Spiritual Disciplines – Guidance (Preached 19/4/15 AM and 26/4/15 PM by Noel Wraight)

REFLECTIONS

What has been bouncing around in your mind since you heard Noel’s message?

Did it bring to mind any particular instances where guidance had enriched your life? Or where it was done poorly and had negative impacts? What was it that made it beneficial/unhelpful?

The discipline of seeking guidance goes to the heart of walking with God. Guidance involves us hearing God’s voice and obeying Him. It is not only seeking His will in a specific matter, but it is a constant way of life.

God provides guidance to His people in two ways. One is individual guidance, where God gives each of His children divine instruction through Scripture, reason, circumstances, and through prompting of the Spirit in the individual’s heart. In corporate guidance, God guides groups of people who gather in fellowship to seek the will of God. Both aspects are important to submit to as we seek to live in response to the voice of God.

SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

Read Matthew 18:19-20

How is fellowship with other Christians vital to seeking both individual and corporate guidance from God?

The Western cultures lay a heavy emphasis on individualism. Do you see results of this in our churches? Whereabouts and how might this look if changed to be more community oriented?


What were the key factors in these cases that were important for godly guidance?

How was each guidance received by those who sought it?

Did you see any checks and balances that ensured it was God’s leading?

Do any of these practices challenge the practices of the Church today?


What helpful hints do sayings in Proverbs provide us with?

"Personalities united can contain more of God and sustain the force of his greater presence much better than scattered individuals. The fire of God kindles higher as the brands are heaped together and each is warned by the other's flame." -Dallas Willard
THINK IT THROUGH

How would you explain the difference between seeking the advice of a wise friend and seeking God’s guidance with the help of mature and faithful Christians?

What sometimes holds us back from asking close Christian friends to help us seek God’s guidance before making a decision or entering on a new path?

How will you make more room in your life to include other believer’s in your seeking for guidance? Why would you make more room for it?

What would you do if you felt you were given some insight or ‘guidance’ to pass onto someone else? How would you approach that?

What value is added by including other believers? Is there an area where you could do with some of this value? What will you do about it?