

GUIDE Us in Your Perfect Will

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When I was asked to give the message today, I was in a gray funk. But I try not to refuse God when he calls. I believe He must have something He wanted all of us to hear including me. I pray the words I speak will have some special meaning for us all.

We all have been going through some very challenging times. For many it's health, work, finances, and relationships plus dealing with the current virus. We all need GUIDANCE. I think we all can agree that many of the challenges we face are beyond our ability to solve. Isaiah 30:21 "Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you saying –This is the way—Walk in it. I find this scripture very comforting as I hope you will also.

Take a moment right now and think about your own challenge or challenges. Sometimes we face more than one challenge at a time, causing us to feel defeated and hopeless. God wants us to know as we learn in James 1:5 "If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you." Just imagine and believe that God gives GUIDANCE generously. So why do we sometimes forget His generosity.

Do you suppose we just want to do things our own way and not God's way? Or that living in his world we are expected to be problem solvers or doers? But we must never forget we have HELP and lots of it in God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit. The world is sometimes so noisy that we can't hear that "Still Quiet Voice" offering us the GUIDANCE we so desperately need. We also find it hard to give up the reigns of our lives and give them over to God. Psalm 25:9 says "He leads the humble in what is right", and teaches the humble His way."

HUMBLE, now there's a word that might give us pause. The dictionary defines HUMBLE "as having or showing a modest or low estimate of one's own importance, as well as not being proud or haughty and offers a spirit of deference or submission." I don't think we ever think that is what we are doing when we don't ask for God's GUIDANCE. But in leaving God out of our decisions and NOT accepting His generosity we are limiting our success and not humbling our will to Him. Proverbs 1:5 says "Let the wise hear and increase in learning, and the one who understands obtains GUIDANCE. Think about how HUMBLE Jesus was in Mark 14:36 when he said to the Father, "Take this cup from me yet not what I will, but what you will."

Imagine what it must have felt like to be Abraham when God instructed him to leave and go to another place? Hebrews 11:8 "By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going."

How would you feel about this kind of calling? Would we obey and have faith in God? Have any of us been led someplace we believed was God's idea? Did we obey and have faith that it would all work out to the good? Humbling ourselves before the Almighty like Abraham did is quite a challenge.

I have to say that the journey I am on is very humbling and challenging. I look for God's GUIDANCE every day because I really never know what the right choices are. When I was diagnosed with Multiple Myeloma in January, I was first in shock. I admit it was a blow brought with many questions and concerns. A great deal of information was put in front of me. What choices should I make? I did not know and still don't some days. I quietly went to God and asked for GUIDANCE, asking what should I do? Oh, I had the doctor's recommendation of course, but what do you want God? Tell me, and I'll do that, whatever that is, trusting that you know best. I'm on a lifelong journey. Decisions continually need to be made. I spend a great deal of time not feeling well, and doubts do creep in. I used to think I had a great deal of faith until I was faced with a life-threatening challenge and I had to face how weak I really am.

Most of us want to hide our weaknesses in shame. The world we live in frowns on weakness. We should be strong and able. But in 2 Corinthians 12:9 the King James Version says, "And He said unto me, my grace is sufficient for thee, for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me."

Yes, there are scriptures like Joshua 1:9 that says, "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid, do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go." Our God is always ready, willing, and able to GUIDE us in the way we should go even when we are weak and afraid. He never turns His back on us. Jesus reassures us in John 16:33 when He says "I have told you these things so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble, but take heart, I have overcome the world."

So trouble is expected, I don't know about you, but I'd like to skip the "TROUBLE" part. However, trouble there will be—and James 1: 2-3 tells us to "Count in all joy when we meet trials of various kinds for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness." This brings us back to God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit as our GUIDES. Their GUIDANCE helped Abraham in his great challenge to move to a place he didn't even know where and their GUIDANCE has helped me on this challenging journey that I am on. What doctor to choose? What treatment to choose? How to handle the side effects as they pop up.

Abraham trusted and obeyed God's GUIDANCE. As hard as it is sometimes I have too, chosen to trust and obey God's GUIDANCE. Yes, I still have my weak moments, but I try to remember scripture 2 Corinthians 12:9 that "God's strength is made perfect in my weakness." And I love, love, love Isaiah 30:21 that says whether I turn to the left or turn to the right my ears hear a voice behind me saying THIS IS THE WAY, WALK IN IT. Let's take Jesus' hand and walk with him. We just have to get better at shutting out the noise of the world like fear, worry, and confusion. Listen for that still quiet voice GUIDING as in the way we should go, which will give us divine peace. Because Jesus said in John 16:33, "I have told you these things so that in Me you may have peace". He goes on to say "Take heart I have overcome the world".

We may not always feel as if the world has been overcome, but 2 Timothy 3:16 tells us all scripture is breathed by God and profitable for teaching, correction, and training in righteousness that the man of

God may be competent, equipped for every good work. So we can trust the Lord with all our hearts. He is our shield and buckler, our refuge in trouble. GUIDING us in the way we should go.

PRAYER:

Heavenly Father, we praise and glorify your holy name. Thank you for the GUIDANCE you freely and generously offer us. In our weakness your strength is made perfect. GUIDE us in the many decisions we must make. We listen for your voice to tell us the way we should go. We pray in Jesus' name, AMEN.