

I want to know what to do!

- Horoscopes, fear of the future, life is so bewildering we want someone to tell us what the right thing to do is
 - which school subject, which course at college or university, which university, which job or career, which person to go out with, which holiday, which house, which friendship, which club or society, which TV channel, which kind of restaurant, which brand of clothes or dog food, how to parent, how to build a home life that is loving....
 - [how to live!?!?!?](#)

Guidance

- Has had a varied history in Christian living!
 - Gideon and his fleeces!
 - are we searching for the **right path** that will lead us smoothly and sweetly through life?
 - are we afraid that if we miss it, if we miss-hear God's prompting, we are doomed to a divine second best, a patched up life of **what if's** and **might have beens?**
- That is not the way God's guiding works in the Scriptures - [as this Psalm shows!](#)

I want to know who to follow

- First of all we need to realise that **guidance** in the Scriptures is about a person, not a **direction**:
 - various verses - eg. 1,2, 16 - note two way dynamic
 - person, not just direction
 - something of the dynamic, freshness of relationship - with someone who can react to diversions along the way!
- Jesus is our guide:
 - in the language of another Psalm, our shepherd...
 - and on Jesus' own lips: **"My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me."** (John 10:27)
- God wants to guide you - to the place where you should be
 - he has a perfect plan for your life
 - and that plan is a **moral** plan
 - as John White puts it, **"his plan for you has less to do with geography than with ethics"**
 - in other words, he doesn't mind which town you end up living in, but he does mind the kind of life you live there!
 - he doesn't mind which course you study, he does mind how you study, and how you use the gifts and abilities he has given you
 - he doesn't mind which job I do, but he does mind what my motivation is for doing that job - happiness? success? money?...
- [Are we following Jesus?](#)

I want to know how to listen

- If we have begun to realise that guidance is about Jesus, and following him, then we'll want to learn how to listen - **to him!**
- A number of things are touched on - not an exhaustive list:
 - 1. Sin cleared out (v.7, 11, 18)**

 - repentance is part of guidance!
 - 2. Look to him (v.15)**

 - paying attention helps if you are driving!!
 - 3. Fear him (.v14)**

 - I love the word **"confides"**!

- sense of intimacy, of closeness, of something valuable shared
- but we know that we are sensitive about who we confide in - someone who will listen, who will value the gift of whatever it is we confide in them - especially if it is something of themselves!
- God confides in us... if we are ready to listen, to spend time with him, to draw close to him, to **fear him**

- Methods the Lord may use:
 - advice
 - prompting of the Scriptures
 - experience - eg of camp, of a trip abroad, of work experience
 - prayer, and then a growing sense of the rightness of some course of action...
 - ...could be many, many things!

Conclusion

- Lord is much more interested in us than in whether we are a pilot or a postie!
 - much more interested in our faithfulness in seeking him, in drawing close to him, than in whether we are retired, unemployed, studying, raising kids, or working

- Will we know him?
- Will we learn to listen for his voice?