

## Wisdom

*Wisdom is knowing God's ways and truth, and acting in the light of what God has said to be true.*

In the Bible, wisdom is linked closely to God's will (Eph. 5:15-17)

We must pursue wisdom (Proverbs 2)

- <sup>1</sup> My son, if you receive my words  
and treasure up my commandments with you,
  - <sup>2</sup> making your ear attentive to wisdom  
and inclining your heart to understanding;
  - <sup>3</sup> yes, if you call out for insight  
and raise your voice for understanding,
  - <sup>4</sup> if you seek it like silver  
and search for it as for hidden treasures,
  - <sup>5</sup> then you will understand the fear of the Lord  
and find the knowledge of God.
- <sup>9</sup>Then you will understand righteousness and justice  
and equity, every good path;

How do we pursue it?

- 1) Fear God (Proverbs 9:10)
- 2) Use the means of grace
- 3) Obey (Job 28:28)

## Core Seminars—Guidance Class 6: Tools of the Trade Part 2



### Introduction

*What goes wrong when we assume that God normally guides in mystical ways?*

### Using Circumstances to Guide Us

*Wrong Ways to “Read” Circumstances*

- “Open” and “Shut” Doors
  
- Bad results mean I missed God's will
  
- Giving into impossible circumstances = weak faith

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## *Right Ways to Use Circumstances*

We can trust God's good plan

- Circumstances tell you what's possible
  
- Circumstances tell you about yourself

Whatever God ordains is right

Does this lead to laziness or complacency?

- Paul saw slavery as evil (1 Tim. 1:10)
  
- 1 Corinthians 7:21 and Paul's advice to slaves

## **Using Feelings to Make Decisions**

<http://t4g.org/2008/02/the-bondage-of-guidance/>

*Wrong Ways to Use Feelings*

- 1) Assume that an inner prompting is definitely from the Spirit
- 2) Don't act until you have an inner "peace"

*Right Ways to Use Feelings*

- 1) Intuition
  
- 2) Leadings prompted by the Spirit (with appropriate skepticism as to the accuracy of our subjective sense)
  
- 3) Desires (Psalm 37:4)
  - God gives us great freedom within what is right
  - We can often serve him better doing what we want
  - Desires reveal idolatry
  - God can sanctify our desires so they guide us well

How to use your feelings when making a decision

- 1) Recognize your feelings can be wrong
- 2) Discuss your motives with those who know you well
- 3) Use appropriate vocabulary to describe your feelings
- 4) Correct for your natural biases