

Divine Direction – Pt. 1

¹Keep me safe, my God, for in you I take refuge. ²I say to the Lord, "You are my Lord; apart from you I have no good thing." ³I say of the holy people who are in the land, "They are the noble ones in whom is all my delight." ⁴Those who run after other gods will suffer more and more. I will not pour out libations of blood to such gods or take up their names on my lips.

⁵Lord, you alone are my portion and my cup; you make my lot secure. ⁶The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; surely I have a delightful inheritance. ⁷I will praise the Lord, who counsels me; even at night my heart instructs me. ⁸I keep my eyes always on the Lord. With him at my right hand, I will not be shaken. ⁹Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices; my body also will rest secure, ¹⁰because you will not abandon me to the realm of the dead, nor will you let your faithful one see decay.

¹¹You make known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand."

Psalms 16:1-11 NIV

I. Intro

- A. Decisions Decisions
- B. Why is it so hard to know God's will?
- C. Why do I want to know it so desperately?
- D. Why is it so important?
- E. What are the benefits of being in God's will?

II. Three Blessings of Being in God's Will

A. **Protection – Provision – Presence**

B. Making good decisions is really about "keeping in step with the Holy Spirit" (Gal. 5:25)

C. **¹Keep me safe, my God, for in you I take refuge.**

a. Keep me safe = "shamar" - to keep, guard, protect.

1. "Unless the Lord builds the house its builders labor in vain, unless the Lord **watches over** the city, the watchmen stand guard in vain." -Ps. 127:1
2. Do you trust God?

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3. The basis of all good decisions is a confident trust in the goodness of God.
4. MUST KNOW HE LOVES YOU AND HIS PLANS FOR YOU ARE GOOD. (Jer. 29:11)
5. Three things to remember:
 - a. God loves you more than you do.
 - b. God understands you better than you do.
 - c. God wants the very best for you.
6. Why is trust needed? Because HIS will rarely looks like OUR will.
 - a. His will will take us *through* difficulty, trial, and suffering.
 - b. “We went through fire and water but you brought us to a place of abundance.” (Ps. 66:12)
 - c. Jesus “If it be thy will take this cup from me, nevertheless, not MY will but YOUR will be done.”
7. Note: God promises protection from all “harm” He does not promise protection from all “pain”.
 - a. Harm – permanent injury (spiritual disfiguration and bitterness)
 - b. Pain – temporary
 - c. When you're in the center of God's will, you will experience pain but with the pain there will be an unexplainable PEACE. (Best of times and worst of times)
 - d. GOD'S PRESENCE IS MARKED BY PEACE!

b. “**You are my Lord; apart from you I have no good thing.**”

1. “You are my Lord” - Finding the will of God begins with laying ours down.
 - a. Do you call Him Lord?
 - b. Surrender and submission – Jesus our example as a priest — he was “heard because of his reverent submission”. (Heb. 5:7)
 - i. It is: “THY Kingdom come, THY will be done”
 - ii. If THY will and MY will are conflicting, then MY will must be renounced.
 - iii. Old me vs. New me
 - iv. Old me is in rebellion against God and has no claims of spiritual inheritance
 - v. New me submits to God and HIS purposes in my life.
 - c. “**Offer your bodies a living sacrifice**, holy and pleasing to God—which is your reasonable act of worship...do not conform...**THEN** you will be able to test AND APPROVE what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.” (Rom. 12:1-2)

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2. “Apart from YOU I have **no good thing**”
 - a. This is a value statement.
 - b. Do I value HIS Presence more than ANYTHING in the world??
 - c. Personal story of following God's leading even if it meant without Kimberly.
 - d. Personal story of trying to buy a new house. Song “I'd rather have You”
 - e. Mountains they will fall
Riches they will cease
The treasures of this earth
Are buried with their kings
This is not my home
Filled with pride and greed
Jesus, You are all
You are all I need
Because I'd rather have You oh
I'd rather have You and nothing I desire
Could ever come close to what I have in You
The treasure that I choose
Is treasure that lasts because I'd rather have You

Forgive my desires, forgive every motive
Forgive my intentions cause I'd rather have You
If it's not Your will God I don't even want it
And now I surrender cause I'd rather have You
I'd rather have You
Oh

I'd rather have You oh
I'd rather have You
And nothing I desire
Could ever come close to what I have in You
The treasure that I choose
Is treasure that lasts because I'd rather have You
 - f. Greed (always wanting more) is associated with IDOLATRY in the New Testament (Col. 3:5, Eph. 5:5)
 - i. When we go out of God's will to get something we have to stay out of his will to keep it.
 - ii. We often try to GRAB something God wants to GIVE us.
 - iii. When we GRAB what God wants to GIVE that thing will DISTRACT us from God and His purposes for our lives.
 - iv. But whatever God GIVES won't be a distraction but a blessing—it will actually prophesy to us about His goodness. (Bill Johnson)

III. Conclusion – Do you trust God?