

Following the Guidance of God

Proverbs Various

The proverbs of Solomon son of David, king of Israel:
...let the wise listen and add to their learning,
and let the discerning get guidance—

The integrity of the upright guides them,
but the unfaithful are destroyed by their duplicity.

The plans of the righteous are just,
but the advice of the wicked is deceitful

The way of fools seems right to them,
but the wise listen to advice.

Plans fail for lack of counsel,
but with many advisers they succeed.

To humans belong the plans of the heart,
but from the Lord comes the proper answer of the tongue.
All a person's ways seem pure to them,
but motives are weighed by the Lord.
Commit to the Lord whatever you do,
and he will establish your plans.
The Lord works out everything to its proper end —
even the wicked for a day of disaster.

In their hearts humans plan their course,
but the Lord establishes their steps.

There is a way that appears to be right,
but in the end it leads to death

Listen to advice and accept discipline,
and at the end you will be counted among the wise.
Many are the plans in a person's heart,
but it is the Lord's purpose that prevails.

A person's steps are directed by the Lord.
How then can anyone understand their own way?

Trust in the Lord with all your heart
and lean not on your own understanding;
in all your ways submit to him,
and he will make your paths straight.

Proverbs 1:1,5; 11:3; 12:5; 12:15; 15:22; 16:1-4, 9, 25; 19:20-21; 20:24; 3:5-6

There is a limit to
our human
understanding.

16:1-4

To humans belong the plans of the heart,
but from the LORD comes the proper answer of the
tongue.

All a person's ways seem pure to them,
but motives are weighed by the LORD.
Commit to the LORD whatever you do,
and **he will establish your plans.**

The LORD works out everything to its proper end —
even the wicked for a day of disaster.

v9

In their hearts humans plan their course,
but the **LORD establishes their steps.**

We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance. And endurance develops strength of character, and character strengthens our confident hope of salvation. And this hope will not lead to disappointment. For we know how dearly God loves us, because he has given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with his love.
Romans 5:3-5 (NLT)

Wisdom is becoming
the kind of person
who makes wise
decisions.

11:3

The integrity of the upright guides them,
but the unfaithful are destroyed by their
duplicity.

12:5

The plans of the righteous are just,
but the advice of the wicked is deceitful.

16:3

Commit to the Lord whatever you do,
and he will establish your plans.

3:5-6

Trust in the Lord with all your heart
and lean not on your own understanding;
in all your ways submit to [acknowledge]
him,
and he will make your paths straight.

The reliance on special signs from God is the mark of an immature person - someone who cannot simply believe the truth as presented, but must have a special, miraculous sign as the symbol of authority from God. ...my following of God is based upon my relationship with Him rather than on a special "sign." Rather than looking for some sort of wrapped spiritual package from the Almighty, I want to rely upon my closeness to Him. So when I wonder about which job offer to take, I don't go through a divination process to discover the hidden message of God. Instead I examine how God has called me to live my life, what my motives are, what He has given me a heart for, where I am in my walk with Christ, and what God is saying to me through His Word and His people.

Bruce Waltke. Finding the Will of God: A Pagan Notion?

The common idea of divining God's will is either a pagan notion that we Christians need to let go of or a mode of administration that God no longer uses. God has given us a program of guidance that involves getting to know Him through His Word and letting Him shape our character, our hearts, and our desires. Then as we know the mind of God we can live out His will. He expects us to first draw close to Him, then allows for seeking wise counsel as confirmation, or taking our circumstances into consideration and using our own sound judgment to make a decision. He never calls us in the New Testament to "seek His will," but rather to seek His kingdom and do His will. We ought to stamp out of our vocabulary the nonbiblical and misleading expression "finding God's will." Rather than talk about "seeking the will of God," we ought to speak of following the guidance of God. This is not just semantically different, since He is calling us to draw close to Himself and to live holy lives. God's will for us is that we be holy; there is no mystery to His will. As for those questions about changing jobs, getting married, going to school, and the like, finding answers will require growing close to God.

Bruce K. Waltke. Finding the Will of God: A Pagan Notion?

16:25

There is a way that appears to be right,
but in the end it leads to death.

20:24

A person's steps are directed by the Lord.
How then can anyone understand their own
way?

16:3

Commit to the Lord whatever you do,
and he will establish your plans.

1 Peter 5:6-7

Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's
mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time.
Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for
you.