

Divine Guidance

God's guidance is Divine guidance. Divine guidance is the doctrine for determining will of God for your life in general things, specific things, and making clear the method of thinking for the believer. It is a special influence of a divinity on the minds of human beings. *When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own but will tell you what he has heard. He will tell you about the future.* (JOH16:13) Jesus refers to the Helper, the Holy Spirit, as the "Spirit of truth" and you will know which direction you are to go in choosing the right path. God wants to lead you in a divine direction that will give you an abundant life. That Spirit will guide, judge, speak in order to bring glory to God.

In the Bible we have wonderful promises of guidance and examples of those who sought and found the Lord's will for their lives. We need of God's guidance; *O LORD, I know the way of man is not in himself; It is not in man who walks to direct his own steps*"(JER10:23) God's people do need guiding. They need to pray, "Show me your ways...Teach me ...Guide me"(PSA25:4,5,9) Abraham going out of his native country not knowing where he was going, being wholly dependent upon the guidance of God "The LORD had said to Abram, *Go from your country, From your family And from your father's house, To a land that I will show you.*(GEN12:1) of Moses "And He (Lord) said, *My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest*"(EXO13:21-22) of Joshua *Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go*"(JOS1:6-9) and of Philip, guided of the Lord to leave Samaria and to win the eunuch to Christ *Now an angel of the Lord spoke to Philip, saying, Arise and go toward the south along the road which goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.*"(ACT8:5,26) These examples establish the fact that God does guide His people.

Proverbs 14:12 tells us *there is a way which seems right to a person, but its end is the way of death*". Scripture often warns that human reasoning and human desire can lead to disaster. Because of man's limited wisdom, ability, his limited understanding of the facts coupled with his sinfulness, man simply cannot direct his steps. What seems right to him results in the way of destruction and death. As man's thoughts are not God's, so his ways must likewise fall short of God's perfect and all-wise plan. *For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways,*" says the LORD. (ISA55:8)9 The eternal God has the infinite wisdom and power, love and mercy needed to direct the affairs of man's life. As our Creator and the one who formed us in the womb, who better knows us, our abilities, weaknesses, and all the details of our lives.(PSA139:13-14) The declaration is that God cares about each of us and wants to direct our lives. How infinitely superior His plan must be in every detail and data He possesses, past, present, and future, and with all the power at His disposal as the sovereign God of the universe. The evidence of God's desire to guide our lives is found in the Bible that we might know His will and purpose in all areas of life. This means knowing God and the life He has for us to live. Our responsibility, by God's own direction, is to entrust our way to Him for His direction and leading. Proverbs 3:5-6, Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own understanding. Acknowledge him in all your ways, and he will make your paths straight. These verses point out the need for self-examination and in seeking guidance from God.

Let us think of the *Nature* of God's guidance. The secret of divine guidance is the Guide *You will show me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.*(PSA16:11) King David thanks the Lord for showing him the way of life that leads to heaven. It is a place of fullness of joy and unending delights. The greatest joy comes from being in Jesus' presence. In 1The.4:17, promises that believers will be with the Lord forever. We will see Him face to face, and we will be like Him. In heaven we will be free forever from sin, sickness, sorrow and dying. We will enjoy a reunion with our Christian loved ones. It is Clear guidance; The psalmist prayed to be led in a *straight* path *Teach me Your way, O LORD, And lead me in a smooth path, because of my enemies.*(PSA27:11), and the Lord's promise to us *In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.*(PRO3:6) To desire to acknowledge the Lord in all our ways is to "know Him" and closely follow His leading is a wonderful thing. Take him as your guide; observe the footsteps of his providence; follow the Lamb wheresoever he goes; walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. God's guidance is continual guidance. *For this is God, Our God forever and ever; He will be our guide Even to death.*(PSA48:14); *You will guide me with Your counsel, And afterward receive me to glory.*(PSA73:24) Asaph was grateful not only for the Lord's presence but also for His guidance and assurance of heaven. *The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD, And He delights in his way. Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down; For the LORD upholds him with His hand.*(PSA37:23) His guidance is for the whole life, until the Lord comes or we go to be with Him in Heavenly Jerusalem.

A step at a time and a stop at a time; a moment by moment experience of His leading of which we may be conscious. His guidance is found in Exodus 13:18. God led His children by the long way round, and He often does this for our discipline and training. God's greatest concern for you is the moulding of our character *And you shall remember that the LORD your God led you all the way these forty years in the wilderness, to humble you and test you.*(DEU8:2-3) God has purpose to emphasize to Israel and now to us that the source of spiritual nourishment is more important, *but man lives by every word that proceeds from the mouth of the Lord.* It is comprehensive guidance to each individual. *So he(Paul), trembling and astonished, said, Lord, what do You want me to do? Then the Lord said to him, Arise and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.*"(ACT9:6) He is willing to guide us concerning every detail, which has to do with our life. How wonderful it is that God supports to guide His children! How earnestly He desires us to travel in pathway of His choosing!

Method by which He guides us

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First, by His Word. The Bible is our chart and compass, our guide book for the whole of our earthly faith pilgrimage until we are received into glory.(PSA73:24) It is a lamp and a light "Your word *is* a lamp to my feet And a light to my path.(PSA 119:105).Through His Word the Lord guides us: By clear directions. e.g. Should a Christian marry an unbeliever? We have the answer to this in 2 Corinthians 6:14. *Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers.* By general principles. There are matters concerning which the Word of God has nothing specific in the form of any direction to say about, but there are clear principles laid down which show us how the Lord would have us act – *If anyone wills to do His will, he shall know concerning the doctrine, whether it is from God or whether I speak on My own authority.*(JOH7:17) By warning us of false ways. All the way through the Bible there are warning notes to which we must heed and remember, He will never guide us to take any step which is contrary to His Word. In Nehemiah 9:19-20, *Yet in Your manifold mercies You did not forsake them in the wilderness*" This miraculous cloud in the form of a pillar, the symbol of the Divine presence, it went before them when they journey, to point out their way in the wilderness. As a pillar of fire, it continued with them during the night, to show them light, and be a rallying point for the whole camp in the night season. As an extended cloud, it hovered over them in their encampments, to refresh them with its dews, and to keep them from the ardours of the sun.

He guides us by His Spirit. Led by the Spirit is the same as walking by Him,(GAL5:16,25) but carries additional emphasis on His leadership. We follow His leading as our sovereign, divine Guide. "*For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God,*"(ROM8:14) Those who are sons of God are led by the Spirit of God. They need to seek for willingness and obedience to follow His leading. How wonderfully God guides us by His Holy Spirit.(JOH16:13), the Spirit "will speak," "guides," and "declares." He will fully explain everything that may appear dark or difficult to you; will give you such a knowledge of future as shall, enable you to foretell future events. "While Peter thought about the vision, "Behold, three men are seeking you. Arise therefore, go down and go with them, doubting nothing; for I have sent them.(ACT10:19-20), and at other times by preventive us "After they had come to Mysia, they tried to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit did not permit them(ACT16:7), by an inward urge which may be difficult to describe, which is unmistakable when it is experienced!

The Spirit-led life is a life of conflict, because it is in constant combat with the old ways of the flesh that continue to tempt and seduce the believer. "*For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the Law.*(GAL5:17–18) Scripture contrasts the "works of the flesh"(v.19–21) with the "fruit of the Spirit"(v.22–23). "But I say, walk by the Spirit and do not gratify the desires of the flesh."(v.16) The "works of the flesh" are what you do when you "gratify the desires of the flesh." The "fruit of the Spirit" is what appears in your life when you "walk by the Spirit. Remember, "flesh" is the old, human nature that does not relish the things of God and prefers to get satisfaction from independence, power, prestige, and worldly pleasures. "Walk by the Spirit" means do what you do each day by the Spirit; live your life in all its details of waking by the enabling power of the Spirit. It is a daily journey of asking ourselves. It involves examining our lives and if we recognize the works of the flesh within us, we repent and ask for the Spirit's help.

How do we "walk by the Spirit"? When we walk by the Spirit, we are not controlled by those drives. Ultimately, all the good inclinations or preferences or desires that we have are given by the Holy Spirit. Apart from the Spirit we are mere flesh. And Apostle Paul said in Romans 7:18, "*I know that in me, that is, in my flesh, dwells no good thing.*" Apart from gracious influences of the Holy Spirit, none of our feelings or desires is holy or good, "*for the mind of the flesh is hostile to God's law and does not submit to it because it cannot*"(ROM8:7) The new birth is the coming into our life of the Holy Spirit to create a whole new array of desires, loves, yearnings and longings. He begins to lead God's newborn child in the way of freedom (GAL5:1), holiness (5:16), truth (JOH16:13–15), fruitfulness (GAL5:22–23), access to God in prayer (EPH 2:18), assurance (ROM8:16), witnessing (ACT1:8), and submissive joy.(EPH5:18–21) When these desires are stronger than to opposing desires of the flesh, then we are walking by the Spirit. Therefore, walking by the Spirit is something the Holy Spirit enables us to do by producing in us strong desires that accord with God's will. *A new heart I will give you and a new spirit I will put within you. I will put my Spirit within you and cause you to walk in my statutes.*(EZE36:26-27) The Holy Spirit produces in us desires for God's way that are stronger than our fleshly desires, and thus he *causes* us to walk in God's statutes. Leading a Christian life means living a life guided by the power of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit living in us, through us helps us to do the will of God. The Holy Spirit guides and convicts our hearts so we want to be more like Jesus.

He guides us by His Eye. "*I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will guide you with My eye.*(PSA 32:8) He guides us by His Servants. He guides us by the wise counsel "Where *there is* no counsel, the people fall; But in the multitude of counselors *there is* safety.(PRO11:14),and there are times when it is helpful to discuss with wise counsellors or we hear a voice behind us —*Your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, "This is the way, walk in it," Whenever you turn to the right hand Or whenever you turn to the left.*(ISA30:21) All that He desires of us is that we listen to His voice, hearken to His word. If God guides us we must: be familiar with His Word; live in subjection to His Spirit. As Shepherd, God stands between His flock and the dangers of the world. "*He will feed His flock like a shepherd; He will gather the lambs with His arm, And carry them in His bosom, And gently lead those who are with young.*(ISA40:11)

"You once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience — among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh"(EPH2:2-3) Before coming to faith in Christ, we follow our human desires, seeking to please ourselves rather than God. We live in sin, both in our actions and in our thoughts. Those who live in sin is that they follow "the prince of the power of the air." This is clearly a reference to Satan. He deceived Eve in the garden of Eden and continues to deceive many today. Scripture refers to Satan's influence in the lives of those who are "sons of disobedience," rather than the sons of God. Satan is a spirit, not a human, who works in the lives of those who disobey God. In this context, the sons of disobedience are clearly unbelievers.

Apart from God, we have no power to stand against these forces. Apostle wants to draw a contrast between life apart from Christ and life in Christ so as to magnify the power and grace of God in salvation. We were all capable of transgressing that which is holy. Here three great powers reveals that enslaved us completely before we knew Jesus and which we must continually rebel against in the course of our growth in holiness—the world, the flesh, and the Devil. "The course of this world" refers to ways of culture and society that oppose the Lord. There are ungodly trends in the world — materialism, naturalism, desire for instant gratification, and more — that once ruled all of our passions but are now defeated in Christ (JOH16:33;1JO5:5) No longer our ruler, the world still appeals to our remaining sin, so we must maintain our guard lest we fall back into bondage. *"Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For everything in the world--the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does--comes not from the Father but from the world"*(1JO2:15-17) Bible warns us not to love the world. No one who is in love with the world can be used by God. *"And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God."*(ROM12:2)

The term air often referred to the spiritual realm of angels and demons; thus, "the prince of the power of the air" is Satan This leader of all that opposes God stirs up trouble all over the world, and he even endeavors to infiltrate and disturb the church (EPH4:26-27) The Devil is fierce but easily put to flight when we resist him by the Spirit, as Jesus has triumphed over him.(JAM4:7;COL2:15) *"Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour."*(1PE5:8) Satan is a real foe seeking to destroy us. We have the assurance that 'greater is He who is in us than he who is in the world.'(1JO4:4b) We have nothing to fear from Satan if we depend upon Christ and not on our own strength. Remember, Satan has no power except that which God in his wisdom allows him to have. Satan was defeated at the cross and God's power is sovereign over him. God's Spiritual armor provides our safety against Satan. (EPH6:11) Though we must be prepared for spiritual conflict, we must remember that our battle is the Lord's.(2CH20:15)

Finally, "the passions of our flesh" and "desires of the body" refer not to our physical bodies, as if our corporeal form is in itself wicked. After all, God created all things good, including our bodies. The apostle is speaking of our fallen nature, which Christ has subdued. It is a resilient foe, however, that remains until our glorification. We must therefore seek daily to mortify it and deny the sins that seem the most appealing to us.(ROM 6:12-14) The flesh--our old sin nature--is at war with the Spirit. This conflict will continue as long as we live. Temptation (the initial impression to do something contrary to God's will) is not itself sin. "It becomes sin as we continue to meditate on it and develop a desire which becomes lust, which is often followed by an actual sin of disobedience. The conflict is resolved as we surrender continually to the control of the Spirit. Walk by the Spirit and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh.' For practical daily living we simply recognize our weakness whenever we are tempted and ask the Lord to take care of the problem for us.

Practicing "spiritual breathing" enables us to stop this up-and-down emotional experience and to enjoy the abundant Christian life Jesus promised.(JOH10:10) The secret of the Christian life is to walk in the power of the Holy Spirit and thus allow the Lord Jesus to live His abundant life in and through us in all of His resurrection power.(ACT4:13) Exhale by confessing our sins--agreeing with God concerning them.(1JO1:9) Inhale by appropriating the fullness of God's Spirit by faith. His command, thus His will, is we be filled with the Spirit. Being filled with the Spirit means to be controlled and empowered by the Holy Spirit. When we receive Christ as our personal Savior, we experience a spiritual birth, we become children of God, our sins are forgiven. We should continually filled with Spirit. *And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit,*(EPH5:18)*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.*(ISA40:31)

Christians become worldly(carnal) when they develop an attitude of unbelief.(ROM14:23b) It's human nature want to go their own way—even when he clearly shows us his way. *"In spite of this, you did not trust in the LORD your God, who went ahead of you on your journey, in fire by night and in a cloud by day, to search out places for you to camp and to show you the way you should go"*(DEU1:32) God had cared for them throughout the long, weary journey from Mount Sinai, 'carrying' them as a father carries his young son who has become too tired to walk. Yet they complained against him and refused to go with him into the land he had chosen for them. Do not allow sins to accumulate. Claim Christ's love and forgiveness, continue to have fellowship with Him when you become aware that is displeasing to Him. *let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,*(HEB12:1)

Many times in the Bible we will read a story about people trusting God even though it did not make sense. Jesus often astonished people with teachings that cut across the grain of human nature. "Lose your life to save it." "The first will be last." "The meek will inherit the earth." "Rejoice in persecution." "Pray for your enemies." "It's better to give than to receive." "Turn the other cheek." These are revolutionary teachings. The beauty of following God even when they didn't understand what God was doing is that each time they obeyed and trusted, then God gave a tremendous victory.

1. Coals of Fire : *If thine enemy be hungry, give him bread to eat; and if he be thirsty, give him water to drink: For thou shalt heap coals of fire upon his head, and the Lord shall reward thee.*(PRO25:21-22;ROM12:19-21) These verses suggest – when I see my enemy struggling with something (hungry, thirsty), I should do something to help (food, drink) helping your enemy. Not try to destroy those who have done wrong. We should leave the job of revenge to the Lord. He promises He will take care. Allow Him to do so. To heap coals of fire is to give them the life sustaining fire they needed to survive.

2. Abraham and Isaac : *And he said, Take now thy son, thine only son Isaac, whom thou lovest, and get thee into the land of Moriah; and offer him there for a burnt offering upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of.*(GEN22:2) God told Abraham to sacrifice his beloved son Isaac. This was the son that God had given to Abraham and Sarah after they were well beyond child-bearing years. But Abraham trusted God. He knew that God would be victorious in the end. Even though he did not understand God's ways, he trusted God that He would do a miracle and raise his son.(Hebrews 11:19)

3. Rejoice and Weep Appropriately : *Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep.*(ROM12:15) Of all people, Christians should be masters of empathy. Nothing communicates sincere love and concern for another person more powerfully than recognizing, joining in their highs and lows. reflect God's empathy through compassion for others.

4. Battle of Jericho : *And it shall come to pass, that when they make a long blast with the ram's horn, and when ye hear the sound of the trumpet, all the people shall shout with a great shout; and the wall of the city shall fall down flat, and the people shall ascend up every man straight before him.*(JOS6:3-5) After bowing down before the messenger, Joshua heard a battle plan. They were to walk around the city of Jericho once a day for six days. Then on the seventh day they were to walk around Jericho seven times. The walls would fall. They obeyed God, saw a victory over the city of Jericho.

5. Turn the Other Cheek : *Ye have heard that it hath been said, An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth: But I say unto you, That ye resist not evil: but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also.*(MAT5:38-42) Jesus told they should present themselves to their enemies in a quiet manner. Though traditional wisdom they should repay an eye for an eye, Jesus now says that they should be kind to those who were persecuting them. Jesus' disciples must do good works in order to be a powerful influence: as the salt of the earth and light of the world. God intends us to love our enemies, pray for our persecutors. Christians are to endure, not retaliate. We should strive to be perfect, as God is perfect.

6. Love Your Enemy : *Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy. But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;*(MAT5:43-47) Jesus clarified that loving one's neighbor was the second-greatest of all God's commandments. He also expanded the definition of one's "neighbor"(LUK10:29) through the parable of the good Samaritan. Jesus, though, will show that loving one's enemies can truly be powerful when done as a representative of God.

7. Gideon's Army : *And the Lord said unto Gideon, By the three hundred men that lapped will I save you, and deliver the Midianites into thine hand: and let all the other people go every man unto his place.*(JUD7:7) God encouraged Gideon to keep going and doing his will. God to show his strength and his salvation through weak means. God asked Gideon to go against army of 135,000 with a band of only 300 men. So, when victory came it was obvious that it was the hand of God.

8. Jonah : *Now the word of the Lord came unto Jonah, saying, Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and cry against it; for their wickedness is come up before me. But Jonah rose up to flee unto Tarshish from the presence of the Lord, and went down to Joppa;*(JON1:1-3) Jonah did not agree with God's plan and tried to run away from God's leading. Though he jumped on a ship to flee from God's presence, God brought him back by way of a great fish to land where God called him. We are in service of the Lord as prophets, as well as priests and kings. It comes to you with urgency and demands to be received and obeyed without question. God, with his Word, lays claim upon you as his servant with unavoidable power.

9. Salvation is a Gift: *For if Abraham were justified by works, he hath whereof to glory; but not before God. For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness.*(ROM4:2-5) Abraham's salvation came through faith in God and His promised Redeemer. He was not saved by works and neither are we. *For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God;*(EPH2:8,9) Salvation is a gift of grace from God. not a reward. It is not something we earn or purchase. The purchase was done by Christ on the cross and is offered to us freely.

10. Job : *Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him: but I will maintain mine own ways before him. He also shall be my salvation: for an hypocrite shall not come before him.*(Job13:15-16) Job was not prepared to blame God for his problem. Job learned to trust God in his time of horrible personal loss. He lost his children and all his possessions. He was plagued by illness and companions who accused him of wrongdoing which he had not committed. Even through all of this, he trusted God. It is a story of someone accepting God's ways even though he did not understand what God was doing.

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. (JOH14:6) "I am" is generally interpreted as a self-declaration by Jesus, identifying Himself as God. The word "the way" can mean a path or direction, or a particular method of doing things. Jesus was declaring Himself the great "I Am," the only path to heaven. He presented Himself as the object of faith. (MAT7:21–27) He said His words are life, (JOH 6:63) He promised that those who believe in Him will have eternal life, (JOH3:14–15) He is *the* gate of the sheep (JOH10:7); *the* bread of life (JOH6:35); and *the* resurrection. (JOH11:25). the only true measure of righteousness, and source of physical and spiritual life. Jesus did this so the disciples would be able to face the dark days ahead and carry on the mission of declaring the gospel to world. Jesus spoke of Himself as the way to heaven, In John 14:3-7, Jesus says *"And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. You know the way to the place where I am going."* Jesus Christ was "chosen by God" to be the Savior. (1PE2:4) Jesus is the One to have come down from heaven and returned there. (JOH3:13) He is the person to have lived a perfect human life. (HEB4:15) He is the man to have conquered death forever (HEB2:14–15) He is the man whom God has "exalted . . . to the highest place" (PHI2:9) Jesus promised that He would return to Earth to take His people to be with Him. How necessary it is to keep looking to Him if we are to receive His guidance! "Let us fix our eyes unto Jesus, the author and finisher of *our* faith, (HEB12:2) He guides us by His Wisdom. (REV3:8), And they will enter into New Jerusalem. "They go from strength to strength; *Each one* appears before God in Zion. (PSA 84:7)

So how do we follow Him today? The same way the disciples did long ago. They heard the words of Jesus and believed them. They took His words and obeyed them. They confessed their sins to Jesus as their Lord and God. They believed that He died to take the punishment of their sins and rose from the dead to give them new life. They followed His example and command to tell others the truth about sin, righteousness, and judgment. When we follow Him in the way, we can be assured of following Him all the way to heaven. In Mat. 7: 13-14, Jesus saying, "Enter by the narrow gate; Because *narrow is the gate* and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it" A narrow gate is harder to pass through than one that is wide, and only a few people can go through a narrow gate at once. In saying "difficult is the way which leads to life," Jesus talks about two gates that bring an individual to two roads that lead to two destinations populated by two different crowds. God has always made effort to bring men to making ultimate choice. There is always an option, the ultimate choice is what God is most concerned about. For example, God has offered that choice through:

1. Moses: God confronted children of Israel through Moses in Deu30:19: *I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore, choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live"* God gave to the people the choice: life or death. He called them to make a decision. choose life, avoid a lifestyle, or fanatical religion, which promotes death rather than life.
2. Joshua: Through Joshua, whom the people had followed into the Promised Land, the Israelites were given a choice: choose you this day whom ye will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served. but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD" (JOS24:15) Choosing the one true God means giving our total, wholehearted commitment to him alone.
3. Jeremiah: God told Jeremiah, "unto this people thou shalt say, Thus saith the LORD, Behold, I set before you the way of life, and the way of death" (JER21:8). Jeremiah tells them they would do better to surrender and so save their lives.
4. Elijah: When Elijah was on Mount Carmel in 1 Kings 18:21, he called for the Israelites to make a decision: "How long halt ye between two opinions? If the LORD be God, follow Him; but if Baal, then follow him." The ultimate choice is in view here. Elijah gave final proof that God, not Baal, was the controller of nature by announcing that God would now end drought. Get a guidance from the Lord. May God grant you his Holy Spirit that you may turn unto him and be saved!
5. Jesus: In John 6 we read that many people followed Jesus and called themselves His disciples. Verse 66, we read that many of them turned their backs on Him and no longer followed Him. When confronted with spiritual needs and a spiritual message, most people will turn it down. What society wants is spectacle, material things, and a political savior. The more Jesus insists on being the means to eternal life, crowd becomes, until the vast majority simply abandon Him. The twelve disciples, on the other hand, seem willing to follow Jesus, though they are also struggling to accept His recent claims.

Verses 67-68 say, *"Then said Jesus unto the twelve, Will ye also go away? Then Simon Peter answered Him, Lord, to whom shall we go? Thou hast the words of eternal life."* None of the disciples fully understand what Jesus' symbolic teaching about bread, flesh, and blood really means. That understanding won't be complete until after Christ' resurrection And yet, Peter's response is exactly how a believer responds when Christ disrupts their preferences, traditions, or opinions. When faced with a choice between what we like, what is true, we ought to stick with truth. Peter articulated his choice. Choose life or choose death. The choice is clear and there are only two choices: the narrow way or the wide way. Every one of us has to make that decision. There are two ways: the broad and the narrow. There are two destinations: life and destruction. Jesus wants a response from people. God deals with sin in one of two ways — either in grace or in wrath. A person is under either the grace of God or the wrath of God. To be under the grace of God is a glorious thing. It means you have promise that one day soon Jesus will appear, take you out of this world in an event called the "Rapture" (1TH 4:17) Make sure you evaluate the choice in light of the way that God has designed you. Psalm 57:2 says, *"I cry out to God Most High, to God who fulfills his purpose for me."* This is key in understanding God's purpose for your life. Praise the Lord!