

Mechanics of Divine Guidance, 4-5

The fourth mechanic of divine guidance is providential circumstances.

Acts 11:12 - Behold, at that moment three men appeared before the house in which we were staying, having been sent to me from Caesarea.

As we have just evaluated, this entire sequence of events is the product of divine timing.

Peter does not understand the vision he has just had, nor does he conceptualize the metaphor used by our Lord referring to evangelizing Gentiles. As Peter goes to the door, he has no idea that there is any correlation between what he has just experienced and these men's visit.

A cautionary note is necessary here. The Devil's world has many doors which are easily opened. A door opened by cosmos diabolicus is a closed door in the plan of God. You must use doctrine to determine if the opened door is a part of divine guidance or a cosmic delusion. Is it really water, or is it a mirage?

Divine providence presents us with circumstances which, when compared with doctrine in the soul, reveal to us our proper course of action. Often, but not always, these circumstances are coordinated with a sequence of events which we refer to as God's perfect timing.

The timing of these three men's arrival in Joppa plus what Peter had in his soul worked together to indicate that God wanted him to go to Caesarea.

It goes without saying that one has to be filled with the Holy Spirit for any of this to work. Inside the divine power system we have very definite intuition for the leading of the Holy Spirit. Such was the case for Peter as well.

The fifth mechanic of divine guidance is the leading of the Holy Spirit:

Acts 11:12 - And the Holy Spirit told me to go with them without misgivings. And these six brethren also went with me and we entered the man's house.

More information on this situation can be seen in the original account in chapter 10:

Acts 10:19 - While Peter was reflecting on the vision, the Holy Spirit said to him, "Behold, three men are looking for you."

Acts 10:20 - "Arise, go downstairs, and accompany them without misgivings; for I have sent them Myself."

This aspect of divine guidance is unavailable to the believer who is not current on rebound. As a result, the other mechanics are disempowered and thus ineffectual.

The Holy Spirit never guides the believer apart from the Word of God. He has told Peter to doubt nothing. Peter has heard our Lord's instruction in the vision. He now hears the story told by the three envoys.

Acts 10:21 - Peter went down to the men and said, "Behold, I am the one you are looking for; what is the reason for which you have come?"

Acts 10:22 - And they said, "Cornelius, a centurion, a righteous and God-fearing man well spoken of by the entire nation of the Jews, was divinely directed by a holy angel to send for you to come to his house and hear a message from you."

A vision with a mandate from Jesus Christ not to consider anything unclean that God had cleansed. Instructions from the Holy Spirit to accompany the men without question. Orders from an angel to have him go to a centurion's home in Caesarea.

There are three categories of the will of God which are revealed in divine guidance and Peter is now crystal clear on two of them but still hazy on the third:

- a. The Viewpoint Will of God: What does God want me to think? "What God has cleansed, no longer consider unholy." (Acts 11:9)
- b. The Geographical Will of God: Where does God want me to be? Caesarea at the home of Cornelius. (Acts 11:22)
- c. The Operational Will of God: What does God want me to do? Give Cornelius a message. (Acts 11:22) On arrival at the home of Cornelius, Paul encounters another aspect of divine guidance.