

There is a question I have heard many times :- **how do I know God's will or direction in my Christian life?** For some Christians it is a real struggle to discern God's leading and direction for them. In **PSALM 25** David gives us some encouraging details of how to go about knowing God's direction.

Verses 1-7:

**1 To let God direct our paths.** I think David is saying that he is first of all declaring his need of God in knowing His purpose and direction. So this is why David then, as it were, shouts out **my God I trust in you.** This is important to understand because it is the basic building block upon which we determine God's will and purpose. If we are not trusting in God to start with and are looking to other things, gimmicks, trends, fads and the like, then we will find it very difficult to know what it is that God is saying to us.

Closely linked to this trust in God is in v2b-3 **an expression of one's confidence in God.** Again this is critical in knowing God's leading and direction because if we don't have an expectation, a confident expectation that God is going to lead then there really is no point in looking to Him for His direction and purpose for your life. I think it is sad to say that for many Christians knowing and expressing a desire to know God's leading is often a distant thought. It's usually not until someone is deeply in trouble that suddenly they get a revelation that they need to seek God for His direction. I would hope and pray that for those who seriously mean business with God; seeking His will and purpose for our lives is primary rather than an after-thought.

### **PRAISE the Lord for:**

- Recent Impact WA trip to Broome. We had three commitments to Christ with 3600 Challenge papers distributed. Door to door/ street ministry was amazing with over 50 intense gospel conversations. Team of 11 came home rejoicing in what God had done
- Re-commencement of Cuban edition out of USA office. 5000 papers sent across to Cuba
- His ongoing protection, encouragement and care to the Challenge ministry and the families involved

**To let God direct our paths.** This is David's declaration of his need to be guided by God.

David gives four key things as far as showing His declaration or expressing His declaration of wanting to know God's will :

- a. In v4 David cries out to God for direction. I think this first of all tells us that in seeking God's will we need to come humbly before God and recognise that it's God's will and His alone that we want to seek and not some rubber stamping of our own agenda. Sometimes I hear people express their frustration at the fact that God has not shown them clearly what He wants. However, after talking with these people it doesn't take long to realise the mistake they have made, which is, they haven't been asking God to show them His ways but rather asking God to rubber stamp their ways.
- b. Then we see a desire to be guided by God when David asks God to teach him His ways, His paths. This not only speaks of humility but speaks of a teachable

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spirit. There is nothing more discouraging or frustrating than seeing someone totally unteachable in the things of the Lord. Sadly these people will get themselves into all sorts of trouble because they are unwilling to listen or take on board Godly instruction and as a result find themselves in deep trouble.

- c. Then David asks for the Lord to lead him in truth. This speaks very clearly of relying upon the truth of God's word for direction. Psalm 119v130 gives good guidance in this matter ***"the entrance of your words gives light; it gives understanding to the simple"*** and again later in the same Psalm v133 it says ***"direct my steps by your word and let no iniquity have dominion over me"***. So I think it is clear that David's desire is that God has absolute control in leading and directing him in every step of his life.
- d. Then David reiterates his desire to be taught of God. In the New Testament context being taught of God comes by knowing a fullness of the Spirit of God so that He would prompt, **lead and direct us in the way He would have us go.**

**2** Then in knowing God's direction for our lives David declares his desire for God to remember. In v6 he says ***"Remember Oh Lord your tender mercies"*** so first of all it's David's desire that whatever happens to him will happen according to the tender mercies of God.

Lamentations 3v22 sums up what David is trying to say here: ***"Through the Lord's mercies we are not consumed because His compassions fail not"***.

Then David declares his desire for God to remember His loving kindnesses. This speaks to the character of God in how He deals with us: that even in leading us He wants to do it in a way that is an expression of His loving kindness and His desire to do what is best for us.

I am amazed at times when people talk about knowing the will of God but are often fearful because they think God will direct them in a way that is not very nice. The reality, God knows exactly what He is doing and the motivation behind all that He does in leading us is His overwhelming love.

#### **PRAYER needed for:**

- Cuban edition. Dr Victor & Marcia Gonzalez use the Challenge newspaper under the banner of Go & Tell ministry. Pray each seed paper will find good fertile soil
- For editions of Challenge going out this month – Australia, South Africa, USA, Prison editions for South Africa, USA
- The 3600 papers distributed throughout Broome, that there will be a great harvest

I can honestly say the last 41 years in Challenge have been an amazing Bible college, the most amazing learning experience. I never realised what God had in mind when He brought me into this work but I can assure you there is no doubt in my estimation that all that God has done has been according to His tender mercies, His loving kindness and His goodness.

I believe God has always been motivated by these three characteristics in guiding and leading all of His children in His paths, in His ways for His glory.

- (Part 2 next month)

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