

Digging Deeper
DEVOTIONAL



Divine Guidance

Kittiwake Baptist Church

<http://www.kittiwake.org/devotionals/>

(Week 22)

Day 1

Divine Guidance

24 Several days later Felix came with his wife Drusilla, who was Jewish. He sent for Paul and listened to him as he spoke about faith in Christ Jesus. 25 As Paul talked about righteousness, self-control and the judgment to come, Felix was afraid and said, "That's enough for now! You may leave. When I find it convenient, I will send for you." (Acts 24:24-25)

Who is the Boomerang Generation? Adults 25-34. They are characterized by moving out of their parent's house and then... moving back in. The requirements for jobs that they are looking for are:

- Something they love doing
- Something that makes a difference
- Something that makes a lot of money

They can't find this kind of job so they come back home to live. They also become indecisive about church, not wanting to get involved in a church so that they can keep their options open. But God hasn't called us to be indecisive. Only the decisive can make a difference in this world. "An uncommitted life is always an unsuccessful life."

A good example of indecision in the Bible is Felix. Felix was able to hear the gospel message multiple times from Paul, but he refused to make a decision for Christ. Felix let his fear and desire for worldly things keep him from committing his life to Christ.

God wants us to live a decisive life for Him. He wants to give us His divine guidance to make effective decisions for His kingdom.

Day 2

Divine Guidance

22 “And now, compelled by the Spirit, I am going to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there. 23 I only know that in every city the Holy Spirit warns me that prison and hardships are facing me. 24 However, I consider my life worth nothing to me; my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of testifying to the good news of God’s grace.

(Acts 20:22-24)

God wants us to live a decisive life and make effective decisions. Paul gives us three principles in Acts about God's divine guidance.

1.) The Compelling of the Spirit

In verse 22, “compelled by the Spirit” is Deo Ho Pneuma in the greek. Deo Ho means to wrap or bind like a cord. Pneuma means breath (of Spirit). Paul was saying that the Holy Spirit was like a cord pulling him to Jerusalem. The compelling of the Holy Spirit pulls us toward where God wants us to be, pushes us like a current to where we are needed and guides us like a gentle breeze to opportunities He has for us.

In order for you to feel the pulling of the Holy Spirit in your decisions you have to be a Child of God. If you aren't saved, the Holy Spirit is calling to you to give your life to Him. If you want divine guidance, accept Jesus as your Lord and Savior so that He can work in your life.

God wants you act on what He’s calling you to do. Where is the Holy Spirit pulling you toward today? If you’ve never felt the tugging of the Holy Spirit, spend time reflecting on your relationship with Jesus. Have you committed your life to Him?

Day 3

Divine Guidance

Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path. (Psalm 119:105)

2. Certain Uncertainty

In Acts 20:22 Paul says he doesn't know what will happen when he gets to Jerusalem. God doesn't always give us the details of what's to come because He knows we might not be ready to handle it at the present place we are in our life. God gives us enough light to make the next step. If you don't make the next step you won't ever see more than the step in front of you. But when you take that next step, He keeps giving you more and more light for each step you take.

12 When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." (John 8:12)

The unfolding of your words gives light; it gives understanding to the simple. (Psalm 119:130)

Have you been obedient to the next step in your life that God has revealed to you? Ask God to make your next step clear and go for it! If you are wondering what the next step in your life is, make sure that you are being obedient to what God has already called you to do.

Day 4

Divine Guidance

I only know that in every city the Holy Spirit warns me that prison and hardships are facing me. (Acts 20:23)

3. Anticipated Resistance

In Acts 20:23 we see that God was sending Paul to where there were hardships. Paul originally persecuted Christians, but then he had a dramatic conversion. After being saved he went into 3 years of obscurity. When he preached his first sermon, the Jewish leaders wanted to kill him so he had to run. Paul doesn't preach again for 10-12 years. During this time, he made tents. Then Barnabas gave Paul a chance and his ministry took off. God used those years of tent making to prepare Paul.

Before God does something through you, He will do something in you. God is more concerned with "who" you are than "what" you do. Many times, the only way we become more like Jesus is through hardships.

3 Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; 4 perseverance, character; and character, hope. 5 And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us. (Rom 5:3-5)

Are you going through hardships? Don't run from them, but ask God to use them to make you more like Jesus. Not going through a hardship right now? Thank God and draw close to Him so that when they come, you will be ready. Reach out to those around you going through tough times.

Day 5

Divine Guidance

24 However, I consider my life worth nothing to me; my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of testifying to the good news of God’s grace. (Acts 20:24)

4. Total Confidence

In verse 24 Paul says, I’m going to Jerusalem and if I’m able, I’m going to preach about Jesus. If they throw me in prison, I’m going to write letters about Jesus. If I’m chained to a Roman guard, I’m going to tell him about Jesus.

Paul’s aim was to finish his race well. No matter what he faced, he was going to tell people about Jesus. We too should seek to run our race well.

I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus. (Phil 3:14)

24 Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. 25 Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last, but we do it to get a crown that will last forever. 26 Therefore I do not run like someone running aimlessly; I do not fight like a boxer beating the air. 27 No, I strike a blow to my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize. (1 Cor 9:24-27)

Are you running your race? Paul had total confidence in Jesus and the plan He had for his life. Do you trust the plan God has for you? Ask God to help you run your race well.

Divine Guidance

22 *“And now, compelled by the Spirit, I am going to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there. 23 I only know that in every city the Holy Spirit warns me that prison and hardships are facing me. 24 However, I consider my life worth nothing to me; my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of testifying to the good news of God’s grace.*
(Acts 20:22-24)

- Paul was compelled by the Holy Spirit to go to Jerusalem (The Compelling of the Spirit)
- Paul recognized that he didn’t know what was going to happen there. (Certain Uncertainty)
- What Paul did know was that he was going to face hardships. (Anticipated Resistance)
- Paul was focused on running his race well and trusted in God’s plan. (Total Confidence)

These same principles can apply to your life. God will use the Holy Spirit to pull you to the next step He wants you to take. Even though you don’t know everything that will happen, you can count on resistance from Satan and others. Despite the unknown future, you can trust in God’s plan for you and focus on running the best race you can.

As has just been said: “Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as you did in the rebellion.” (Heb 3:15)

What step is God calling you to take? Don’t delay in taking that step.