

23. Will this slow you down in your race or weigh you down? Heb. 12:1 "Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us," Heb. 12:2 "looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God." This needs to be balanced with the realization that God frequently interrupts "important" ministry with other unknown needs (Luke 8:40-56)
24. Will this become a "thorn" which will choke our your spiritual life by adding anxious cares, desires for riches, or desires for personal pleasures? Mark 4:19 "and the cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things entering in choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful." Luke 8:14 "Now the ones that fell among thorns are those who, when they have heard, go out and are choked with cares, riches, and pleasures of life, and bring no fruit to maturity."
25. Have you sought counsel from at least two other people who can be objective? (Prov 15:22; 24:6)
26. Are you willing to wait until God's Word, your subjective leading and your circumstances line up? Heb. 10:36 "For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise" 1 Sam. 13 (Saul's sacrifice)
27. Do you have an inner peace and faith that this is God's way? Rom 14:23 "But he who doubts is condemned if he eats, because he does not eat from faith; for whatever is not from faith is sin." Phil. 4:7 "and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."
28. Act in faith. Action on what you know you should do is imperative. Many times God gives further guidance to those who are in the process of acting. (Gen. 24:27 - Abraham's servant received guidance as he ventured out in what he already knew; John 7:17 "If anyone wants to do His will, he shall know concerning the doctrine, whether it is from God or whether I speak on My own authority.")
29. Freedom to choose. "The answer is 'Yes' before you ask." (Gen. 2:16-17; Deut. 14:26) Read 165-167 of Decision Making and the Will of God. Romans 4:15 says, "where there is no law, neither is there violation." Gen. 2:16 And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; Gen. 2:17 "but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die." Deut. 14:26 "And you shall spend that money for whatever your heart desires: for oxen or sheep, for wine or similar drink, for whatever your heart desires; you shall eat there before the LORD your God, and you shall rejoice, you and your household."
30. Other choices God lets us make (2 Sam. 24:12)  
2Sam. 24:12 "Go and tell David, 'Thus says the LORD: "I offer you three things; choose one of them for yourself, that I may do it to you."'"

For other charts and handouts related to guidance, see Phil Kayser

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Note: Paul prayed to go to Rome (Rom 1)

# Tests for Guidance

By Phil Kayser

Sermon Supplement for Guidance, Parts 2-3

Key Steps To Guidance & Biblical Tests of Guidance  
by Phil Kayser

1. Is your motive for seeking guidance God-centered? Do you have a deep desire to see Him lifted up? Psa. 25:14 "The secret of the LORD is with those who fear Him, And He will show them His covenant." Phil. 2:13 "for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure." James 4:3 "You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasures."
2. Are you coming in faith? Do you really believe in guidance? Prov. 3:5-6 "Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths." Hebrews 11:6 "But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is the rewarder of those who diligently seek Him." James 1:5-8 "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways."
3. Are you seeking God's ways in everything that you do? Prov. 3:5-6 "Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths."
4. Are you willing to do God's will, or are you just looking at the options you have? John 7:17 "If anyone wants to do His will, he shall know concerning the doctrine, whether it is from God or whether I speak on My own authority." James 1:7-8 "For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways."
5. Have you completely yielded your body to the Lord this day? Romans 12:1-2
6. Are you diligent in your seeking of God? Fasting is often a means of seeking God's will. Prov. 8:17 "I love those who love me, And those who seek me diligently will find me." Ezra 8:21 "Then I proclaimed a fast there at the river of Ahava, that we might humble ourselves before our God, to seek from Him the right way for us and our little ones and all our possessions." Jer. 29:13 "And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart."
7. Is there any sin the Spirit has convicted you about? If so, confess it. [context is putting away sin] Is. 58:11 "The LORD will guide you continually, And satisfy your soul in drought, And strengthen your bones; You shall be like a watered garden, And like a spring of water, whose waters do not fail."
8. Pray specifically and definitely believing that God will give you the wisdom that you need. James 1:5-7. Matt. 21:22 "And whatever things you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive." John 16:24 "Until now you have asked nothing in My name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full."
9. Pray with some others in agreement. Matt. 18:19 "Again I say to you that if two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven."

10. Do you have daily devotions (Psalm 5:3) and time in the Word (Psalm 119:105)? Psa. 119:105 "Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path." Psa. 5:3 "My voice You shall hear in the morning, O LORD; In the morning I will direct it to You, And I will look up."
11. Do you have all the available facts? Prov. 18:13 "He who answers a matter before he hears it, it is folly and shame to him." Prov. 18:17 "The first one to plead his cause seems right, Until his neighbor comes and examines him." Prov. 14:15 "the simple believes every word, but the prudent man considers well his steps."
12. Have you made a list of the pros and cons to either course you might take? (Luke 14:28-33)
13. Have you used the common sense wisdom God has already given? John 1:9
14. What do you want to do? God delights in delighting His children. Psa. 37:4 "Delight yourself also in the LORD, And He shall give you the desires of your heart."
15. Why do you want to do it? Examine your motive, goal and standard. Proverbs 21:2 "Every way of a man is right in his own eyes, but the LORD weighs the hearts."
16. Is it lawful? Are any Biblical principles being violated? Psa. 139:24 "And see if there is any wicked way in me, And lead me in the way everlasting."
17. Is it profitable? 1Cor. 6:12 "All things are lawful for me, but all things are not helpful. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any." 1Cor. 10:23 "All things are lawful for me, but not all things are helpful; all things are lawful for me, but not all things edify."
18. Am I controlled by it? (1Cor. 6:12 "All things are lawful for me, but all things are not helpful. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any.")
19. Could this lead someone else to stumble? Rom. 14:13 "Therefore let us not judge one another anymore, but rather resolve this, not to put a stumbling block or a cause to fall in our brother's way." 1Cor. 8:9-12 "But beware lest somehow this liberty of yours become a stumbling block to those who are weak."
20. Does it edify others or show them love? 1Cor. 10:23-24 "All things are lawful for me, but not all things are helpful; all things are lawful for me, but not all things edify. Let no one seek his own, but each one the other's well-being." Rom. 14:19 "Therefore let us pursue the things which make for peace and the things by which one may edify another."
21. Does this glorify God? 1Cor. 10:31 "Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God." Matt. 5:16 "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven."
22. Is this an area of weakness that if answered could make me stumble? Matt. 5:29 "If your right eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and cast it from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell. "And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and cast it from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell." Matt. 18:8 "If your hand or foot causes you to sin, cut it off and cast it from you." Proverbs 30:7-9 "Two things I request of You (deprive me not before I die): remove falsehood and lies far from me; give me neither poverty nor riches - feed me with the food allotted to me; lest I be full and deny You, and say, 'Who is the LORD?' or lest I be poor and steal, and profane the name of my God."