

How to Seek God's Guidance: 15 Steps to Discernment

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Christian Reflections to Build your Faith, By Melkisedeck Leon Shine

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Seeking God's guidance is a fundamental aspect of our spiritual journey as Christians. It is through His divine wisdom that we can find direction, clarity, and purpose in our lives. Just as the Bible teaches us, "Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight" (Proverbs 3:5-6). Here are 15 steps to help you deepen your ability to discern God's guidance, drawing inspiration from biblical examples and teachings.

1 Seek a personal relationship with God: Just as Jesus prayed and spent time in communion with the Father, nurture your own connection with Him through prayer, meditation, and reading His Word.

2 Surrender your will: Like Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane, submit your desires and plans to the will of God, trusting that His plan surpasses anything we could imagine.

3 Seek wisdom from the Bible: God's Word is a lamp unto our feet and a light unto our path (Psalm 119:105). Spend time studying Scriptures, reflecting on their meanings, and applying them to your life.

4 Pray for discernment: Ask God to open your eyes and ears to His divine guidance. Seek His wisdom, knowing that He promises to provide it generously (James 1:5).

5 Surround yourself with godly counsel: Seek out wise and mature Christians who can offer guidance and provide biblical insights into your situation.

6 Listen for the still, small voice: Just as God spoke to Elijah in a whisper (1 Kings 19:12), learn to discern His voice amidst the noise of the world. Quiet your heart and listen for His gentle leading.

7 Observe divine confirmations: God often confirms His guidance through various means, such as through repeated messages, scripture passages, or the alignment of circumstances.

8 Test the spirits: As the apostle John advises, discern if what you believe to be God's guidance aligns with the teachings of Scripture (1 John 4:1).

9 Trust the peace in your heart: When seeking God's guidance, pay attention to the peace that surpasses understanding (Philippians 4:7) that He places in your heart as a confirmation of His will.

? Embrace patience and wait on the Lord: Be willing to wait for God's perfect timing, just as Noah patiently waited for the flood to subside before leaving the ark.

11 Seek godly advice: In the story of Moses and Jethro, we learn the importance of

seeking counsel from those who are wise and experienced (Exodus 18:13-27).

12 Seek confirmation in the company of believers: Gather with other believers to worship, pray, and seek God's guidance together. God often speaks through the unity of His body.

13 Cultivate a heart of humility: Remember the example of King David, who sought the Lord's guidance humbly and repented when he strayed (Psalm 32:8-9).

14 Be open to correction: When discerning God's guidance, be willing to receive correction from Him and others, knowing that it is for your growth and alignment with His will.

15 Trust God's plan: Ultimately, trust that God's guidance is perfect and aligned with His loving nature. As Jeremiah 29:11 assures us, "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

May these 15 steps serve as a guide on your journey of seeking God's guidance. Remember, God desires to lead you, and His wisdom is available to you at all times. Seek Him with a sincere heart, trust in His promises, and experience the abundant blessings that come from following His guidance. May God bless you abundantly as you walk in His ways! ???