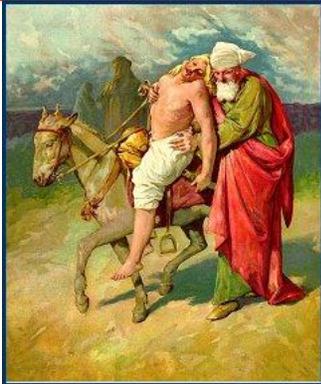


New Horizons Newsletter



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"May the Lord show you His favor and give you peace."

(Nu. 6:26)

FOLLOW GOD'S GUIDANCE

By Dr. Pierre J. Samaan

It is always wonderful when you feel strongly impressed by God to make a certain decision or handle a difficult circumstance. You want to be obedient to God and you know that God will always do whatever is best and right for you and your family. But, what about those times you when you are having trouble hearing or sensing what God is saying to you regarding your decisions or circumstances?

God does not always communicate to us right away, but He will always do whatever will work out for our best interest in the long term. For example, remember the little stroll in the desert for 40 years?

17 It so happened that after Pharaoh released the people, God didn't lead them by the road through the land of the Philistines, which was the shortest route, for God thought, "If the people encounter war, they'll change their minds and go back to Egypt."

18 So God led the people on the wilderness road, looping around to the Red Sea. The Israelites left Egypt in military formation. (Exodus 13:17-18, MSG)

I know what you're thinking; "40 years!!!" Let us hope that none of us will have to wait that long for answers to our prayers and petitions (Philippians 4:4-7; Hebrews 5:7). Because God is "all knowing" and "all powerful," He can see our future behavior and circumstances. God did not have the Hebrews go directly to the promised land. He knew they would become frightened and discouraged if almost immediately after leaving Egypt they are thrust into battling the Philistines. Besides, after 350 years of slavery, they were not in the best shape to fight in hand to hand combat.

Because of being in "relationship" with God through the sacrificial Blood of Jesus Christ, we tend to feel entitled to immediate answers and rewards. When God does not lead you to the quickest route to your prayers and petitions, do not throw up your hands and get

upset. Keep being obedient to what you think the Lord would have you do in the trials in which you are trying to get through.

In Clinical Christian Counseling, I can often see how God is working in the lives of many clients. To a few He gives immediate answers and their lives rapidly improve. To others, He makes them wait a short time as they draw closer to God. And then, there are those that we do not see God's answers for a year or longer. These are the ones in which God is doing a greater work. He is having them go through struggles that are reshaping them from the core of their being. The ones who stick it out see marvelous changes in their lives. But, for those who are unwilling to relinquish control to God, they are the quickest to give up.

The problem with giving up is that you will still have to face the problem at some point in the future. Each time you give up or take the easy way out, the next time you face a similar problem it will be more difficult to go through than the time before. God knows the end of our journeys and what we will need to do in order to get there. You do not have to go through a 40 year trial if you go through it right the first time.

If This Is True, How Do I Yield To The Guidance of God?

This brings us to the story of Philip. Philip went into Samaria, where he had great success in converting them to Christ. There were many healings that were seen by the Samaritans as evidence that Philip's words of eternal life through repentance and belief in Jesus Christ must be true. Philip was becoming known as the evangelist to the Samaritans and Greeks. Yet, while he was having great success and many miracles followed his teaching, an Angel of the Lord sent him down a rarely traveled road.

Philip could have argued that it made no sense to go that way, especially when he was having great success in Samaria. Philip yielded to the Angel's instructions. It was on this lonely stretch of road heading south to Egypt that Philip came across the Ethiopian Eunuch (Acts 8:26-40). Because Philip yielded to the change in plans, Africa was the next great mission field to hear the Word of God preached through this black Ethiopian Eunuch.

Great things happen when we surrender our will to God. It is not just about you; it is about how God can best use you for His glory and the saving of souls for eternity. Experiencing God's best for you comes with obedience in the present. Calling yourself a Christian with no intention of yielding to God is self-destructive.

During inner healing prayer ministry many will hear God in the depths of their soul. But, mostly because of doubt or fear, they do not receive what He is saying. What good does it do to seek God's counsel if we ignore it when it is given? If you have a true love for God, show it by not only asking for direction, but by also following God's direction once He gives it.

"10The Lord brings the counsel of the nations to nought; He makes the thoughts and plans of the peoples of no effect. 11The counsel of the Lord stands forever, the thoughts of His heart through all generations. 12Blessed (happy, fortunate, to be envied) is the nation whose God is the Lord, the people He has chosen as His heritage." (Psalm 33:10-12; AMP)

Pray About Being a Prayer Partner & Financial Supporter

Temple Flute Was Ruined

"'There was a flute in the Temple,' says the Talmud, 'preserved from the days of Moses; it was smooth, thin, and formed of a reed. At the command of the King it was overlaid with gold, which ruined its sweetness of tone until the gold was taken away.



There was also a cymbal and a mortar, which had become injured in the course of time, and were mended by workmen of Alexandria summoned by the wise men; but their usefulness was so completely destroyed by this process that it was necessary to restore them to their former condition."¹

Please Pray For. . .

- Josh McKeown Jamboree, May 7, 2011. The Jamboree will be held at the United Brethren In Christ, 560 Flomich Street, Holly Hill, for the purpose of raising funds for Josh's ongoing Cancer treatments; FOOD, BAKE SALE, YARD SALE, LIVE MUSIC; treatments; contact Carolyn Mills, carolynmills@cfl.rr.com, for details, or how you can send a donation if you can't be there. It is anticipated that over 1000 people will be jamming.
- Pray for Christian brothers and sisters affected by the aftermath of the Japanese earthquake. Please give your donations to Christian relief organizations.
- Please pray for all the Christian Counseling clients. God is good, all the time!
- Pray for your church Pastors.
- Pray for Federal, state, and local governments (they need all the help they can get).
- Pray for your children and family.
- Pray for your spouse.

New Horizons Institute of Counseling/ United Brethren Counseling Ministry

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¹ Tan, Paul Lee, (1991) *Encyclopedia of 7700 Illustrations*, p 835, Twelfth Printing, Bible Communications, Garland, TX.

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**You can read or download previous newsletters in the "Articles" section of our web site.*

"Seeking True Recovery to Replace Pain With Healing Peace."

*Clinical Christian Counseling/Clinical Pastoral Counseling is crisis intervention and strengthening of Christian character and values, which is Discipleship. Our Ordained and Professional Clinical Christian Counselors are committed to the welfare of the Christian. Clients are encouraged to take advantage of their own church programs as part of their Christian Counseling Treatment Plan. We are credentialed professionals who must follow state confidentiality guidelines. **This is not church Lay Counseling in which your confidentiality cannot be guaranteed.***

*Professional Clinical Christian Counseling will help the client, couple, or family move beyond tolerable existence into genuine inner healing, renewal, and wholeness through the work of God's Holy Spirit in the counseling.**

Tolerable recovery is the process of getting better. True recovery says, "I made it!" This is when I can look at the source of my pain - which has become a stronghold - and realize it has been replaced with God's healing peace - Replacing the source pain with God's Truth.

***Clinical Christian Counselors are exempt from Florida State Licensing, Statute 491.014. All Christian counselors at New Horizons Institute of Counseling are Ordained Clergy, Board Certified & Licensed by the National Board of Examiners of the National Christian Counselors Association. We serve under the authorities of our licensing boards and the Pastor and Board of the UB church.**

NEW RESEARCH FINDINGS

HAPPIEST PLACES HAVE THE HIGHEST SUICIDE RATES

The happiest countries and happiest U.S. states tend to have the highest suicide rates, according to research from the UK's University of Warwick, Hamilton College in New York and the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco. Read article at:

<http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/223130.php>

STUDY PINPOINTS COMMON CRITICAL ERRORS IN TEEN CRASHES

A recent study by The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) and State Farm Insurance Companies® hones in on the most common errors teen drivers make that lead to a serious crash. Teen drivers are involved in fatal crashes at four times the rate of adults. The findings were published in the journal *Accident Analysis and*

Prevention. Read article at:

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2011/04/110419190032.htm>

CHILDHOOD MUSIC LESSONS MAY PROVIDE LIFELONG BOOST IN BRAIN FUNCTIONING

Those childhood music lessons could pay off decades later -- even for those who no longer play an instrument -- by keeping the mind sharper as people age, according to a preliminary study published by the American Psychological Association.

Read article at:

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2011/04/110420112058.htm>

ADOLESCENTS INVOLVED WITH MUSIC DO BETTER IN SCHOOL

A new study in the journal *Social Science Quarterly* reveals that music participation, defined as music lessons taken in or out of school and parents attending concerts with their children, has a positive effect on reading and mathematics achievement in early childhood and adolescence. Additionally, socioeconomic status and ethnicity affect music participation. Read article at:

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2009/02/090210110043.htm>

REPEATED STRESS IN PREGNANCY LINKED TO CHILDREN'S BEHAVIOR

Research from Perth's Telethon Institute for Child Health Research has found a link between the number of stressful events experienced during pregnancy and increased risk of behavioural problems in children. Read article at:

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2011/04/110420111900.htm>

NEW GUIDELINES DEFINE PRE-ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE

The first new guidelines for diagnosing Alzheimer's disease in nearly 30 years establish earlier stages of the mind-robbing disease, paving the way for spotting and possibly treating these conditions much sooner than they are now. Read article at:

<http://www.cbn.com/cbnnews/healthscience/2011/April/New-Guidelines-Define-Pre-Alzheimers-Disease-/>

*To read the full article, click or copy and paste the URL. The articles are for informational & educational use only. The released studies are not necessarily a reflection of beliefs of this ministry.