

THE GREENWOOD BULLETIN

Church of Christ
371 W. Main Street
Greenwood, IN 46142
(317)888-8288

www.churchofchristatgreenwood.org

VOLUME 9 NO. 11

May 13, 2012

How to Know What God Wants Me to Do

By Greg Gwin

We all face important decisions. These decisions will often have a great impact on us and our families. It may be a question about what job to take, or where to live, or what school to attend, etc. What should we do? Does God offer any help or guidance in making such decisions? We believe the answer is YES! How does God give this guidance? In many ways:

1) **Through the Word.** The vast majority of answers are here. There are positive commands that tell us what we should do. For example, **Matthew 28:19** instructs us to teach the gospel to others. You don't have to wonder if God wants you to speak to your neighbor about salvation. He does, and He said so! There are also negative commands that tell

us what to avoid. If, for instance, you are praying about whether or not you should honestly report your income taxes — save your breath! God has already given that answer (**Eph. 4:25**). Don't be looking for additional guidance in areas where God has already said "no" or "yes."

2) **Through prayer.** Christians are to be consistent in prayer (**1 Thess. 5:17**). God promises to answer our prayers. We ought to approach Him with petitions for help with our important decisions (**1 Peter 3:12**). If you don't believe this will work, then don't bother to ask! (**James 1:5-7**).

3) **Through circumstances.** In the Old Testament, Joseph suffered a number of awful and unjust things. In the end, he was wise enough to realize that God had used those circumstances to accomplish His will (**Gen. 45:7,8**). Be careful here - this 'guidance

2

through circumstances' is sometimes hard to detect, and some are quick to jump to false conclusions.

4) **Through the counsel of others.** The many commands that urge us to exhort and encourage our fellow Christians (**Heb. 3:13, Gal. 6:2**) demonstrate that God intends for us to help one another with the difficult things in our lives.

Role Models

By Greg Gwin

When it comes to sports — we do it. In business — we do it. In almost every field of endeavor we look for role models. We try to find others who have been successful, and then we imitate them. God's word tells us to do the same thing in spiritual matters.

The best role models are found right there in the Scriptures. Jesus is the ultimate example:

"For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps" (**1 Peter 2:21**).

Other great heroes of faith serve as good role models, too. Paul urged us to be: "followers of me, even as I also am of Christ" (**1 Corinthians 11:1**). In another place he wrote: "Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an ensample" (**Philippians 3:17**). Hebrews chapter eleven is full of examples of faithful men and women who serve as worthy patterns for us to imitate.

Some might complain that it is hard to fully relate to someone that we can only read about in a book. "Paul was a great Christian", they would say, "but we live in a different world. It's hard to imagine how Paul would deal with our situation." For these folks, let us suggest that they can also look to their own brethren. In any church there are faithful, zealous, devoted Christians who are working hard to live for the Lord. They resist temptation, spread the word, encourage others and generally work tirelessly to do His will. Look to them. Imitate them.

We know this method works. In all sorts of

endeavors we look for "winners" and we copy them. Let's do the same thing when it comes to our most important endeavor — serving God!

A Thousand Times

... No!

By David Diestelkamp

Ever notice that you can say "no" a thousand times, but all those no's are canceled by one "yes"? "No, you can't have a cookie, can't have a cookie, can't have a cookie! Okay, yes!" The cookie will be eaten! To concede and fail you don't have to say yes as many times as you must say no to remain steadfast and succeed.

A thousand no's to fornication are deleted by one yes that robs one of his virtue and virginity. A thousand no's to adultery are swept away by a yes that destroys family, home and soul. A thousand no's to drugs are erased by a yes that opens the door to all kinds of destruction and excess. A thousand no's to stealing are forgotten by a yes on our record when we stand before the law. A thousand no's to pornography are

overwhelmed by a yes that writes indelible images in the mind. It applies across the board to all sin.

While it is certainly true that forgiveness in Christ is available for any sinful yes decision we make, this must not be seen as license to make that errant decision even once. We are called to completely die to sin (**Rom. 6**)-it is to have no part in us, or us in it.

Parents often tire of the "May I have a cookie?" question and finally concede with a yes. Kids know this. Satan knows this. We tire of saying no and looking different from others. We tire of our "no" answer causing abstinence from activities that appear pleasurable and fun. We tire of always being the one to say no. In time, sin nags us to the point where we finally want to say, "Okay, yes just this time." How much more can God expect us to resist-how many more times must we say no?

The Hebrew writer reminds us, "You have not yet resisted to bloodshed, striving against sin" (**Heb. 12:4**). We're not just talking about saying no to the point

of alienation and missing out on some of life's pleasures. Resisting "to bloodshed, striving against sin" means saying no to sin until it kills us! That means a thousand times no to the sin that tempts us from within and from without. And when we have said no a thousand times it is then time to say it a thousand and one times, and more!

***The man who lacks
 courage to start has
 made a finish
 already.***

**Becoming angry with
 one who has told you
 the truth is like
 breaking a mirror
 because of what you
 saw in it.**

PRESSURE
**The intensity of
 pressure doesn't
 matter as much as**

**its location. Does it
 come between you
 and God, or
 does it press you
 closer to him?**