

## FUNCTIONING BY GOD'S POWER FOR BASIC DAILY LIVING NEEDS

### Part V: Discerning God's Clear Guidance By His Power

(Romans 12:1-2 et al.)

#### I. Introduction

- A. A believer can live in spiritual blindness, being unaware of his condition, and end up unhappy, 1 Jn. 2:9, 11.
- B. Yet, every true believer is led by the Holy Spirit, Romans 8:14, so that even in this "blind" spiritual condition God works to correct and discipline him, creating unrest in his life until the believer repents.
- C. Instead of going in the difficult "blind" route, a believer is given the option -- according to Romans 12:1-2 NIV -- of **always** enjoying the Lord's *clear* leading so he can have God's fellowship and blessing. We examine this passage and other related Scriptures for practical steps to this end (as follows):

#### II. Discerning God's Clear Guidance By His Power, Romans 12:1-2 et al. (among others):

- A. Every true believer is being led by the Holy Spirit's power, Romans 8:14. If a believer is doing God's will, he is blessed, and if he is *outside* of that divine will, the Spirit convicts and disciplines him, Rom. 7:22-24.
- B. The **comprehensive** route to knowing and affirming God's will is for the believer to resist conforming to this world and yield to the Holy Spirit's prompting to do God's service in every area of life, Rom. 12:1-2.
- C. To understand *how* that occurs in **practical** terms, we note the following Scripture teachings:
  1. Every believer operates **either** totally controlled by the Holy Spirit **or** totally controlled by the **OPPOSITE** nature, his own sinful nature that remains after his salvation, cf. Galatians 5:16-17.
  2. If a believer sins, he operates by his sin nature **opposite** the Holy Spirit's prompting to produce hateful, unhappy, restless, impatient, harsh, unwholesome, unreliable, conceited and uncontrolled thoughts and acts, Gal. 5:17 with 19-23. As such, he fails to discern God's will, and lives blinded to it and outside of God's blessing, Gal. 5:19-21; 1 John 2:9, 11; Mtt. 15:14. God must discipline him to repent.
  3. Thus, he must confess his sin to the Lord for God to cleanse him and restore him back to a state of **readiness** for the Spirit to *control* his thoughts and behaviors, 1 John 1:9.
  4. In this condition, the believer must yield to the Spirit's prompting described in Galatians 5:22-23.
  5. Now, to **STAY** blessed by God, the believer needs to **resist CONFUSING** what is **not** God's values and will that the **world system** presents to him, and **stick** with **GOD'S** true will, 1 John 2:15-16:
    - a. When John wrote 1 John 2:15-16, he did so to "young men" who grew in the intermediate level between "little children" and "fathers", Mitchell, Fellowship: Three Letters From John, p. 63-66.
    - b. These believers had already learned to use Scripture to overcome the deceptive doctrines of Satan, 1 John 2:14b, *Ibid.*, Mitchell, p. 66. **However, they stood in need of RESISTING the values and teachings of the alluring WORLD'S lusts [of the flesh, of the eyes and pride of this earthly life (bios, v. 16)] which COUNTER the OPPOSING views of SCRIPTURE**, 1 John 2:15-16.
  6. Accordingly, **Scripture** reveals *how* to do this in discerning and following God's will (as follows):
    - a. The believer must **RIGIDLY** make **Scripture's teaching** with the *indwelling Holy Spirit's discernment* of Scripture (2 Tim. 1:13-14) his **FINAL authority**, cf. 1 Jn. 2:15-17 with Ps. 1:1-2, Isa. 8:19-20 and 2 Tim. 3:15-17. Thus, he should **read** Scripture *often*, 2 Tim. 4:1-2 with Ps. 1:2.
    - b. **Only** if **Scripture** is non-instructive on a given issue should the believer **then** seek **multiple godly COUNSELORS** for direction, Romans 3:4a with 2 Timothy 3:13-14; Proverbs 11:14.
    - c. Then, **only** if **Scripture and godly counselors** are non-instructive in a matter should the believer rely on **circumstances** for God's leading, Acts 16:6-10 in light of 1 Kings 13:7-24.
    - d. Then, **only** if **Scripture and spiritual counselors and circumstances** are non-instructive on an issue should the **godly** believer do what he **WANTS**: *God is then at work in him to lead him to want and perform the right decision, Philipians 2:12-13 in light of Joshua 6:17-19 with 7:1, 19-26.*

**Lesson:** To *KNOW* God's will and to *DO* it with His *BLESSING*, one must (1) believe on Christ for salvation from sin to be indwelt by the Holy Spirit of guidance, John 3:16; Rom. 8:9b. (2) Then, he must confess his sin(s) that block fellowship with God (1 Jn. 1:9) and (3) rely on the Spirit for behavior control (Gal. 5:16-23) to be *ABLE* to do God's will. (4) Then, he discerns that will by looking *FIRST* to (a) *Scripture*, *THEN* (b) *multiple spiritual counselors*, (c) *THEN circumstances* and *FINALLY* (d) to what God moves him to *WANT* to perform [in his condition of fellowship with God].