

Small Group Discussion

PART VI Discovering God's Plan for You December 10-11, 2011

Group Leader:

Getting Started

What was your (or is) your understanding of how God guides you in everyday life?

How was your understanding of how God directs challenged or clarified this weekend?

God's Direction in the Bible:

We talked about God's supernatural revelation in the life of Abraham, Moses, Mary, Paul and Peter. *Can you think of example when Christ had a divine revelation from His Father about God's plan for Him?*

While the Father appeared or spoke from Heaven at Jesus' baptism, I can't think of a single time when the Father intervened to tell Christ what to do. Correct me if I'm wrong. *If that is true, how does that help us identify with Christ in our lives?*

The Foundation of God's Will for You – The Bible

Review the 5 things we know are God's will and discuss which of these are difficult to follow

- **SALVATION** – 1 Tim 2:3-4 *This is good and pleases God our Savior, who wants everyone to be saved and to understand the truth. (NLT)*
- **SUBMISSION** – 1 Peter 2:13-15 *For the Lord's sake, respect all human authority—whether the king as head of state, or the officials he has appointed. For the king has sent them to punish those who do wrong and to honor those who do right. **It is God's will** that your honorable lives should silence those ignorant people who make foolish accusations against you. (NLT)*

How does my submission to leaders help me discover God's will for you?

- **SPIRIT-GUIDED** life – Eph. 5:17-18 *Don't act thoughtlessly, but understand what the Lord wants you to do. Don't be drunk with*

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wine, because that will ruin your life. Instead, be filled with the Holy Spirit.

(NLT) **What does it mean to be directed by the Spirit?** Remember the twin verse that says the same thing with a twist that explain how we are led by the Spirit (Colossians 3:16)

- **SEXUAL PURITY** – 1 Thess. 4:3-7 **God's will is for you to be holy, so stay away from all sexual sin. Then each of you will control his own body and live in holiness and honor.** (NLT) **Why are we so shy about talking about taling about God's plan for sex?**
- **SUFFER** for following Christ – 1 Peter 4:19 **So if you are suffering in a manner that pleases God, keep on doing what is right, and trust your lives to the God who created you, for he will never fail you.** (NLT) **Why should a Christian suffer, and why shouldn't he suffer according to this verse?**

The Undergraduate Level – Ask for Wisdom

Read James 1:5-6

What is it that God promises to give when we ask for it? Wisdom

We talked about two ways that God gives wisdom

- 1) Prayer – asking God for the insight to think through the problem
- 2) Applicational Bible Reading – Moving from reading, to learning, to applying to life.

Wisdom is “The Art of Skillful Living.” It takes God's revelation and processes it into daily living.

Take a decision one of the group has to make and apply some Scriptures to help toward the decision.

The Graduate Level – Exploring Alternatives

READ: Proverbs 1:5-7 & Genesis 1:26-27

If God made us in His image and likeness, what had He just done to display His nature? Created the heavens and the earth.

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What does that tell us about what he created us to do? While God apparently created from nothing, people are made to be creative with what God made. We display God's nature best when we do something creative with what God gave us to work with.

Since God made us to develop our creative potential, what does that tell us about God's expectation on us? Could it be that if we wait for God to tell us what to do, we are ignoring our creative potential? God expects us to experiment and to risk rather than play it safe.

Last weekend's message talked about three ways to explore our alternatives: Discover God's Design for you; Seek Advice & Become an Expert in your Field.

How can you better develop your potential in one of those three areas?

Recommendation: The key verse for following God's plan is **James 1:5-6** *If you need wisdom, ask our generous God, and he will give it to you. He will not rebuke you for asking.* (NLT) Ask the group to memorize this verse and to practice it in their pursuit of a life that fulfill God's plan for their lives.

Check out the **Unburdened** website that will help you through this series at www.unburdened.me The Resources page has some extra help in the category of an Affair Proof Marriage.