that He would lead me and that we would live our lives under His divine guidance. I love how verses 6 and 7 sorta put it together, after David's been doing all of this confession he finally says:

For this cause everyone who is godly will pray to You In a time when You may be found; ~~and it~~...Surely the flood of great waters will not come near him. And You are my hiding place; and preserve me from trouble; and ~~su~~...surround me with songs of deliverance.

He's literally saying God will take care of me, if only I will come to Him with my brokenness, with my waywardness, with my lack of wisdom, with my shortsightedness and if I will begin to focus my life on God's promise and what is God's promise? Well that's the second part of what we wanna look at tonight and that is verse 8, and verse 8 simply says, once again:

I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will guide you with My eye.

Ladies and gentlemen, that is a **PROMISE** from God. If you want God's guidance, God wants to give you His guidance in life. God is looking for the opportunity to guide you, to direct you and so much does He want you to know and to experience His guidance that He talks about it as being something that He will do with His eye. Eye guidance is pretty incredible. Eye guidance is when somebody can look at you and you know ~~what they want them~~...what they want you to do. It's the idea of intimacy. I can tell you right now in my family there's some good eye guidance that can take place between my wife and myself on a variety of ~~ex~~...days and experiences. I look at something and say, oh isn't that wonderful, how do you live that? I can tell you real quick, she doesn't ever have to say a word. You know? It's that eye guidance and just as it happens in a close relationship like with a husband and a wife it happens with parents and children. I'm telling you right now, your kids know very well that when an eyebrow raises or when some eyes focus in or when a frown comes on that face, they know, you better get right with God or you are goin to, [pause] well it won't face the devil but you'll be dealing with me when you get home. [pause for slight congregation laughter] You see eye guidance is a very intimate thing and God's Word says that God wants to give us His eye guidance.

And so I think what the second half of this Psalm is telling us, is not only must we confess the misguided steps of a self-directed life but we need to **CLARIFY** the meaning of a God directed life. What does it mean to have my life directed by God? I can tell you I, this has become a, a poll star promise in my life. In fact right here in the margin of my Bible that I'm speaking to you from tonight I've got 4 different dates where I've

used that verse as a moment in time, saying God, I am trusting You believing You, You've got to lead me, You've got to guide me in life. But I find that a lot of believers really struggle with knowing and experiencing God's guidance in life. Many of us are not really sure how God leads and guides and there's a lot of confusion and a lot of emotion that goes into all of this.

I read a story that I thought was rather interesting, I'd share it with you tonight. That apparently there was a little bit of trouble that was going on in a church between a pastor and the music director. And apparently what happened was that the pastor was preaching one Sunday morning on dedicating yourself to Christ and dedicating yourself to Christian service < turn tape > he finished preaching the message, the choir director stood up and led the whole congregation in singing the song, *I Shall Not Be Moved*. Heh! [pause for congregation laughter] Well, he tried to believe that that was a coincidence. So the pastor put the incident behind him, but the next Sunday he was preaching on giving and afterwards the choir director a..., stood up and he began to lead the entire church again in singing, *Jesus Paid It All*. [pause for congregation laughter] Well, by this time the pastor was beginning to get an echo that he didn't like in his preaching. He was starting to lose his temper a bit. And so the Sunday morning attendance was swelling to see what was gonna happen because they heard that he was gonna preach on the sin of gossiping and so they all came together and he preached it and when he finished preaching, the Minister of Music stood up and had the church sing, *I Love To Tell The Story*. [pause for congregation laughter] Well, there was no turning back, the following Sunday the pastor told the congregation that unless something changed he was considering his resignation, he wasn't going to be degraded in this way and the entire church gasp when the Music Minister stood up and led them in, *Oh Why Not Tonight*. [pause for congregation laughter] Truthfully, no one was surprised when the pastor resigned a week later, explaining that Jesus had led him there and that Jesus was leading him away and the Music Minister only had the church sing, *What A Friend We Have In Jesus*. Ha, ha, ha, ha, ha, ha, ha. [congregation laughter] Well, you know there're a lot of confusing ways that ~~God believe~~...that people seem to think that God leads them and God guides them and people get mixed up and they let emotions and they let a variety of things get in the way and to keep them from living a God directed life.

But I wanna just take some time tonight and to talk to you a little bit more about this promise that says:

I will instruct you and teach you in the way you will go; I will guide you with My eye.

And I wanna do 2 things. One I just wanna quickly affirm to you how clear the Bible is about this issue of God's guidance and then two I wanna talk to you about how God guides us.

Now first I wanna just talk to you about God's **AFFIRMATION OF GUIDANCE** in

His word. If you take the entire testimony of the Scripture on the subject of guidance you actually come to understand several things. First and foremost, the Bible teaches that **GOD HAS LED**. All of the testimony of the Bible is the work of God, the movement of God, the intervention of God in the lives of men and women. People like Abraham and Moses and Joseph and David and Peter and Paul and others whom God touched and moved by His guidance. And the Bible is a record of history of the testimony that God has led in the lives of His people. So whenever you read this book it's given to you to encourage you to believe that God will guide you.

But there's something else that we learn as we open the Bible and that a...is not only that God has led, but that **GOD WILL LEAD**. There are promises just like the promise that I've shared with you in Psalm 32 in verse 8. Let me just run you through some of these promises tonight. Why don't you just write down these references and watch them with me here as I share them with you. Psalm 48:14 says:

For this God, Is our God forever and ever; and He will be our guide even unto death.

Psalm 23, the familiar Psalm says:

He leads me in paths of righteousness for His name sake. And yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; For You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.

Proverbs 3:5 and 6:

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and do not lean to your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will direct your paths.

Isaiah 30, verse 21:

Your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, "This is the way, walk in it." Whenever you turn to the le...right hand or whenever you turn to the left.

Isaiah 58:11 says:

The Lord will guide you continually,...

John 16 in the New Testament, verse 13 says:

¹³"However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come. He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak of His own authority, but whatever He speaks He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. ¹⁴He will glorify Me, for He will take what is Mine and declare it to you."

John 10 in verse 3, Jesus said:

"...and the sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out."

And then Matthew 6:13 in the model prayer, Jesus taught us to pray:

"And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from evil..."

The entirety of the book of Acts is a picture of God working and moving in the lives of His followers in the early church and of the power of the movement of God in guiding His people as they followed Him. God's guidance is promised and the Bible teaches that God has led and the Bible promises that God will lead. But let me tell you there's one more thing you've gotta embrace tonight and that is that **GOD IS LEADING**. Whether you see it or understand it, whether you've perceived it or have ever been able to accept it, in the hardships and in the best days, in the points of resistance and in the pathways of opportunity God is leading and working in your life, right now. And one of the greatest things that you can affirm every morning is that this day I can trust God to guide me, because my God guides. Can you say that with me?

My God guides!

Let's say it one more time together.

My God guides!

And ladies and gentlemen tonight the testimony of Scripture is that you can have a ~~se~~...a God directed life because our God guides. But it all comes down to the simple question of how. How can I know and experience God's guidance in my life? How does this happen for me? Well, let me just give you some key ways, some mile markers of guidance to help you.

When I lived in Central Florida I had the opportunity on several occasions of going out of Port Canaveral, out into the travel lanes and the trade lanes that were there going out off shore and one of the things that I learned that was really fascinating is that those lanes are marked by markers that are both buoys to give you the sense of the channel but also mile markers to help you to know how far off shore or down shore you may have gone. And just as you have markers on a highway, you have them in these great lanes out in the oceans. And just as those markers are there to help you to steer the course and to stay on track so it is that God has given us some mile markers, some markers for guidance that are important for every one of us to know. So let me identify those if I may.

First, if you're going to experience God's guidance in your life you must look at the **SIGNPOST OF THE HOLY SCRIPTURE**, the signpost of the Holy Scripture. Just as when you're driving your automobile there are signs that say, STOP, YIELD, MERGE; the word of God has been given to us to give us very clear direction as to what God would have us to do and not have us to do particularly pertaining to the moral, ethical and spiritual issues of life. The Word of God has been given to us in order that through the

Bible we may have a clear and accurate understanding of the will of God in very specific areas of life dealing with marriage, dealing with friendship, dealing with wisdom, dealing with money. All of these things are addressed in the Bible and that's why it's so vital for us to understand, to embrace to study the Word of God. Now sadly for far too many people, rather than seeing the Bible as a signpost of the Scripture that is given to give them clarity they use it as a blinking light, heh, they sort of flip from page to page and verse to verse and rather than really seeing and understanding the picture of what God is saying they just kinda move from place to place and just go blinking light. They're kinda lookin for a Scriptural hot spot.

I'm sure you've heard about the man who decided he was gonna do that one day, opened his Bible, took his finger, put it in the middle of a Scripture, looked down and it simply said:

Judas went out and hanged himself.

[pause for slight congregation laughter] Well, that didn't exactly give him any guidance or any encouragement. So he decided he would look a, look again and he'd do the same thing and said Lord I need a word from You, speak to me. He put his finger down and it said:

God and do thou likewise.

[pause for congregation laughter] Well, he definitely didn't like that. He knew he was missin and he said Lord I am desperate, I gotta find somethin in here, surly there's somethin here and he did it one more time and it said:

Whatever you do, do quickly.

Heh, [congregation laughter] well, ladies and gentlemen a lot of people get in trouble with their handling of the Scripture, when all they're looking for is a lucky dip, when all they're trying to do is just to make it a blinking light. God's Word is much greater than that and it's much more significant than that and the Word of God has been given in precept, in principle and in promise so that we may be able to know and understand the will of God in life, the signpost of the Scripture and when it comes to the Bible there is a key word. You know how on your computer you can type in a key word and that key word will take you to a whole range of things? There's a key word to understanding the Scripture. It's **OBEDIENCE**, obedience, every one of us must come to this book, not as though it's a catalog that we flip through but that it is a standard that we stand under and that every one of us realizes that this is the creators owners manual for life and life will never be right until I stand under the Word of God. It is the signpost of the Scripture.

There's a second thing that we need to know the ~~gu~~ guidance of God in life and that is the **PROTECTIVE PRESENCE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**. Not only is God given us His Word, God has put His Spirit inside of us and the Holy Spirit

is not just some sort of a subjective a..., spiritual goose-bump that you have when you're tryin to figure our is that right or is this wrong. But the Holy Spirit is the active work of God in the life of the believer enforcing the Word of God. Just as we have signposts and markers like STOP signs and YEILD signs and MERGE signs; if we go flying through one of those intersections it's not unlikely that a little blue light's gonna come on and come track you down and say, "Hey, did you see that sign back there?" That's exactly what the Holy Spirit does. The Holy Spirit works in the life of the believer to stop us when we have gone outside of the boundaries of the Word of God and to say come back here; to help us to see and to understand His truth. And there is the protective presence of the Holy Spirit. The Bible say in Romans 8:14:

For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are the sons God.

Therefore you can't go through life with some sort of a fleshly indulgent attitude, instead you must come back to the power and the authority of the Scripture and then yield to the work of the Holy Spirit. And thank God because of the work of the Holy Spirit what Norman Pell said is true:

"I praise God that He not only guides my directions, but He overrules my mistakes and the Holy Spirit helps to bring me back in tow with the will of God in my life."

The key word for the Holy Spirit is **FAITH**. I have to believe every day that God will guide me because He promised to do it and He put His Spirit in me to accomplish it and therefore Holy Spirit I'm trusting you to help me see your hand and to live according to God's Word in my heart.

There's a third way in which we experience the Word of God and, and we experience the guidance of God and that is through the **COMPANIONSHIP OF GODLY COUNSELORS**. Within the body of Christ and through the ministry of the church and through those who are fellow brothers and sisters in Christ we are given the benefit of people who can give us counsel. Proverbs 12, verse 15 says:

The way of the fool is right in his own eyes, But he who heeds counsel is wise.

And it's so vital that we hear and understand the value of counselors, people who have had more experience, people who have æ...more Bible knowledge and understanding, people who can pray with us so that we don't simply just begin to have a myopia and only see the world through one little set of lenses, but people who can help us to see perspective of the will of God and of the purpose of God in the world. And one of the greatest functions that we have as fellow believers studying the Word of God and encouraging each other in faith is to give each other strength and counsel according to the Word and according to the Spirit of God. Proverbs 24:6 says:

For by wise counsel you will wage your own war, And in the multitude of

counselors there is safety.

Now that doesn't mean you just need to try to please men or just need to listen to everything that is said, but it is a vital thing when you need to know God's guidance that you seek godly counsel, it's biblical. Look at how many times they did it in the New Testament when they were making a decision about the church in the book of Acts. There's a...and, and let me say this, the key word, the key word when it comes to godly counsel is **LISTEN**. The problem is most of us seek counsel but we already know what we think we're gonna do. Frankly you waste your counselors time and you waste your own time. You gotta go back to the fact that you need to listen and you need to say, God help me to hear what You want me to hear in this counsel.

The fourth way in which we experience ~~the wil...~~the guidance of God in life is through the **SIGNAL OF LIFE'S CIRCUMSTANCE**. The signal of life's circumstance, now what I mean by this is that God does work in the circumstances of life. Now we don't put all of our trust in life's circumstances. In fact you can get in trouble if you try to simply perceive the will of God based on circumstances because sometimes God's will, will move you the opposite direction from the way the circumstances are in life. This can be taken to a ludicrous sense. I, I was reading the other day about someone who a..., was thinking about making a trip to Israel and they were looking at a travel brochure and, and they were noticing that the plane, that they were gonna fly was a 747 and they went to bed that night and thought about it and the next morning they woke up, looked at the digital clock and it said 7:47. So they decided it was the will of God that they should make that trip. Well, that's just silliness, that's just the way in which we can allow circumstances to deceive us. What's so much more important is to perceive the work of God in circumstances and God does work in circumstances. Sometimes it's the open door. Sometimes God begins to move in your life and He suddenly makes all the intersections go green just like that and you just can't figure out how am I making such time? But God is opening the way. At other times in life though you think God's leading you one way and boom, red light. And sometimes it's because He wants to delay you and ultimately get you to the destination, just not on the same time or in the same way that you thought. Other times it's because He wants you to ultimately stop and He's gonna turn you in a different direction. You see there is the signal of life's circumstance. And I like what George Mueller said:

"God not only orders our steps, but He orders our stops."

And whether God's given you steps to take or stops to make you can trust Him as He works in your life circumstances. Our God is sovereign over our circumstances and even when circumstances don't make sense to us we can trust the God who loves us. So what's the key word in the circumstances? It's **WAIT**, wait.

The final way in which I think we can know God's guidance in life and this is a very real part of the guidance of God is the **UNIQUENESS OF YOUR OWN**

DESIGN. The way that God has made you. God made you the way you are because He wants to do something specific in your life. I love the fact that this verse says,

I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; And I will guide you with My eye.

You see one of the biggest issues to experiencing God's guidance is that we're always trying to track somebody else. We're always wanting God to work in our life just like He worked in somebody else's life. We're always wanting to track them and to say I wanna be like that person, instead of being who God has made you to be. And God in His guidance chooses ways to shape you, to prepare you, to mature you, to use you that are unique to the package of you and it's a vital part of seeing and understanding His work in your life. And the key word in that area is **FOCUS**. Focusing not on everybody else and everything else, but focusing on this, God what do You wanna do in me. Elizabeth Elliot said it well in her book, *Keep a Quiet Heart*.

"Today is mine. Tomorrow is none of my business. If I peer anxiously into the fog of the future I will strain my spiritual eyes so that I will not see clearly what is required of me now."

Every day, God what would you have me to do today. I put my life in Your hands today and whether I understand the things that are happening or whether I struggle with the things that are happening, or whether I simply just have to surrender and say, Lord You have said:

I will instruct you and teach you in the way you will go; I will guide you with Mine eye.

Then I simply embrace it and according to the promise of the Psalm that we read:

...he who trusts in the Lord, mercy shall surround Him.

Have you experienced some misdirected steps in your life? Are you struggling right now with a need a guidance in your life? Do you feel maybe that some things have happened in your life that you wonder am I ever going to be on course with God? Can God really use me? Can God really work in me? Well there's a promise in the New Testament that I want you to hear tonight and it simply says: [Romans 8:28]

For God causes all things to work together for good, to those who love Him and to those who are called according to His purpose.

You can seek His guidance in your life today and everyday that is to come. But you can trust His grace for everything that happened yesterday, the things you can't change, the things you wish never happened, the failures, the pains, the injuries, the loses; guidance and grace it's a part of His promise for you.