

# The Promise of God's Guidance

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Isaiah 30:20-21

*And though the Lord give you the bread of adversity and the water of affliction, yet your Teacher will not hide himself anymore, but your eyes shall see your Teacher. 21 And your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, "This is the way, walk in it," when you turn to the right or when you turn to the left.*

A blog writer posted this comment about Israel's fall into idolatry after they had conquered the Promise Land and Joshua had died.

"Judges 2:10 reveals to us the root of idolatry, and proves that idolatry isn't the problem of a bygone age: "There arose another generation after them who did not know the Lord or the work that he had done for Israel." As much as we'd like to tell ourselves Israel fell into idolatry simply because they were a more primitive people, prone to more base temptation, it's simply not the case. Israel's idolatry arose as a direct result of their forgetting the God who had saved them. The same is true for us. When we chase after the idols (be they fame, fortune, or self-sufficiency) that capture our hearts, we find ourselves in a posture of functional forgetfulness, (just like those Israelites, millennia ago) failing to remember what God has done for us in the Gospel, and in that moment choosing to bank on something else, even something good."

The above quote does not get it right when the author tries to explain why Israel turned to idolatry. In the case of the Christian we do forget, that is true. But in the case of Israel of old, the text, Judges 2:10 says that the "generation . . . did not know the Lord or the work that He had done for Israel." The problem was not knowing something and then forgetting it. You can't forget something you don't know. The problem was a generation grew up and did not see God at work and therefore did not know Him. The same is true today in our churches. Our youth hear about God, but they do not see God. The power of God's might is not revealed to them. The beauty of Christ is not visible, His glory is not witnessed, and His presence not manifested. Therefore, they are prone to leave the God of their fathers seeing no power but the power, allurements, and pseudo-beauty of the world's idols.

And then there those in the Christian community who declare emphatically that God does not do much of anything that He did in the Bible. You read the pages of Scripture and see what He did *then* but He doesn't do that *now*. They contend that God does not speak to His saints as He spoke in the Bible, He does not speak personally to anyone today and that a Christian does not need any special guidance from God except what is written in the Bible. They encourage Chris-

tians to do anything they want to do so long as the Bible doesn't forbid it.

According to these theologians of the silent God, all a Christian needs for guidance is to follow his or her desires. They say so long as you are not violating commands of Scripture, God does not really care what you do so long as you are keeping His commandments. I want to be kind, but I call this teaching glorified or Christian humanism. Self is still in control. Although there is much talk about submitting to the commands of God, it is left up to human reasoning alone. That's what humanism does—it leaves the final authority to man, hence Christian humanism. It is a doctrine that says you choose what you will and follow your own instincts within the boundaries of the Bible. Our lives should be lived within the bounds of the Bible, make no mistake about it. The Bible is our final and sole authority of the church, but it is so because of God who is the final authority and it is He who wrote the Bible. I believe that this God who wrote this magnificent Book, who is the final authority for the church is a God who still speaks and is not silent.

You know why people say God doesn't speak to us personally except through the Bible? Because they've never experienced Him talking to them. Their theology does not allow them to experience it. They don't look to God and learn sensitivity of the Spirit, they don't pray for ears to hear and eyes to see and hearts to perceive because their theology doesn't make room for that. I dare say that if one of those who teach this doctrine would hear God speak to him one time, his whole theology would unravel. It's because they don't experience it they don't believe it.

I'm not in for superstition, I'm not advocating we be misled by impressions and other things, including demonic voices that are out there, but dear friend that does not discount that God does not speak to us personally.

The result is again our children do not see the hand of God nor His power. Well, if you hear about God and do not see any evidence for His existence eventually a young person will conclude that the same must be true about Jesus as it is about the jolly little man in a red suit that gives all good children presents on Christmas Eve. They don't see him but they hear a lot about him so they conclude that he doesn't exist. He's only a myth or a legend and they conclude the same about our Christ when they don't see His manifestation or power in your life.

No prayers being answered, no life lived by the divine guidance of God according to His will. What are they to conclude? Our children must know that God is real by seeing He is real in your life, my life, the life of this church. If we're to keep the youth of our church they've got to have a God to follow. They must see that you live your life by a desperate dependence upon Him and that He answers your prayers as you submit to His will. When that becomes reality for the whole of this church the promise will have begun to be fulfilled.

## **I. GOD HAS PROMISED TO GUIDE US**

This is the promise of text, *“yet your Teacher will not hide himself anymore, but your eyes shall see your Teacher.”—Isaiah 30:20*

Young people, I challenge you to start looking for God in your parents and in this church. You've experienced it this morning. God is here today and you're seeing God get a hold of people—your parents, your grandparents, brothers and sisters, uncles and aunts—and causing them to humble themselves. What makes a person do that? God. We are naturally too proud, too sufficient, too strong on our own. We do not believe what you have been taught to sing, *I am weak but He is strong*. No, we believe we're strong. What humbles a man to get on His face and weep before the Lord saying 'not my will but Thy will be done'? The Lord Himself is moving in his heart. Don't discount that. It is an act of God.

I challenge you to be watchful because this promise says you will see your *Teacher*, referring to the Lord God. You will not see Him personally with your physical eyes but you will see His manifestations. You don't see the wind, do you? How many of you have tried to capture the wind with your hands or with a bucket? I remember as a kid trying to catch the wind with a bucket and my bucket was always empty even though the wind was blowing hard. Why? Because you can't see the wind, but you see its evidence. You see the limbs and the leaves moving and swaying. You see something getting knocked over when the wind is strong enough. You don't have to see it to know there is wind. You don't have to see God with your eyes to know He is at work. You can see the evidences of it.

This text says you'll see that. That's the promise of this text.

*"And your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, 'This is the way, walk in it,' when you turn to the right or when you turn to the left."—Isaiah 30:21*

### **A. It is the Nature of God to Guide.**

God has promised to guide you because it's in His nature to guide us. What kind of father would He be if He didn't instruct His children on how to live in the kingdom He's established for them? It would be parental negligence. What dad is there among us that has not taken their sons under their wings and taught them, brought them up and given them guidance? What kind of father would He be if He didn't pity His children? But He does. He loves us very much. He's not going to leave you to be instructed by the devil, the world, or sin. It's in His nature to pity us as ignorant children who know nothing. He will not leave us to the elements, He will be there with you, guiding you, leading you, instructing you, not leaving it to you to figure out on your own. No, God loves you too much. It's in His nature to guide.

He knows all things. He's the God of all wisdom, all knowledge and the God of all power. He knows tomorrow, He knows every contingency and every possibility. It's a maze that's too difficult for us but He will guide us. He's promised to.

*"I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will guide you with My eye."—Psalms 32:8*

Here God has committed Himself to you. “I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go.” God has not left you to your own human reasoning. The Hebrew words behind *I will instruct you* literally means *I will cause you to understand*. Not only does He teach you the way you should go but He teaches you to know and understand it.

One of the most precious verses of all the Bible that you ought to memorize and refer to on a daily basis is Proverbs 3:5-6,

*“Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.”*

God has covenanted Himself to you. That’s His pledge—if you will acknowledge Him in every area of your life He will direct you. In fact, that’s exactly what our text says in verse twenty-one. Did you notice the words, *When you turn to the right or when you turn to the left?* That’s saying that in all your ways He will direct your path. Wherever you go in life, whether you’re turning to the right or turning to the left God will be there telling you where to go. I could say, without being disrespectful, that God is our built-in GPS system, only better than any GPS you’ve ever had, He will never mistake. It will not take you to Symsonia by route of Jerusalem; it will be the most direct and best route.

I love the promise of Jesus when He said,

*“However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.” –John 16:13*

You are not alone. He is with you every single waking moment in order to show you the way you are to live, the way you are to conduct yourself as you pass through this world as a pilgrim in a strange land.

It’s God’s nature to guide.

## **B. It is Our Nature to Need Guidance.**

I can’t predict what’s going to happen an hour from now, much less in a year. I began in this world just like you did, knowing absolutely nothing. I need God to instruct me. My very nature dictates that I need guidance and all the more when you stop and look at my fallen human nature. It doesn’t like to take instruction, so all the more do I need it.

How do you know what is going to happen even this afternoon and if you will make the right decision should something confront you?

I shared with you a few weeks ago that there was no way, when I purchased that modular home,

of knowing that within the next few weeks I would be unemployed and have no income whatsoever. But God knew it. And had I listened to God and the guidance He gave me that day, Karen and I could have been spared a whole lot of agony and financial difficulties. God knows exactly the best way to guide because He knows all things. We need that kind of guidance. God has promised to guide you. But it requires something of you—neutrality.

### **C. Our Neutrality is Necessary to God's Guidance.**

I've said this many, many times over the years, and I cannot take credit for it. I got this principle of neutrality while reading the *Autobiography of George Müller*. George Müller is the man in the 19th century who, in Bristol, England, cared for thousands of orphans. He built orphanages that could house two thousand orphans at one time. Over the course of more than 60 years of ministry, he prayed in 8 million dollars without telling a person a single specific need. This is what he would do when he was needed guidance to know the will of God:

*"I seek at the beginning to get my heart into such a state that it has not a will of its own in regard to a given matter. Nine-tenths of the difficulties are overcome when our hearts are ready to do the Lord's will, whatever it may be. When one is truly in this state, it is usually but a little way to the knowledge of what His will is."—George Müller*

In other words, when your will wants what God wants for God's reasons you can hear God. That's what it means to be neutral. If you can get to the place where you can praise and thank God, whether He answers the prayer with a yes or no—you want the will of God above what you're seeking guidance for—it is then you'll be able to hear God.

How will you know that you're in a state of neutrality and why is that so important?

Let me answer the why question first. Why must you get your desires neutral about the will of God? Because often we have our own desires. The scales aren't neutral, but rather they're tilted one way or another. Our desires want something from God so we pray, asking for that very thing we want and we're not neutral. Neutrality brings the scales back to level so you can hear God. The reason you need to hear God and why you need to be neutral is because when God does speak to you, showing you His will, you'll be able to discern His voice from your voice.

When God speaks He speaks through your consciousness, through your spirit. It's the same voice of consciousness that self talks with. Carry on a conversation with yourself sometime and realize whom you're listening to. It's your consciousness speaking to you and when God speaks to you He speaks to you through that same consciousness, thereby leaving your voice and God's voice indistinguishable.

How do you know if it's God or you speaking? You find difficulty distinguishing between you and the Lord because your desires have tilted this thing so much that you can rationalize God's voice speaking saying yes when in fact it isn't God. It's you.

Remember last week's message—the flesh is so deceptive that it can lead you to believe you are doing something for God and His glory when you're really doing it out of self-love. The only way you can distinguish your voice from God's voice is through neutrality. Once your neutral and no longer let your desires run wild, then God can begin to direct you.

How do you know you're neutral? It's real simple. It's when you can truthfully rejoice in any answer God gives. In other words, if God says *no* to something you want—the desire is there but you want God's will more than that thing—you will have the joy of being blessed. When you're blessed there is joy because God's blessings brings joy. For God to tell you no means He has something better or He's protecting you from something. That means God telling you no is a blessings and therefore you experience joy. That's how you know whether you're neutral or not. "Lord, I will praise You if You tell me yes and I will praise You just as hard if You tell me no because in the end, not my will but Thy will be done."

## **II. How God Guides Us**

The text says, "*Your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, 'This is the way, walk in it.'*" Does this mean God audibly whispers in our ears? It doesn't mean He can't, it means He probably won't because:

### **A. God Guides Primarily By The Written Word of God.**

That's a protection because no guidance from God will contradict the Word of God.

Many years after becoming a Christian I felt cheated. I would envy those Old Testament saints because they seem to have received more than us New Testament believers do. God was always showing up, sometimes physically. Remember Abraham? God and two angels came to visit him, and Sarah prepared a meal for them literally feeding God and two angels. He appeared to them in a physical form. Angels were always popping up in the Old Testament and amazing things were happening—burning bushes, whirlwinds and chariots of fire. Don't you kind of feel left out and cheated?

I did. Until I realized one day that they were the ones cheated. God has recorded all I need to know about Him on this side of glory in a book. And what Abraham did not have that day as he entertained God and those two angels was as much understanding of God as you do. That's right. If Abraham had to take a theology test he would have flunked it because the revelation we have today through this Book, he did not have. The Bible was not complete; in fact, it hadn't even started to be written. The Bible says when those Old Testament saints prophesied they often prophesied without understanding what they were proclaiming. But the Bible is God's full revelation of Himself, as much as we can and need to know on this side of heaven, and this revelation is progressive.

It's like reading a mystery novel. You start at chapter one and read all the way through, you don't

start at the end. As you read, the plot thickens and the mystery progresses. You try to guess who the culprit is and the progression of the plot thickens until it's unfolded and now you know who did it and the crime is solved.

That's like the Bible. We know how it's going to end. We know the beginning and the end and everything in between that we need to know. But Abraham? He only had the first chapter of the mystery novel. All he knew was there was a crime committed. And those before Abraham only got the first page. They didn't even know there was a murder.

God reveals Himself like this, progressively, chapter after chapter, book after book until we have all we need to know on how to operate in this world. No, we didn't get cheated. They're the ones who were cheated.

God's word gives guidance concerning the general affairs of life. The Bible gives life principles that affect major areas of life. God has given us a book to read in order to know Him and let Him teach us how to live.

How is that going to happen if you don't daily study this Book and listen to God?

If your sole purpose of reading His Word is to read through it in a year in order to congratulate your pride and say you are a faithful reader of God's Word, you won't hear God speak. But if you get this Book and say, "Lord, the entrance of Your Word brings light . . . Open my eyes that I may behold wondrous things in Your law." Jesus, You said that when the Holy Spirit came He would guide into all truth because He would not speak on His own authority but what He has heard. Lord, speak to me," even though you might not hear anything specifically for you, God is teaching you how to live precept upon precept, a little here and a little there. He doesn't give it to you all in one day.

Some of you have recently proven to me that you don't want to try because you feel like you will fail from the beginning when it comes to Bible knowledge. I've heard several of recent days say things like, "I'll never know as much as you do, Pastor." They don't realize I'm 52 years of age and have been studying the Bible all of my life. I didn't wake up one day and then BAM! I had all this knowledge. I've been working at this thing for 52 years. I'm still learning. This is the way the Lord teaches you.

Recently we were made grandparents and all our grandson, Logan, knows to do is to sleep and eat. He didn't have to be taught that, God put that instinct in him. Let's say that at his first birthday, I take a good chunk of my theological library, wrap it up and give it to him as a present. Systematic theology, Greek and Hebrew Bibles, and I present them to Logan at his first birthday party and proceed to give him systematic theology lessons and try to teach him the Greek language.

It would be absolutely comical and actually insane to do that. You don't do that to a child. He has to first learn to walk and talk. Then he has to learn to read before you give him a systematic

theology book. You teach him a little bit here and a little bit there. You teach him his ABCs then you teach him to read. You begin with simple precepts.

That's what God will do to you everyday if you'll get up, quit being lazy, and prayerfully get yourself into this book. Through your daily reading, God begins to plant His principles and precepts into your life so that after a couple or three years you will be wise concerning this evil present age you live in. You'll know its underhanded tricks, its sly deceptions, you'll know enough to maneuver the land mines and the hazards because you've learned from the Master Teacher. As He imparts His principles and precepts into your life, you will have all you need for the general conduct and course through this world.

What happens with time is that the Word of God begins to renew your mind and you don't even know it's happening. You realize you've stopped thinking the way you used to think. Zig Ziglar used to call it "stinkin' thinkin'" and he said the problem with most people was the space between their two ears. It's true. So much of us have so much unbiblical thinking it's pitiful. But when you get into the Word it will renew your mind. It won't come by osmosis. You can plant this Bible under your pillow every night but it will not get into the brain or the heart.

May I also say, listening to sermons is not sufficient either. As much as I like to preach and highly recommend listening to sermons, if all you're doing is listening to sermons you're trying to cheat. You're a cheater and I would not be surprised you cheated in school too. You want a shortcut. You do not want to study, to plow deep and weigh things out. You've given the hard work up to someone else, so you listen to other people who will tell you what the Bible says. There is a place for teachers and preachers, but only in addition to and not replace the prayerful study of this Book so that you may hear God speak to you.

## **B. God Guides Us By Direct Spiritual Influence.**

There are times when the Bible does not address specific situations. Our Father does not leave us to our own devices. These people who try to make knowing and understanding the will of God like a needle in a haystack or some spiritual scavenger hunt are wrong. These promises clearly obligate God to make His will known to you. You will hear a voice, a word behind you saying "This is the way, walk in it." Not a bunch of clues you've got to figure out.

What God does, with time, as the Word of God is renewing your mind, spiritual reasoning begins to take place and you begin to think according to the will of God. There are certain things the Bible does not address; who you should marry, what kind of ministry you ought to be involved with, whether you should go to Africa or not, or whether you ought to give to RTM or RMF. It doesn't deal with that. It gives you general principles by which you can pray but the specifics aren't always there.

God does work through the mind, this is not bypassing the mind, but even a renewed mind can only get you so far. There are some things that can only be done by faith, not knowing how to get



from here to there except trusting in God.

For example, on October 14th, when we leave to go to Romania we could do this: We could drive a car all the way to the East Coast, let's say to New York City, and we would be at the Atlantic Ocean. Unless the three of us are good long distance swimmers, or we have an automobile that can also traverse water, we will not get very far. We have to get out of our cars and get on board a plane and fly over the Atlantic Ocean in order to get to Romania.

Sanctified reasoning can take you all the way to a point, but then you have to trust the Lord and His spiritual guidance to take you the rest of the way.

Let me give you some biblical examples of this.

J. Sidlow Baxter, a great preacher of the last century, tells of a voyage from Vancouver, B.C. to New Zealand. He noticed that all the way from Canada to the Hawaiian Islands the captain never once missed taking his meals with the passengers in the dining hall until they neared Suva, capital of the Fiji Islands. At dinner the captain was conspicuously missing. Baxter asked one of the stewards why the captain was not at dinner, and he answered, "So far, all the way over the Pacific we have been guided by radar; but now that we are approaching Suva the captain needs to be on the bridge. There is an under-water coral reef, which now leaves only a half-mile gap through which to enter the harbor. We dare not trust the radar; the captain himself needs to guide from the bridge." Baxter made the analogy, "The Bible is our God-given radar for life's seas in general. But again and again there are reefs where we need the Captain Himself on the bridge to give us His own immediate guidance."

What's that like? God speaks to us sometimes by this inner compulsion, this pressure comes up in your soul and in that there is an intuitive knowledge of how God is leading. Or a thought comes to your mind that is so diametrically opposed to the way you were thinking. Sometimes there is this inner urge to move or to stop or to just be still. But He does do it.

He will guide by His Spirit. Let me give you a few biblical examples for you skeptics who despise the mystics.

*Matthew 10:19-20 — "But when they deliver you up, do not worry about how or what you should speak. For it will be given to you in that hour what you should speak; for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father who speaks in you."*

He has to first speak to you before He can speak through you. Don't use human reasoning to plan out your remarks; He will give it to you.

Another example is Acts 10:19. Peter is at Simeon the tanner's home in the city of Joppa and it's around lunch. He's on the rooftop and he has a vision of a sheet coming down with unclean animals and God tells him to get up and eat. Peter argues with God and says his diet has always

been kosher. God, of course, wins the argument but listen to what happens right after that,

*“While Peter thought about the vision, the Spirit said to him, ‘Behold, three men are seeking you.’”*

Friends, Peter could have read his Old Testament all day long and he would never have found a verse that says, “Three men are at the door waiting to speak to you.” He could have unrolled his scroll to the very end and he would not find Isaiah prophesying, “There will be a Peter resting on the roof of a man named Simeon’s house in a city called Joppa and three men will come knocking on the door.” There are just some things the Bible is not that specific about. But that day Peter needed the leadership of the Spirit because the whole redemptive missionary enterprise was getting ready to change from a Jewish to Gentile emphasis.

*Acts 13:2 – “As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, ‘Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.’”*

The Spirit spoke. How He did it, I don’t know, but they knew it was the Spirit and God has not stopped speaking in that manner.

### **C. God Guides Us Through Circumstances.**

Through circumstances or through the body of Christ, which is the same as circumstances because the people in your life create the circumstances and God speaks through them.

God can arrange a situation in your life and make it obvious to you that this is where He’s working so that you can join Him.

A distinguished English Baptist pastor, F. B. Meyer, contemporary and friend to D. L. Moody was returning to England from preaching in Northern Ireland. The ship sailed from Belfast and landed in Liverpool at night. Dr. Meyer and a few others were standing on deck near the bridge. The November night was very dark and the chilly waters looked treacherous. Nearing the port the myriads of nightlights shown reflecting in the water. The great number of lights bothered Meyer and he called out to the captain on the bridge, “Captain, how do you know the way to steer with that confusing mass of lights in front of you?” The captain invited Meyers to come up on the bridge and he would show him how he planned on navigating the large ship. He said to the preacher, “It’s really very simple. Do you see that big light over to the left? And do you see that other big light over there to the right of it? And do you see that third outstanding light further still this way? Well now, keep your eyes on those three lights, and see what happens.”

Mr. Meyer did as instructed by the captain. First, the big light on the left began to move until it coincided with the light in the middle; then the ship veered slowly until that light gradually merged into the last light. “There now,” the captain said, “all I have to do is see that those three big lights become one, then I go straight forward.” Even so with us. He’s given you His Bible, His Spirit and circumstances and when those three line up as one light, go straight ahead. Jesus is helping you.

Let me give you a warning—the last two ways in which God guides us are not as reliable as the first one. That’s why you don’t want to rely on just one; the devil can manipulate any one of those. “He can’t manipulate the Bible,” you say. He tried with Jesus, did he not? He quoted Scripture with a slant to try to tempt Christ. You can have Scriptures come to you but if you’re not rightly dividing the Word of God you’ll be misled. And how will you rightly divide the word of God if you’re not in the Word?

Or, you may have an inner urge that might sound like the Holy Spirit but it’s just your own voice. You cannot go by impressions alone, you’ve got to be very careful. I’m not taking one of these apart and sticking it on its own pedestal—it’s all three coming together meeting in convergence. I’ve learned a long time ago the enemy can make circumstances look like a door was opened by God and God not be in it. I can’t tell you how many times God has saved me when I thought something was an open door. I was judging circumstances and it seemed to be God because everything was converging at the right time and the right place but God stopped me at the last minute saying, “This is not My doing, I don’t want you doing this. Stop.”

Even circumstances alone are not safe. What you want to see is all three coming together, then you know God is at work.

#### **D. The Test of God’s Guidance.**

Because my understanding of the Word of God can be inaccurate or my perception of God speaking to me could be wrong or circumstances can be misjudged, there has to be a safety. God has provided that safety.

Colossians 3:15 is a blessed verse. I will never forget the time when I came to know what this verse really means in the early ‘90s before we came here. What a blessing, an anchor, a divine protection this text is.

*“And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful.”*

Greek scholar Marvin Vincent comments that this word *rule*, as I’ve told you many times, means: “Literally, be umpire.” Let the peace of God be the umpire in your heart. It’s a word that comes from some of the Greek games of that era. Just as we have umpires who rule our sporting events today, the peace of God is to be the umpire calling the shots and letting you know you are traveling in the way the Lord would have you to go. If there is no peace, take that as God’s indication to stop and not take another step. If you have perfect peace and there is a quietness in your heart you know you are safe.

The commentator Lightfoot says: “Wherever there is a conflict of motives or impulses or reasons, the peace of Christ must step in and decide which is to prevail.”

The same Apostle Paul who wrote the book of Colossians said to the Philippians in chapter four verse seven, "And the peace of God which surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."

It's the peace of God that is there to protect us.

As I bring this message to a conclusion there may be some of you more confused now that you've heard this message than you were before regarding how to discern the will of God. If that's true, the reason may be because you find it much more difficult to trust other people. The reason we find it hard to trust others is because we like to be in control.

When you like to be in control you don't want to give it up and that's what faith requires. When you put your confidence in somebody and commit something to them it's now in their hands, not yours. One of the reasons this sounds confusing to you is because you're afraid that you could be deceived, believing God told you something when He didn't.

I want to put a stake in its heart and bury that fear because a child of God ought not to have that worry if—I said *if*—you want to do God's will. If you really want to do God's will He has promised you will not be deceived. The peace of God will guard your heart and mind through Christ Jesus.

A child of God who wants to do God's will God's way for God's reasons, will be protected by God from deception. But if you're wanting God to do something for yourself, for your reasons, then yes, you are open to every demonic suggestion, every trick and turn of this ungodly world, you're at the whim of your emotions. The Word of God or the Holy Spirit through circumstances will not be able to lead you because you do not in the end want God's will but your own. No, you will manipulate the Bible, your desires you will mistake for the Holy Spirit and you will not rightly discern circumstance. And you will walk into much sorrow.

But if you truly want God to be glorified in your life, then you don't have to fear being deceived; God protects His children by giving them peace.

If there is an unrest in your heart about something as you're praying about it, that's God protecting you by disturbing your soul and warning you to not proceed. But if there is the peace of God you can walk out there with all assurance knowing you have God behind you saying to you, "This is the way, walk in it." God will guide you and maneuver you through the rocks and the hazards that await us.

Thank God for this promise that He will guide us. "I will guide you and instruct you in the way to go. I will guide you with My eye." Amen.