

Lighted Lamp Magazine



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“It is well to get rid of the idea that faith is a matter of spiritual heroism only for a few select spirits. There are heroes of faith, but faith is not only for heroes. It is a matter of spiritual manhood. It is a matter of maturity.”

—P. T. Forsyth

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From the Editor

Have you ever felt like you are the only one following God? Does it seem like all your friends are compromising with the world? Elijah felt the same way. He had just finished standing up to the prophets of Baal. God had just sent fire and burned his alter, showing Himself to be the true God. But even though there were 450 prophets of Baal present at the sacrifice, Elijah stood alone.

Elijah was exhausted. He had executed the prophets of Baal, and had run for his life from Jezebel, who had threatened to kill him by the next day. He had done his best for God, and he didn't have the strength to keep going.

But God didn't abandon Elijah. He told him to anoint three people, the next kings of Syria and Isreal, and Elisha as prophet in his own place. He also told Elijah that there were seven thousand people in Isreal who had not bowed to Baal or kissed him. It may seem like you're alone in standing for God, but be encouraged. You might discover you're not as alone as you think.

God bless,

Priscilla

Matthew 5:16

Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

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Finding
God's Will

by Meggie, photography by Katie Prescott

All through school, the question pops up: what are you going to do after graduation? What are you going to make of yourself? I am in my last year of school now, facing adulthood and all the huge decisions that come with it. I am not sure what I want to do with my life. With no knowledge of my own, who can I ask but the Man who is writing the story of my life? He knows, He can direct me; but how can I find out what God wants me to do?

The great thing is that the Bible has every answer we will ever need. God lays out for us how to find out His will for our lives: listen to His Spirit, pray for guidance, don't let any sin or distraction get in the way, put away our own desires, obey God's Word, and listen to our consciences.

Honestly, I am a big worry-wart, and when it comes to finding out what God wants me to do, I can get stuck into thinking that if I go through the right process God will tell me His will. Even though Jonah was trying run away, God still made it clear to Jonah that he was needed at Ninevah. When God wants you to do something- He will tell you. We serve the same God that strengthened the armies of Israel- and led the armies of Israel.

The Big Questions

I am reminded of a little song we sing around the campfire: Not by might, not by might, not by power, not by power, but by My Spirit, by my Spirit, says the Spirit of the Lord, the Spirit of the Lord. (That's based on Zechariah 4:6).

Another Bible verse says:

However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. – John 16:13 NKJV

We were given the Holy Spirit for a reason. Of course, He does many things in our lives, but He also guides us in truth. If we are not listening to the Holy Spirit, how will we hear what He has to say? Listening to the Holy Spirit's whisper is hard, and I have always struggled with telling the difference between my own desires and the Holy Spirit. An older sister in Christ told me that if it is the Holy Spirit speaking to you, then He will always tell you to do things out of selfless love; our own desires are always directed at doing something for ourselves. If a thought pops into you head, ask yourself, is this out of love for others or love for myself? Our own thoughts will be about making us happy, the thoughts of the Holy Spirit will be about making everyone else happy.

Another biggie is praying. Pray about it; pray about it a lot. Pray about it while you eat breakfast, while you work, while you read, while you knit yourself an orange scarf. :)

Psalm 37:5 says, "Commit your way to the Lord, Trust also in Him, And He shall bring it to pass." Chat to Him about the plans you are thinking about, put out all the alternatives, and then listen. He may speak to you through His word or through someone else. But we need to be listening.

To listen, we really need to block out the whole world (and its ways!). I think of the old hymn, *Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus*:

Turn your eyes upon Jesus
Look full in His wonderful face
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim
In the light of His glory and grace

It is so hard to listen to God while I am running about during the day doing different things. If I am always busy, always around other people, I will never find the quietness I need to hear God's voice. God's voice is usually small and hushed. I need to pull myself away from the busyness of life.

And then there is sin. Sin can create an icy wall in between you and God. God may be speaking, but you cannot hear what He is saying. Is there anything in your life that is pushing you away from God?

A sin that happens too much in my life is selfishness. We want to do what makes us happy. I want to stay in my own country, and let other people worry about slavery, poverty etc. I want to pursue my own career rather than the job the Lord wants me in.

John said,
He must increase, but I must decrease. – John 3:30 NKJV

I know when I prayed when I was six or seven, all I could think about was how much I wanted a scooter. If we are asking God what

He wants us to do, but we want something so badly that it is all we can think about, then we will never hear God's version. Can't you hear my prayer?

God, I lay it all down. You do with me what you would have me do. Scooter, or no scooter; but honestly- I would so love to have a scooter. Please God. It would make me so happy- it would make me look so cool...

Well, I probably didn't pray like that when I was six, but you get my point. If you want to hear honest-to-goodness what God wants for you, then you have to completely put away what you want to do, and ask God His will. After all, it is just that- His will, His plan.

Little, Daily Decisions

Abraham, Rahab and Paul all did God's will in their lifetimes. When God wanted Abraham to do something, He spoke to Abraham aloud. Paul was led by the Spirit throughout his travels, and Rahab obeyed God's will for her life by letting out the spys another way; God didn't say a thing to her.

Rahab's decision changed her life forever. Really- she would have been dead otherwise! In daily life, there are heaps of little decisions we make, that shape us more than we know. Jesus said that we must take up our crosses daily and follow Him (Luke 9:23). It is the daily, little stuff that sometimes counts more than the big stuff.

Rahab was just going about her normal day



when the spies turned up on her doorstep. She could see God was with those men, so she hid them when the king tried to find and kill them. She knew what was right, and she did it. I think we can get caught up asking God over and over what to do. Do you want me to do this? Do you want me to do that? But the Bible tells us what is right and what is wrong. He has already told us how to act in certain situations.

So, a friend turns around and verbally pulls off my head. What do I do? I walk off to be alone and pray- God what do you want me to do? I could do this, I could do that... I weigh up every course of action.

Romans 12:14 says, "Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse." The right thing to do is not get angry, not send a biting remark back, but love them and bless them in return. I don't need to search out a direct revelation from God. He doesn't need to shout out at me: MEGGIE! SAY THIS!

It is not rocket science: study God's Word, find out what's right and what's wrong and live by it. Sometimes God has already answered your question, 'What do I do?'

But what about if a situation isn't like that? What if you don't know what the right thing to do is? Listen to the whisper of the Holy Spirit and your God-given conscience; Go with what you think God is saying and what your conscience is saying. Like what I said about listening to the Holy Spirit. Do everything out of love for God, and out of love for others.

"The most important one," answered Jesus, "is this: 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these." – Mark 12:29-31 NIV

God says He will always be with us, and will direct us. Do not worry about it!

Whenever you are arrested and brought to trial, do not worry beforehand about what to say. Just say whatever is given you at the time, for it is not you speaking, but the Holy Spirit. – Mark 13:11 NIV

(No, you might not be arrested or brought to trial, but the fact remains that the Holy Spirit will always be with you.)

Let's sum it all up:

- Get into a quiet place, shut out all distractions (including icy walls, selfishness, and busyness).
- Pray and commit your way to the Lord.
- Listen for the Holy Spirit's direction.

God has a wonderful plan for each of us. We may not understand it, but it is beyond our imaginations; He is writing the story of our lives.

I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will guide you with My eye. – Psalm 32:8 NKJV

Which ^(good) king of Judah
are you most like?

You experienced an over-
whelming situation and
your first response was to
pray or seek God's guid-
ance.



People tell you that your
faith is misplaced and God
can't help you gain victory.



 Jehoshaphat

You take the advice of your
friends rather than the ad-
vice of experienced advi-
sors.



 Hezekiah

You wonder if
is second-hand
from your parents
Christians in

You are totally committed
to removing all traces of sin
from your life.



You have
health problem
your f

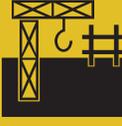

Rehob

Joam

 Amaziah



You make a point of not blaming people for mistakes made by their family or friends.

 Jotham

 Joash



You are particularly concerned that God should be worshipped properly and above all other things.

Yes 
of your faith and, inherited from your parents or other people, in your life.

When you are in a position of leadership and success you forget to be humble before God.



 Abijah

Asa



 Uzziah

experienced problems involving feet.



 Josiah



God's Promise:

I will be with you.

by Meggie, photography by Elaine Schnider

“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.” – Joshua 1:9 NKJV

“It isn’t worth it wasting our time crossing over that rushing river.” The Israelites were pressuring Joshua to turn away from the land of Canaan to a land with, well- not so many giant men to wrestle against. That’s when God came out and promised Joshua that He would personally be Joshua’s escort through the whole process.

Doing what God wants you to do is hard. Obedience is hard. When God gives me the shove towards one of my friends who aren’t Christians, I freak out. What will they think? What

should I say? How can God possible expect me to go up to them? This promise, that God will be with us, I have found out can help us to have victory over fear and doubt. God promises us so many things in His word. This is only one of many.

“And the Lord, He is the One who goes before you. He will be with you, He will not leave you nor forsake you; do not fear nor be dismayed.” – Deuteronomy 31:8 NKJV

God asked me to go up to a girl that was at youth group one night. She had gone through a lot in the past weeks because of bad decisions she had made in her relationships. When it came time for the sermon, she suddenly grew very quiet. She was thinking. I knew how much she

needed God's love to replace that of her boyfriends, I knew that her family needed God to help put their relationships back together. My friend and I had been praying for that God would break through into here life. And she was sitting there thinking with wide eyes. Then God asked me to go talk to her. But I didn't.

How many times has God asked you to do something, and the fear has been so overwhelming, so crushing that it completely wipes away any courage to do anything? Your palms get sweaty, your heart starts racing; what will they say? Will they completely ditch your friendship? Will God come through and even touch their lives?

If I had known that God was going to be with me, that He would uphold me with His right hand, would I have been able to talk to her? If I had listened instead to Gods whispered promise to me, instead of the tidal wave of fear and doubt, would God have worked in her life?

I failed that night. I failed because I didn't base myself on the promises God had already

made me through His word. The fear took control because I forgot that He had promised to be with me!

“The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord, And He delights in his way. Though he fall down, he shall not be utterly cast down; For the Lord upholds him with His hand.” – Psalm 37:23-24 NKJV

I breathed in deeply and looked over at my work colleague. The unmistakably nudge came again. God really wanted me to talk



with him. How could I do this? I felt the fear reaching for my throat. No! I pushed it back, sensing the fear now in the pit of my stomach. I wondered if Joshua felt like this as he led the Israelites into battle. Give me the strength, and

the words. I prayed. Then I turned to him. "Why don't you watch certain movies?" he asked. "Well, do you really want to know?" I breathed in deeply. "It's because of what I believe." A conversation then took place all about God. I



**Courage is when in the face of all your doubt
"No! The Lord is with me. He is going to
me."**

had done it! I had followed Him! I had obeyed!

When realized that the God of the universe was there right beside me, that He was helping me, that He was going to give me the words and the



**doubts and fears, you say:
to uphold and strengthen**

strength necessary, I was able to tell fear to take a hike. I was so scared, but I decided to say no, and turn to God, ignoring the fear and resting instead in His promises. I did it anyway.

Do you think that to have courage you need to completely dissolve fear? Courage is not when you are completely confident, but courage is when even though you are afraid, you decide to act anyway! Courage is when in the face of all your doubts and fears, you say: “No! The Lord is with me. He is going to uphold and strengthen me.”

“He gives power to the weak, And to those who have no might He increases strength. Even the youths shall faint and be weary, And the young men shall utterly fail, But those who wait on the Lord Shall renew their strength; They shall mount up with wings like eagles, They shall run and not be weary, They shall walk and not faint.” – Isaiah 40:29 – 31 NKJV

I have learned that even though I am nervous—that if I choose to believe that God will be faithful, and be with me the whole time, that I can push those mere feelings away, and take hold of what the Lord has for me. God will be with you. Stand on His promises, believe and act!

An Extra Thought: There are so many other promises God has given us, how might we be changed if we actually looked into the Word and found those promises for ourselves? If you know what God has promised you, you will be equipped to actually do what He has asked you. ☺



Be Still

by Alice, photography by LeeAnne Hughes

“Be still and know that I am God.”
Take time from the frantic
business that envelops
your life.

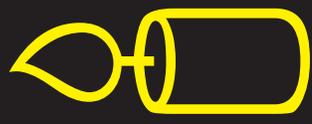
It may all be good.
It may all seem necessary.
But don't forget the One
who made you.

Pause to acknowledge His
presence.
His help.
His strength.

Read what He says to you.
Care about it.
Talk with Him.
Be still.
Be awed.
Be humble.

His power.
His might.
His gentleness.
His compassion.

His love.
Know... that He is God.



LL Maggazine

Matthew 5:16