

Divine Guidance

Our Guidance

Comparing Our Guidance with that of the Apostles and Prophets

- Apostles' Guidance
 - Complete
 - Infallible
 - Received directly from the Holy Spirit
- Their Understanding
 - Complete
 - Perfect
 - Miraculous
 - Received directly from the Holy Spirit
- Our Guidance
 - Complete
 - Infallible
 - Inspired by the Holy Spirit
- Our Understanding
 - Incomplete
 - Fallible
 - Non-miraculous
 - Received indirectly from the Scriptures

Our Sources of Guidance

- Primary: God's word
- Secondary: God's providence

God's Word

- Complete – 2 Tim. 3:16-17

2 Timothy 3:16-17

All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,
17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

God's Word

- Complete – 2 Tim. 3:16-17
- Infallible - 1 Pet. 1:22-23

1 Peter 1:22-23

Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart, 23 having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever,

God's Word

- Complete – 2 Tim. 3:16-17
- Infallible - 1 Pet. 1:22-23
- Never conflicts with itself – John 10:35

John 10:35

If He called them gods, to whom the word of God came (and **the Scripture cannot be broken**),

God's Word

- Complete – 2 Tim. 3:16-17
- Infallible - 1 Pet. 1:22-23
- Never conflicts with itself – John 10:35
- Includes great joy and great sorrow

God's Word

- Complete – 2 Tim. 3:16-17
- Infallible - 1 Pet. 1:22-23
- Never conflicts with itself – John 10:35
- Includes great joy and great sorrow
- Verbal communication

God's Providence

- A secondary source of Guidance
 - All necessary truths and principles are in God's word
 - Guidance is not the primary purpose of Providence
 - Providence is not prescriptive, but suggestive

God's Providence

- A secondary source of Guidance
- Perfect – Rom. 8:28

Romans 8:28

And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.

God's Providence

- A secondary source of Guidance
- Perfect – Rom. 8:28
- Never conflicts with God's word

God's Providence

- A secondary source of Guidance
- Perfect – Rom. 8:28
- Never conflicts with God's word
- Non-verbal communication

God's Providence

- A secondary source of Guidance
- Perfect – Rom. 8:28
- Never conflicts with God's word
- Non-verbal communication
 - Permitting – 1 Th. 3:11; James 4:13-15

1 Thessalonians 3:11

Now may our God and Father Himself, and our Lord Jesus Christ, **direct our way to you.**

James 4:13-15

Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, spend a year there, buy and sell, and make a profit"; 14 whereas you do not know what will happen tomorrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away. 15 **Instead you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that."**

God's Providence

- A secondary source of Guidance
- Perfect – Rom. 8:28
- Never conflicts with God's word
- Non-verbal communication
 - Permitting – 1 Th. 3:11; James 4:13-15
 - Hindering – Rom. 1:13; Acts 16:6-8

Romans 1:13

Now I do not want you to be unaware, brethren, that I often planned to come to you (**but was hindered until now**), that I might have some fruit among you also, just as among the other Gentiles.

Acts 16:6-8

Now when they had gone through Phrygia and the region of Galatia, they were forbidden by the Holy Spirit to preach the word in Asia. 7 After they had come to Mysia, they tried to go into Bithynia, **but the Spirit did not permit them.** 8 So passing by Mysia, they came down to Troas.

Our Understanding

- Of God's Word – 2 Pet 3:15-16

2 Peter 3:15-16

and consider that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation -- as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given to him, has written to you, 16 as also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things, **in which are some things hard to understand, which untaught and unstable people twist to their own destruction, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures.**

Our Understanding

- Of God's Word – 2 Pet 3:15-16
 - Incomplete
 - Fallible
 - Misunderstanding possible

Our Understanding

- Of God's Word – 2 Pet 3:15-16
 - Incomplete
 - Fallible
 - Misunderstanding possible
- Of God's Providence

Our Understanding

- Of God's Word – 2 Pet 3:15-16
 - Incomplete
 - Fallible
 - Misunderstanding possible
- Of God's Providence
 - “God moves in a mysterious way His wonders to perform”

Our Use of Divine Guidance

- We ask for it - James 1:5; Col. 1:9-10

James 1:5

If any of you lacks wisdom, **let him ask of God**, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.

Colossians 1:9-10

For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask **that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; 10 that you may walk worthy of the Lord**, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;

Our Use of Divine Guidance

- We ask for it - James 1:5; Col. 1:9-10
- We accept it – 1 Thess. 2:13

1 Thessalonians 2:13

For this reason we also thank God without ceasing, because when you received the word of God which you heard from us, **you welcomed it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God**, which also effectively works in you who believe.

Our Use of Divine Guidance

- We ask for it - James 1:5; Col. 1:9-10
- We accept it – 1 Thess. 2:13
- We act upon it – Matt. 7:24-27

Matthew 7:24-27

"Therefore **whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man** who built his house on the rock: 25 and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock.
26 "But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: 27 and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall."

Our Use of Divine Guidance

- We ask for it - James 1:5; Col. 1:9-10
- We accept it – 1 Thess. 2:13
- We act upon it – Matt. 7:24-27
- We make judgments and decisions based upon it – Ps. 119:97-100

Psalms 119:97-100

Oh, how I love Your law! It is my meditation all the day.

98 You, through Your commandments, make me wiser than my enemies; For they are ever with me.

99 I have more understanding than all my teachers, For Your testimonies are my meditation.

100 I understand more than the ancients, Because I keep Your precepts.

Our Use of Divine Guidance

- We ask for it - James 1:5; Col. 1:9-10
- We accept it – 1 Thess. 2:13
- We act upon it – Matt. 7:24-27
- We make judgments and decisions based upon it – Ps. 119:97-100
- We internalize it