

HINDRANCES TO DIVINE GUIDANCE

1. Putting out a fleece, Judges 6:36-40. This was Gideon's idea, not God's. It was an expression of unbelief. We have NO authority to set up conditions for God to meet. Christ's attitude toward "sign seekers" is in Matthew 12:38-39.
2. Looking at circumstances alone, or too much. These are used by God to direct our steps, but they have limited value in helping us to know what to do ahead of time.
3. The wrong examples of others, Matthew 15:14. Be careful about whose thinking/life you take guidance from! If a blind man leads a blind man, both will fall into a pit, 2 Peter 2:2-3. Positive examples of mature believers are a good source of divine guidance (1 Corinthians 11:1; Hebrews 6:12).

Quote from Sir Robert Anderson--a warning: "Among Christians, it is pestilent evil to make the exceptional experience of some the rule of faith for all. The Word of God is our guide and not the experience of fellow-Christians; and when this is ignored the consequences are disastrous."

4. Let your conscience be your guide. The conscience's purpose is to judge us as to what is right and wrong, but it has limited value in telling us what to do. And the conscience is very unreliable for the weaker believer, 1 Corinthians 8:7; 1 Timothy 4:1-2.
5. Dreams, visions and voices—these ceased when the revelatory gifts phased out, 1 Corinthians 13:8-12, and the New Testament was completed, Jude 3.
6. Feelings or emotionalism—to walk by these is to violate 2 Corinthians 5:7. In John 20:11-17, Mary Magdalene drew a false conclusion about Jesus Christ because of an emotional moment in her life. Emotions too easily MISlead rather than lead.
7. Rationalizing, or leaning on one's own understanding, Colossians 2:8, Proverbs 3:5-6. Our ability to wing it on the strength of our own mental processes is too limiting because we cannot see far enough or widely enough.
8. Guessing, i.e., "I don't know, Lord, what You want me to do, so without a clue I'll leap into the dark." That is blind faith which is not faith at all, for true faith sees a doctrine or promise upon which to step!!

Past experiences in one's Christian life. How God led in the past is not necessarily how He will lead today or tomorrow. His ways are above our ways,

and cannot be second-guessed, cp. Romans 11:33-36.

10. Ignorance or misinterpretation of Scripture, (e.g., Colossians 3:15). Sincerity will not compensate. Ignorance leaves one extremely vulnerable to human viewpoint which is the great hindrance to divine guidance.
11. Beware of sudden attacks of doubt so that when guidance has become clear, you act accordingly. Divine guidance does not render Satan inactive. Genesis 24:53-56 is an illustration of a man who moved quickly once he grasped God's will.
12. Beware of deflection once God's will is understood. For a man who was deflected; see 1 Kings 13:1-32.