

Duty

Key thought: "Do nothing" is one of the best pieces of advice I have ever had. It works in any kind of situation and is especially helpful when we don't know what to do. What if we don't even know what the "next thing" is? We can find something. Some duty lies on our doorstep. The rule is DO IT. The doing of that thing may open our eyes to the next.

Timing

Key thought: God never showed me his will until the time came. I realize that nearly all of my trouble finding out the will of God came because I wanted it too soon. I like to plan. I like to have things mapped out well in advance, and uncertainty of any sort puts me on edge. Perhaps it is for this very reason God has often asked me to wait until the last minute.

God Calls Us by Name

Key thought: We may not hear an audible voice, but we will find that the Lord knows how to call us. He knows the best way to get our attention, and if we are ready to listen or to be shown, we will hear or see whatever it is he has chosen as his means.

Human Agents

Key thought: God guides his people always in relationship to one another, like a flock. This is perhaps one of the most important things to remember when we are looking for personal guidance. We ought to look first of all to those with whom we have some special relationship.

Gifts and Abilities

Key thought: when I am looking for the right direction, I ought to take into account what experience I have had, what gifts or propensities are mine, and what the direction of my life seems to have prepared for me.

Desires

Key thought: I may now and then actually want what God wants. This is likely to be the case more and more as I practice obedience, but it can also be a very simple and natural thing.

Your Own Frame of Reference

Key thought: God leads me, I believe, within my own frame of reference. What I am, where I am, and how I got there, all have a great deal to do with what my frame of reference is. God can be counted on to choose the right avenue of approach.

Circumstances

Key thought: If we try to trace what look to us like the significant events or turning points in any life, we will not go far before we find it was in the ordinary course that the extraordinary happened.

Advice from Friends

Key thought: it is a good thing to talk over a decision with a friend. The times we find ourselves entirely alone in making a decision are rare. Nearly always there are others who will be affected by what we decide, and usually some of these can be consulted.

The Harder of Two Things

Key thought: Sometimes we have narrowed down the possibilities to two, but there seems no way to choose one of them. Choose the harder of the two ways. If you have eliminated all other possibilities and there still seem to be two that might please God, choose the more difficult one.