

SOURCE OF STRENGTH

9 ENERGIZING TRUTHS FROM PSALM 139

Truth #4: God Guides Me In Dark Times *Psalm 139:10*

... Your hand will **guide** me, your right hand will hold me fast.
Psalm 139:10

Even when walking through the dark valley of death I will not be afraid, for you are close beside me, guarding, **guiding**, all the way
Psalm 23:4 TLB

The LORD will **guide** you always... Isa. 58:11

Where do I need God's guidance in my life right now?

Clearing up misconceptions about God's guidance...

- 1. God's will is not a _____**
Every one must make up his own mind as to how much he should give. Don't force anyone to give more than he really wants to... 2 Cor. 9:7
If some unbeliever invites you to a meal and you want to go, eat whatever is put before you... 1 Cor. 10:27
If anyone thinks he is acting improperly toward the virgin he is engaged to...and he feels he ought to marry, he should do as he wants. He is not sinning. They should get married. 1 Cor. 7:36
- 2. God's will is not a _____**
The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it? Jer. 17:9
- 3. God's will is not a _____**
*It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.
Gal. 5:1*
- 4. God's will is a _____**
They asked him, "What must we do to do the works God requires?" Jesus answered, "The work of God is this: to believe in

the one he has sent." John 6:28,29

Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. Mark 12:30

So how do I get guidance?

- 1. _____ for it**
*Lord, teach me your ways, and **guide** me in doing what is right. Ps. 27:11*
Key element of asking for guidance: _____ it!
*God is ready to give a bountiful supply of wisdom to all who **ask** him, but when you ask him, be sure that you really **expect** him to tell you. James 1:6*
***Ask** and it **will** be given to you ...Which of you, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him! Matt. 7:7-11*
- 2. _____ for it**
*I'm a pilgrim here on earth and I need a map; your commands are my chart and **guide**. Ps. 119:19*
*Your **word** is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path. Ps. 119:105*
- 3. _____ for it**
*Some of you want to light your own fires and make your own light. So, go, walk and trust your own light to **guide** you. But this is what you'll receive: A place of pain. Isaiah 50:11*
*He **guides** the humble in what is right and teaches them his way Psalm 25:9*
- 4. _____ for it**
Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. James 1:22

Daily Meditations

Based on this weekend's theme

This week's memory verse: *If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast. Psalms 139:9*

Monday

Read Psalm 139:10. Many times God guides us in dark times in ways we only perceive when we look back years later. There are times when, even during our rebellion, He opens and closes doors in order to guide us back to paths of righteousness. Looking back how have you seen God guide you in dark times of your life?

Review the notes from last weekend. What point or points meant a lot to you?

Thank God in specific ways for His guidance of you in times past.

Tuesday

Read James 1:5-8. Do you ask for guidance specifically, with eager expectation that God will provide guidance? If not, why not?

How will you know if the guidance you sense you are receiving from God is truly from Him? Great question! This checklist may help:

Four ways to test guidance

1. Does it agree with the Bible?
2. Does it make me more like Christ?
The wisdom that comes from God is pure, peace loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy. James 3:17
3. Does my church family confirm it?
4. Does it concern my responsibility?
We will all be judged one day, not by each other's standards, or even our own, but by the judgment of God. It is to God alone that we will have to answer for our actions. Rom. 14:4

Today, bring God specific issues that you need guidance on-- and ask expectantly!

Wednesday

Read the 23rd Psalm. According to this Psalm, why should you be relaxed?

How can this help you when you are stressed out over decision-making?

What decisions are you anxious about as you face the week, the month, the year?

How can the truths in this Psalm help you?

Thank God that He is our good shepherd. Let him lead you beside

"still waters" and quiet your soul today!

Thursday

Read Psalm 119:105. According to this verse, what is a great way to understand the will of God? What are some unbiblical ways discussed in the sermon by which people try to discern the will of God?

Have you ever fallen into any of these traps? What happened?

Do you ever struggle with the idea that God's will is a "dot"-- that all the other options must be "Plan B"? What are some of the drawbacks to this approach?

How would you support from Scripture the idea that God's will involves our free choice within the framework of his moral standards and revealed will? (See the sermon notes)

Read Matthew 7:7-11. What does Jesus say in these verses that relates to finding the will of God?

Does this alter any misconceptions you may have had?

Thank God that He loves you so much that He Thank the Lord today that He cares enough for you to reveal His specific will about important matters in the Bible and is willing to lavish everything we need upon us if we just seek! Tell God that you are yielded to His will in your life!

Friday

Read Psalm 1. What kind of counsel does the first verse of this Psalm warn against?

Do you ever listen to "ungodly counsel" from people you hear on the radio or in magazines or in your office or family?

According to this Psalm, what are the benefits of being rooted in God and His Word?

Read Eph. 5:17,18; 1 Thess. 4:3-6; 1 Thess. 5:16-18; and Matt. 28:18. You may be wondering about God's will for your life; here are some passages that lay out God's will for you in black and white. What do they say?

How does knowing these things are God's will help motivate you? *Ask God for strength from the Holy Spirit to live out these commands in your life!*

Saturday

Today polish up that memory verse. Please pray for services this weekend, that God's presence would be sensed in a powerful way. Please be in prayer about the "Investing in Our Future" Gym and Youth Center Remodel! Thank you!