

If I Were 22 Again



MAY 7, 2018

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Praying for guidance

Psalm 25

- How do you go around making important decisions?
- Do you think how you make small decisions influences how you make big decisions?
- How certain are you that the decisions you make are within the will of God?

Freedom to
choose



God has a
specific decision
for me

Common ways people claim they were guided by God for a particular decision

- Open door
- Inner voice
- Circumstances lining up
- Inner peace when making decision

- Why does God guide us
- How does God guide us
- The cost for God's guidance

To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

² O my God, in you I trust;

let me not be put to shame;

let not my enemies exult over me.

³ Indeed, none who wait for you shall be put to shame;

they shall be ashamed who
are wantonly treacherous.

⁴ Make me to know your ways, O LORD;
teach me your paths.

⁵ Lead me in your truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation;
for you I wait all the day long.

Remember your mercy, O LORD, and your steadfast love,
for they have been from of old.

⁷ Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions;
according to your steadfast love remember me,
for the sake of your goodness, O LORD!

⁸ Good and upright is the LORD;
therefore he instructs sinners in the way.

⁹ He leads the humble in what is right,
and teaches the humble his way.

¹⁰ All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and
faithfulness,
for those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.

For your name's sake, O LORD,
pardon my guilt, for it is great.

¹² Who is the man who fears the LORD?

Him will he instruct in the way that he should
choose.

¹³ His soul shall abide in well-being,
and his offspring shall inherit the land.

¹⁴ The friendship of the LORD is for those who fear him,
and he makes known to them his covenant.

¹⁵ My eyes are ever toward the LORD,
for he will pluck my feet out of the net.

¹⁶ Turn to me and be gracious to me,
for I am lonely and afflicted.

¹⁷ The troubles of my heart are enlarged;
bring me out of my distresses.

¹⁸ Consider my affliction and my trouble,
and forgive all my sins.

¹⁹ Consider how many are my foes,
and with what violent hatred they hate me.

²⁰ Oh, guard my soul, and deliver me!
Let me not be put to shame, for I take refuge
in you.

²¹ May integrity and uprightness preserve me,
for I wait for you.

²² Redeem Israel, O God,
out of all his troubles.

- Why does God guide us
- How does God guide us
- The cost for God's guidance

The context of seeking guidance in Psalm 25

To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

² O my God, in you I trust;
let me not be put to shame;
let not **my enemies** exult over me.

¹⁹ Consider **how many are my foes,**
and with **what violent hatred they hate me.**

²⁰ Oh, guard my soul, and deliver me!
Let me not be put to shame, for I take refuge in you.

The context of seeking guidance in Psalm 25

- Many enemies around him who hate him violently

¹⁶ Turn to me and be gracious to me,
for I am lonely and afflicted.

¹⁷ The troubles of my heart are enlarged;
bring me out of my **distresses.**

The context of seeking guidance in Psalm 25

- Many enemies around him who hate him violently
- Lonely
- Feeling afflicted and distressed

⁷ Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions;
according to your steadfast love remember me,

¹¹ For your name's sake, O LORD,
pardon my guilt, for it is great.

¹⁸ Consider my affliction and my trouble,
and forgive all my sins.

The context of seeking guidance in Psalm 25

- Many enemies around him who hate him violently
- Lonely
- Feeling afflicted and distressed
- Heavy guilt over sins of the past and present

2b **let me not be put to shame;**
let not my enemies exult over me.

20 Oh, guard my soul, and deliver me!
Let me not be put to shame, for I take refuge in you.

How to find guidance when you are going through such crisis?

- Many enemies around him who hate him violently
- Lonely
- Feeling afflicted and distressed
- Heavy guilt over sins of the past and present
- Struggling to trust God and not be put to shame

How to find guidance when you are going through such crisis?

- Life threatening disease
- Feel like your family and friends abandoned you
- Going through pain and suffering
- You wonder if God is punishing you now due to your sins
- Not so sure if can depend on God



STRESS

DEBTS

CAREER

FINANCE PROBLEMS

HEAVY

HEALTH

EFFORT

CHAOS

MONEY

DEBTS

WORRIED

COPING

FRUSTRATION

BUSINESS

BILL

CONFUSION

OVERLOADED

CHRONIC **BILL**

EXHAUSTED

STRUGGLE

DIET

MONEY

WORKPLACE

SAVING

PRESSURE

COPING

PROBLEMS

DEADLINES

DIVORCE

OVERLOADED

CONFUSION

DAMAGE

FAILURE

CAREER

Why does God guide

- So that we learn to trust in Him unconditionally.

Especially during very difficult circumstances

Woe to those who go down to Egypt for help
and rely on horses,
who trust in chariots because they are many
and in horsemen because they are very
strong,
but do not look to the Holy One of Israel
or consult the LORD!

Isaiah 33:1

To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

² O my God, in you I trust

¹⁵ My eyes are ever toward the LORD,
for he will pluck my feet out of the net.

- Why does God guide us
- **How does God guide us**
- The cost for God's guidance

How does God guides us

- God normally guides believers by *the development of spiritual wisdom and discernment* in decision making that will please Him





An iceberg floating in a blue ocean under a blue sky with wispy clouds. The tip of the iceberg is above the water line, while the much larger base is submerged. The water surface is a dark blue line separating the two sections.

Conscious Thinking – 5%

Short-term memory

Logical Thinking

Willpower

Decisions

Analysis

Unconscious Thinking – 95%

Habits

Beliefs

Values

Identity

Intuition

Creativity

Emotions

Self worth

Imagination

Self confidence

Long-term memory

Protective reactions

Automatic bodily functions

AndyEklund.com

<https://rebrand.ly/7fe380>

14 The friendship of the LORD is for those who fear him,
and he makes known to them his covenant. (ESV)

14 The LORD confides in those who fear him;
he makes his covenant known to them. (NIV)

14 The secret of the LORD is with those who fear Him,
And He will show them His covenant. (NKJV)

God normally guides believers by the development of *spiritual sensitivities* in decision making that will please God

- Stage 1: Clarity to discern issues that will affect your decision making
- Stage 2: the development of *spiritual intuition* that allows for godly decision making

I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. ² Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing **you may discern what is the will of God**, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Romans 12:1-2.

¹² When I came to Troas to preach the gospel of Christ, even though **a door was opened for me in the Lord**, ¹³ *my spirit was not at rest because I did not find my brother Titus there*. So I took leave of them and went on to Macedonia.

2 Corinthians 2:12

7 habits to become spiritually more sensitive in decision making

1. Learn to wait on the Lord

³ Indeed, **none who wait for you** shall be put to shame;

⁵ **Lead me in your truth and teach me,**
for you are the God of my salvation;
for **you I wait all the day long.**

²¹ May integrity and uprightness
preserve me,
for I wait for you.

²² *Redeem Israel, O God,*
out of all his troubles.

7 habits to become spiritually more sensitive in decision making

1. Learn to wait on the Lord
2. **Develop a sensitive conscience to your sins**

⁷ Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions;
according to your steadfast love remember me,

¹¹ For your name's sake, O LORD,
pardon my guilt, for it is great.

¹⁸ Consider my affliction and my trouble,
and forgive all my sins.



Home > Entertainment And News

CEO Says She Can Tell How Successful Someone Is Just By Watching Them Place An Order At A Coffee Shop

Can success really be determined from a coffee shop order?

Mary-Faith Martinez

Last updated on Sep 13, 2025



Trauma Trigger	Partner's Reaction	Impact
Feeling ignored	Overreacting or shutting down	Disconnection
Arguments	Yelling or leaving abruptly	Fear of abandonment
Physical intimacy	Avoidance or dissociation	Emotional distance
Criticism	Seeing it as attack	Conflict escalation

⁷ Remember not the **sins of my youth or my transgressions;**
according to **your steadfast love remember me,**

7 habits to become spiritually more sensitive in decision making

1. Learn to wait on the Lord
2. Develop a sensitive conscience to your sins
3. **Seek to be teachable in how you make decisions**

⁹ He **leads** the **humble** in what is right,
and **teaches** the **humble** his way.

Which is more appropriate to say:

- “It’s God’s will for me to”

OR

- “I believe it’s God’s will for me to”



Tim Keller on moving to NY to start Redeemer Presbyterian Church

- Had to sell his house to make this decision
- Had no inner peace
- Wasn't sure if he made the right decision
- But he did it anyway

7 habits to become spiritually more sensitive in decision making

1. Learn to wait on the Lord
2. Develop a sensitive conscience to your sins
3. Seek to be teachable in how you make decisions
4. **Check if we are walking in His steadfast love and faithfulness**

Making decisions based on the knowledge of the character of God

¹⁰ **All the paths** of the LORD are **steadfast love** and **faithfulness**,
for those who keep his *covenant and his testimonies*.

7 habits to become spiritually more sensitive in decision making

1. Learn to wait on the Lord
2. Develop a sensitive conscience to your sins
3. Seek to be teachable in how you make decisions
4. Check if we are walking in His steadfast love and faithfulness
5. **Repent of sins that impact your decision making for His sake (not yours)**

⁷ Remember not the sins of my youth or my
transgressions;
according to your steadfast love remember
me,
for the sake of your goodness, O LORD!

¹¹ For your name's sake, O LORD,
pardon my guilt, for it is great.

What is the common thread in the following examples

- “It is God’s calling for me to be senior pastor”
- “God spoke to me clearly last night and told me that I should expand my business overseas”
- “God has me in His sights to do greater things”
- “God’s will is for our church to spend RM 60 Million on our building expansion plans”

For your name's sake or for His name's sake



Chrome



Stainless Steel

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6. **Ask yourself if you are making decisions out of fear of man or fear of God**

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and his offspring shall inherit the land.*

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and he makes known to them his covenant.

Question: Why are there so many middle to upper middle class people in suburban churches? Why are there so few poor people?

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7. **Practice friendship with God**

GEORGE WHITEFIELD



Whitefield had a strong impression that God was telling him the child would grow up to also be a “preacher of the everlasting Gospel.” In view of this divine assurance, he gave his son the name John, after John the Baptist, whose mother was also named Elizabeth. When John Whitefield was born, George baptized his son before a large crowd and preached a sermon on the great works that God would do through his son.

Not long afterward, he wrote a wrenching prayer for himself, that God would “render this mistaken parent more cautious, more sober-minded, more experienced in Satan’s devices, and consequently more useful in his future labours to the church of God.”

The lesson here is not that God never guides our thoughts or prompts us to choose wise courses of action, **but that we cannot be sure he is speaking to us unless we read it in the Scripture.**

Taken from Tim Keller’s book “Prayer”

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6. Ask yourself if you are making decisions out of fear of man or fear of God
7. Practice friendship with God

Which is more biblical

- “Surrender your plans to God and He will ensure what you do will be successful”

- “Surrender what you do to God and He will ensure what you plan will be successful”

³ Commit your **work** to the LORD,
and your **plans** will be established.

Proverbs 16:3

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6. Ask yourself if you are making decisions out of fear of man or fear of God
7. Practice friendship with God

Make a decision

- Why does God guide us
- How does God guide us
- **The cost for God's guidance**

- ¹⁵ My eyes are ever toward the LORD,
for he will pluck my feet out of the net.
- ¹⁶ Turn to me and be gracious to me,
for I am lonely and afflicted.
- ¹⁷ The troubles of my heart are enlarged;
bring me out of my distresses.
- ¹⁸ Consider my affliction and my trouble,
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- ¹⁹ Consider how many are my foes,
and with what violent hatred they hate me.

Not My Will But
Thine Be Done

