

**Psalm 25 — “Making Decisions & Getting Guidance God’s Way!”**

- The theme of Psalm 25 is **guidance** — God’s guidance - v.4, 5, 8, 9, 10, 12, 14)

*UNBIBLICAL ways that people make decisions & get guidance:*

- (1) **mysticism** - a dream; \*God Told Me\*; hear the Spirit’s voice
- (2) **secularism** - what you want - self centered.
- (3) **emotionalism** - what i feel; “I have a peace about it”
- (4) **paganism** - fate/manipulation; signs; impulse
- (5) **popular opinions** - how others do it; what’s popular

Psalm 25 is: (1) authored by David; (2) a prayer (and a lament); (3) an **acrostic**

*Hebrew writers employed the literary device of “Acrostic” for 3 main reasons:*

- 1) for BEAUTY - for poetic rhyme
- 2) for COMPREHENSIVENESS -the subject covered from A-Z
- 3) for MEMORY - a mnemonic device to help with memorization

**THESIS — Learning from David's prayer in Ps 25, how do \*you make decisions & get guidance GOD’S WAY in your life?\*** **4 clarifying guidelines.**

## I. TRUST IN GOD! (1-3)

## II. SEARCH THE WORD! (4-7)

- So how does God guide? GOD GUIDES ...
  1. through the Word (Ps 25)
  2. through wise counsel (Proverbs 15.22)
  3. through the holy Spirit (Rom 8.14)
  4. through believing prayer (James 1.5)
  5. through providence (Prov 27.1)

- **Deuteronomy 29.29 = LEARN THIS WELL!**

- Hear & understand: God’s **DECREED** will (his sovereign decree) & God’s **PRECEPTIVE** will (his revealed will)
  - ✓ you’ll never know the will of God apart from the Word of God.
  - ✓ Your confidence in decision-making is \*not\* from you having some super-spiritual knowledge of God’s hidden will, but rather your combined reliance on the absolute sovereignty of God + your obedience to the revealed Word of God.

**III. REHEARSE GOD’S CHARACTER! (8-11)**

The rays of God’s brilliant character...

- ✓ GOD IS (1) good (8a); (2) upright (v.8b) // (3) he instructs (v.8c) /// (4) he leads (v.9a) —w/ justice! // (5) he providentially works all for good (v.10!) // (6) he forgives (v.11b) // (7) He glorifies himself — *for his name’s sake!*

**IV. FEAR THE LORD! (12-15)****V. LIVE WITH INTEGRITY! (16-22)**

- ✓ These verses show *\*complete devotion to God in life\**

**A. In sum, You get God’s guidance & help to make decisions...**

1. with an OPEN Bible to read + pray
2. with an OPEN heart that’s taught + humble
3. with an OBEDIENT will to follow + practice

“**[God’s Word]** contains: “the mind of God, the state of man, the way of salvation, the doom of sinners, and the happiness of believers. Its doctrine is holy, its precepts are binding, its histories are true, and its decisions are immutable. Read it to be wise, believe it to be safe, and practice it to be holy. It contains light to direct you, food to support you and comfort to cheer you. It is the traveler’s map, the pilgrim’s staff, the pilot’s compass, the soldier’s sword, and the Christian’s charter. There heaven is opened and the gates of hell disclosed. Christ is its Grand Subject, our good its design, and the glory of God its end. It should fill the memory, rule the heart, guide the feet. Read it carefully, frequently, and prayerfully. It is a mine of wealth, health to the soul, and a river of pleasure.

It is given to you here in this life, will be opened at the Judgment, and is established forever. It involves the highest responsibility, will reward the greatest labor, and condemn all who trifle with its sacred contents!” [anonymous]

**MANY LIFE-DECISIONS ARE NOT CLEARLY DEFINED BY SCRIPTURE:**

- who should I marry?
- what standard of living should I have?
- how much should I give to my church?
- where should I live?
- how much education should I have and where should I pursue it?
- what vocation should I pursue? should I take this job opportunity?
- what church?
- how should I divide my time?

**\*\*6 questions to help guide your decision making process** *(when God’s Word doesn’t \*directly\* address it):***1. Is My Greatest Desire to Please & Glorify God?**

1. 2 Cor 5:9 – my ambition is life is to be “pleasing to the LORD”. Whether you eat, drink or whatever – do it to the glory of God (1 Cor 10.31)
2. the Christian’s heart MUST be focused on the chief goal of glorifying God in all aspects (Stuart Scott, 5)

**2. Do I Have Any Sinful Desires Involved?**

1. Is the motive for buying a new house to *look good* for others?
2. Is the motive for that new car to *look better* and *increase the “WOW”* of others.
3. Is the motive for religiosity to *look* spiritual (like the Pharisees).

**3. Do I Recognize that God is Absolutely Sovereign?**

1. Do you know that even with your decision: *God’s overarching PLAN cannot be thwarted.*
2. Our puny decisions cannot pull God down from his preeminent throne – ever!

**4. Will I Cause a Brother to Stumble?**

1. If listening to a certain music would cause someone to stumble --- don’t listen to that music with them!
  1. Don’t use your freedom in Christ to cause another believer for whom Christ died to stumble!
2. Jesus declared that it would be better for a person to die being drowned in the depths of the sea than to cause a brother to stumble (Matt 18:5-7).

**5. Will I Have a Clean Conscience if I Do This?**

1. Paul said that the goal of his life & ministry was: “A pure heart, a sincere faith, *and a good conscience* (cf 1 Tim 1:5).
  1. YOU must, then, inform your conscience, train it, educate it with God’s Word.
  2. **when your conscience** accuses you: it is a safety protection from God to GUARD & keep you from falling into sin. **Train it! Don’t let your conscience be seared!**

**6. How Can I Honor God While I Do This?**

1. Finally ask yourself: “Can I honor God *as I’m performing this action?*” Can I really *worship God* while doing this?
2. If the answer is “NO” then you probably ought not to do it!
  1. Should I date ... --- well they’re not a Christian. Well, **how could you honor/ glorify God while in that relationship** if YOU cherish Christ & they DON’T? **Impossible! Foolish!**

## Galatians 5 responsive reading

**Gal. 5:13** For you were called to freedom, brethren; only do not turn your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.

*Gal. 5:14* For the whole Law is fulfilled in one word, in the statement, “YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.”

*Gal. 5:15* But if you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another.

**Gal. 5:16** But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh.

*Gal. 5:17* For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please.

*Gal. 5:18* But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the Law.

**Gal. 5:19** Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are:

*immorality, impurity, sensuality,*

*Gal. 5:20* idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions,

*Gal. 5:21* envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you, just as I have forewarned you, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

**Gal. 5:22** But the fruit of the Spirit is:

*love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,*

*Gal. 5:23* gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

**Gal. 5:24** Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

*Gal. 5:25* If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit.

*Gal. 5:26* Let us not become boastful, challenging one another, envying one another.

## Westminster Shorter Catechism

**Westminster Shorter Catechism Question #2** - What rule hath God given to direct us how we may glorify and enjoy him

**A.** The Word of God, which is contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, is the only rule to direct us how we may glorify and enjoy him.

**Westminster Shorter Catechism Question #3** - What do the Scriptures principally teach?

**A.** The Scriptures principally teach, what man is to believe concerning God, and what duty God requires of man.

**You’ll never know the will of God apart from the Word of God!**