



How God Guides Us

The Revelation of God's Guidance Follows Our Surrender

Have you ever found yourself saying when making a decision, "If God would just tell me what to do"? Actually, He is more than willing. Like any parent that would want to guide their child in the best path forward, we know and come to experience that God **wants** to guide us, and that He wants what's best for us—both now and in the long run. This is the ninth in a series of bulletin inserts on "How God Guides Us." It is reassuring to know that the Lord **will** guide us in all aspects of our life. For our part, we want to open our hearts and follow His direction as we come to understand the ways in which He normally guides us.

In considering a decision, and seeking God's guidance in this decision, we must initially do our part. It is good to undertake legitimate preparation, especially regarding big decisions: considering various possibilities, anticipating road blocks, weighing the pros and cons, etc. And all of this preparation needs to be done in the context of prayer.

Knowing that God wants what is best for us, there is a principle that is necessary to understand in order to receive God's guidance for the situation under consideration. The principle is: "**revelation follows surrender.**" In other words, when asking Jesus for guidance, we need to truly

desire His will in the matter. We will not receive Our Lord's guidance until we come to Him "without our mind already made up" about the direction to take.

It is important that we don't discount the desires of our heart. If we already have a strong leaning as to what we want the outcome to be, we must be honest and tell this to Jesus. These longings are different from things we simply want out of selfishness. God has placed desires deep in our heart that He wants to fulfill. His direction, as we come to understand it and He confirms it, will help us know the difference between what we think we want and His true guidance. Remember that He really does want what is best and is good for us, what we *really do want* in the end!

God's direction will come to us after we express our willingness to follow His guidance in any given area. Therefore, what is needed is our surrender to God. Surrender is not being irresponsible or lazy, or having an attitude that we "don't care," or that we "could care less."

Surrender in this context of seeking God's guidance means having examined the possibilities with responsibility and a willingness to place the outcome in His hands, and to trust Him. We will ultimately come to a place of relinquishment, where we can say to Jesus, "I place this in Your hands, because I want

what You want. I believe it is best for me."

We really aren't able to come to a place of surrender without first being convinced of God's goodness. In order to believe and trust God with a sure confidence in Him, we have to personally experience His benevolence, His perfect goodness. We open ourselves to identify and remember His goodness through times of quiet reflection, where Jesus gives us the grace to recognize how He has helped and guided us in the past, and His unchanging desire to faithfully protect and guide us now. With this, a firm conviction that He is truly worthy of our trust grows.

Having **trust in God's goodness**, and a willingness to **surrender** to Him, are necessary to receive Our Lord's guidance and follow Him. God *will* guide us. He cares about every detail in our lives. Ask the Lord to deepen your belief in His goodness and your desire to surrender to His guidance. Watch for the amazing effect it will have!

Remember the principle:
Revelation follows surrender.

By Ann and Carol Lankford

Visit diolc.org/deeper for the previous principles.

