

The Ways God Guides

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: Acts 15:22-16:10.

B. In Acts there is a description of normal Christianity.

II. The important thing to God is how a person does something, not what one does. This is the will of God.

III. God reveals His will through unanimous agreement.

A. Everyone's viewpoint was heard, and there was unanimous agreement.

B. The former activity of God was noted.

C. There was agreement with the Word of God.

IV. People learn the best by hearing truth through the eyes and ears, so God has communicated to us through writing and teachers.

V. The Holy Spirit focuses on the activity of believers when He gives no special guidance with what to do.

A. In between the actions of the Spirit, the believer is to give himself to the Word.

B. The secret to the multiplication of the church is individual believers exercising their gifts of preaching and teaching.

VI. God is not interested in robots--once the believer discovers the power to respond in Jesus, the initiative lies in him. (Philippians 2:13)

VII. There are times when it is the will of God for Christians to separate because of a difference in approach.

A. Paul and Barnabus separated over Mark.

B. It was God's will to separate but not to separate with ill will.

VIII. In situations involving cultural matters, the governing principle is to find the underlying idea that is at stake.

IX. The Spirit of God is willing to confirm to us or deny to us whether we have made a right decision, but only after we make the decision sometimes.

A. The confirming voice is a sense of peace.

B. Supposing one is wrong, it is perfectly all right. It is just not the Spirit's time.

C. God is sovereign, and He can choose the way to direct a believer.

X. Above all, the believer is to do all in dependence upon God for His glory.

Application questions:

1. How have you seen or heard of God's will being revealed through unanimous agreement?

2. In what ways does it help to know that God often gives believers initiative to act on His behalf?

3. What program do you have in place to be consistently studying the word of God? What can you do to encourage others to get into the Word as well?
